

## My Crown 831

### Chapter 831: The Matter's Blown Up

Shi Guangjin simply hadn't imagined that this miss from the Qiao Estate would be totally different from all the females he had encountered in the past.

She was someone who readily went on the attack, and showed no mercy at all when it came to killing.

How could Elder Hu and him be a match for the other party's four to five people? Seeing that he was about to get wrecked, Shi Guangjin immediately shrunk behind Hui Feng like he had caught a life-saving straw.

Meanwhile, Hui Feng had yet to figure out the situation when he saw State Duke of Qing's Estate's third young master's cowardly appearance, and he was involuntarily taken aback.

"Step aside!" Yet before he could sort things out, a chilly voice rolled into Hui Feng's ears like a sudden clap of thunder.

He jolted in fright, thinking: *This voice is?*

When he turned around to see, his jaw nearly dropped in shock!

"This general greets the crown prince consort!" Hui Feng hastily recollected his shocked expression before stepping forward with cupped fists and a lowered head.

Qiao Mu merely glanced at him with her icy gaze. "This person offended me in front of the palace gate. Should he be punished?"

Hui Feng swallowed his saliva and only felt that things didn't look too encouraging. Looking at the crown prince consort's cold-hearted and unfeeling expression, it couldn't be that in front of this Huabei Gate, she wanted to...

"How did this Third Young Master Shi offend the crown prince consort?" Hui Feng could feel cold sweat about to start running down his forehead, and he scolded every single one of Shi Guangjin's 18 generations of ancestors in his mind!

*This motherf\*cking guy just had to be blind and enrage the crown prince consort of all people!*

*Was this someone who would easily let you off?*

"He intended to knock over my carriage, plotting to murder me."

*Plotting to murder? This charge was certainly extremely severe!* Hui Feng hastily turned around to glare at Shi Guangjin. "Audacious Shi Guangjin!"

Seeing that the situation was looking grim, Shi Guangjin immediately cried out his grievances loudly.

"There are so many carriages coming and going on this official road, so any one of them could serve as a witness! My carriage was the one that was knocked over! How did the situation reverse, saying I was the one who wanted to..."

*Slap!* Qiao Mu brandished her sleeve, and another big slap struck on Shi Guangjin's other cheek from a distance.

It was great now, with both of Shi Guangjin's cheeks completely matching. They had puffed up, just like fermented buns, except for the fact that they were a bit red.

"Did I allow you to butt in?" Qiao Mu asked coldly.

Hui Feng's eyelid jerked continuously, and he inexplicably wiped the sweat on his forehead with his sleeve.

In the past, he had invariably heard He Tian and them prattling over how their future crown prince consort was not one to be pushed around, and that it was okay to offend anyone else, just not the crown prince consort...

Previously, when he saw the crown prince consort, Hui Feng still couldn't conceptualize this image concretely. He only knew that the crown prince consort had a rather cold personality and was expressionless towards everyone..

It was only at this moment, after personally witnessing how she dealt with Shi Guangjin, that Hui Feng had finally gained a preliminary understanding of the crown prince consort.

"It's a misunderstanding, a misunderstanding." Seeing that this situation was getting a bit out of control, the elderly man hastily went up to smooth things over.

When Shi Guangjin ordered the manservant to crash into the Qiao Family's carriage while they were inside the carriage earlier, he had tried talking him out of it. Unfortunately, Shi Guangjin didn't listen, which ended up blowing into this mess now.

At this moment, their State Duke of Qing's Estate's carriage was lying on its side, while the crown prince consort's carriage had come to a stop, so the entire road was blocked.

Consequently, the carriages following after them had no option but to stop. The noble ladies and young misses alighted from their carriages, while the young sirs and young masters dismounted from their horses, watching the commotion over on this end from far away.

The State Duke of Qing's Estate had truly humiliated itself this time.

"Where are the crown prince consort's royal guards!" Qiao Mu shouted coldly.

"Here!" Lightning and company assembled behind her with a whoosh, each of them with upright postures and backs as erect as pines and cypresses.

### **Chapter 832: Strip Off His Clothes**

"Strip off this person's clothes!" At Qiao Mu's order, Lightning and them pounced on him with swift movements.

In his rage, Shi Guangjin was about to resist with mystic energy. However, after Lightning struck the back of his neck with the hilt of his sword, he plopped face-down onto the ground, literally eating dirt.

"Argh!" Shi Guangjin hollered angrily.

Further back, the several madams and misses standing at a distance also all covered their lips with their handkerchiefs, their eyes revealing looks of disbelief.

*Heavens! Was that what the crown prince consort had ordered to do?*

*That person was the State Duke of Qing's Estate's third young master! Wasn't the crown prince consort being rather too unreasonable?*

*After all, she hadn't married the crown prince yet and was the crown prince consort in name only. What if the king and queen blamed her for discrediting the royal family by doing this? Wasn't she afraid that they would directly remove her title as crown prince consort?*

"Prince Consort." Xi'er, a maidservant, supported the eldest prince consort Shu Quan's arm and whispered into her ear. "That is the crown prince consort? She truly is ferocious, not even putting the State Duke of Qing's Estate in her eyes. No wonder she claimed to be unwell that day, dismissing Prince Consort just with that."

Shu Quan gave that maidservant a faint glance. "Don't speak carelessly. You have to be more prudent in ceremony and propriety, especially after entering the palace. If your words just now were to enter her ears, do you know what kind of crime you would be charged with?"

Jolting in alarm, Xi'er hastily wanted to kneel down, but Shu Quan stopped her. "Okay, I just wanted to remind you that you should only speak words that correspond to your status."

As she spoke, she chuckled coldly, with ice dregs and fragments floating within her eyes. "Or else, just like that stupid third son of the State Duke of Qing's Estate, you won't end up well."

Xi'er shuddered all over, and when she looked over again, she saw that the State Duke of Qing's Estate's third young master's arms had been restrained. Someone had kicked the back of his legs, forcing him to kneel before the crown prince consort.

In his shame and mortification, Shi Guangjin shouted resentfully, "You wh\*re mongering b\*tch, you still haven't married His Highness the Crown Prince yet! And yet you're acting all pretentious in front of other people! With what identity are you punishing me? You dare touch me, the third young master of the State Duke of Qing's Estate?"

"Shut up!" Hui Feng gave Shi Guangjin a giant slap. He hadn't known before that Shi Guangjin actually abused the crown prince consort with such insults.

Sure enough, he really f\*cking was the good-for-nothing of the State Duke of Qing's Estate who didn't attend to proper duties. This bastard scoundrel actually dared to wantonly hurl insults at the crown prince consort in front of Huabei Gate. If the crown prince were to hear these insults, he would lose his life on the spot!

"Commander Hui, I've always respected and saluted you as a hero for managing the royal palace's security. Yet you debase yourself as a willing lackey now? Allowing this woman to bully people by flaunting her powerful connections, and treat people from the State Duke of Qing's Estate this way?"

Hui Feng was promptly angered into laughter.

*Did this third son of the State Duke of Qing's Estate know what he was saying right now?*

*If it weren't for his old man and two older brothers covering for him, this brainless guy would have probably died several years prior...*

"What are you guys doing? Don't touch me! Audacious wretched servants!!" Shi Guangjin struggled with all his might while pressed against the ground. His eyes were also incomparably crimson, as if they had been injected with blood.

Lightning and them ignored his unending barks, directly stripping his upper body of its clothing. Afterwards, they pressed down on his arms, making him kneel before Qiao Mu with a lowered head. This also prevented him from moving no matter how he struggled.

"Qiaoqiao." Qiao Zhongbang and Wei Ziqin poked their heads out from the carriage with slightly worried expressions.

### **Chapter 833: Such a Light Punishment?**

Just earlier, Qiaoqiao had them all stay inside the carriage, without letting any one of them get off.

The whole time, Wei Ziqin had been watching in deep worry.

She was very worried that if Qiaoqiao were to beat that State Duke of Qing's Estate's third son right now, it might impact her negatively.

Qiao Mu looked back at her parents and reassured them with her gaze. She then turned back to glare at Shi Guangjin icily, questioning, "According to the rules, how should those who offend the crown prince consort with conceited nonsense be punished?"

Hui Feng's forehead was beaded with cold sweat. Shi Guangjin naturally wouldn't be the one answering the crown prince consort, so he answered, "They should be flogged 60 times with bamboo strips as punishment."

"Such light punishment?" *Wasn't beating a mystic cultivator with 60 bamboo planks just like tickling him for fun!*

"No wonder everyone likes to insult me! It turned out that the punishment for that was so light?" Qiao Mu was enraged, and she looked at Hui Feng coldly, demanding, "Think more carefully! What should the punishment be!"

Even more cold sweat beaded profusely on Hui Feng's forehead. He, an adult man, was actually unable to maintain a stable footing under the little lady's cold and electrifying stare.

He could only stammer out, "It, It's punishable by 100 military canes."

"Not enough." Qiao Mu flatly rejected. "Think more carefully again!"

*If he gets beaten anymore, he'll die!* At the same time that Hui Feng was scolding Shi Guangjin's 18 generations of ancestors, he incessantly prayed to Heaven: *Your Highness, come quickly! This subordinate can't hold out anymore on this end!*

"Speak!" Qiao Mu shouted coldly.

Hui Feng hastily uttered, "200 military canes!"

Qiao Mu's gaze exuded a chill as she apathetically swept Hui Feng a glance. "Then what are you people still standing there for? Hit! Hit him right now! Carry a stool over for me to sit on. I want to be counting personally!"

Everyone: "..."

Hui Feng stealthily stole a glance at Shi Guangjin: *This motherf\*cking bastard, you incurred this on your own!*

"Someone, fetch the military cane."

Immediately, two minor soldiers, while dragging along military canes, strutted forward with their chins up to either side of Shi Guangjin.

Qiao Mu also sat down on a big wooden armchair carved with pear blossoms before raising her hand. Shaoyao immediately understood and got out of the carriage, running to hand her a cup of hot tea.

The corner of Hui Feng's eye jerked.

While sipping a mouthful of tea, Qiao Mu gazed leisurely at the two minor soldiers before dryly stating, "I've heard that the application of the barracks' military cane is a technique that requires careful study."

"For example, one method is called a dragging strike. You make a dragging motion upon striking, which will quickly cause the skin to break and bleed. Laymen who don't know the ropes would think that the person was beaten very badly, but in reality, there wasn't any force behind it." As the crown prince consort coolly delineated this sentence by sentence, Hui Feng and the group of soldiers beside him felt cold sweat flowing straight down their foreheads.

"If you intended to use this kind of method to fool me! You guys are welcome to try!" As soon as Qiao Mu finished her piece, Hui Feng and the rest simultaneously knelt down on one knee as they proclaimed in unison, "We subordinates don't dare."

"If you don't dare, then hit him!" Qiao Mu declared icily, "If you can't muster strength even after filling your stomachs, I don't mind finding two more people to carry out the beating."

"Yes!" The two minor soldiers with the military canes fully straightened their postures at once, not daring to harbor any other ideas in mind again.

They had people push Shi Guangjin down onto his stomach on the spot before starting to strike his butt with a brandish of their military canes.

Shi Guangjin felt that he had lost all face then and there, being flogged with military canes in front of everyone outside of Huabei Gate. He was so livid that he kept trembling all over.

In the beginning, he didn't think much of it when the military canes started striking down. After all, he was a mystic cultivator, so he merely felt embarrassed and humiliated.

However, this gradually wasn't the case anymore.

After all, he couldn't use mystic energy to shield his buttocks the entire time...

**Chapter 834: Begging for Forgiveness**

After all, a person would eventually run out of mystic energy. Moreover, the soldiers flogged him at the exact same spot, so even a man made of iron wouldn't be able to continue enduring it over time.

After mystic energy helped him shield a little over a hundred blows, the remaining seventy to eighty blows genuinely struck flesh, hurting Shi Guangjin so much that he continuously grimaced and yelped in pain.

The eldest prince consort Shu Quan who was watching from a distance also felt her eyelid jerking. An alarm rang loudly in her mind, and she secretly warned herself: *Don't clash with this fiendish crown prince consort. From the moment they were born, some people were just not meant to be provoked.*

The maidservant Xi'er felt even more apprehensive because of the pompous comments she had made just now. *Prince Consort was correct.* She had to be prudent in whatever she did and said. With a single misstep, she would end up just like this State Duke of Qing's Estate's third young master—not only thoroughly discredited but also beaten black and blue.

Those royal court officials and their family members who alighted from their carriages also only dared to watch from a distance.

This was the crown prince consort angrily denouncing the third son of the State Duke of Qing's Estate. Who dared to mediate such a big showdown, and who dared to stand out from the flock to do so?

After taking 170 blows, Shi Guangjin only felt that his butt hurt so much that it was about to emit smoke, and he guessed that the flesh was probably festering.

Furthermore, the two minor soldiers' flogging techniques were a real torment.

They would bounce the military cane off the flesh in the direction of their blows. It seemed like quite a light strike, but in reality, it caused heavy bruising underneath the skin. Despite the fact that Shi Guangjin was a level-eight mystic cultivator, it would still be unbearably painful for him.

At this time, there started to be a clamor among the crowd.

The carriages far away moved to the sides, making way for the several people who were dashing over.

The one in the lead was a man in his fifties. He was in hale and hearty spirits, with bright and penetrating eyes. When he flew over in his court attire, his vigorous strides seemed as if they would create waves.

Following closely behind him was a man around thirty years of age who had an imposing air about him.

Upon seeing the newcomers, Lightning's expression shifted slightly, and he bent down to whisper into the crown prince consort's ear. "Crown Prince Consort, the State Duke of Qing and the Eldest Young Master have come."

Qiao Mu raised her eyes and icily swept a glance over, but her gaze settled on a young man wearing a white fox-fur coat behind the two people.

Even though this person looked a bit sickly, he had superb looks, with upturned and bright, black eyes. He was currently supporting an elderly woman over.

Now, behind those two people followed five to six madams and misses. When one of the madams saw Shi Guangjin, who was being flogged while sprawled on the ground, she promptly moaned in grief, and it looked as if she was about to scramble over.

Yet after being glared at coldly by the State Duke of Qing and the elderly woman, she could only freeze on the spot.

Qiao Mu stood up, her eyes flashing with a cold glint, and she didn't back down even when facing the State Duke of Qing. "State Duke of Qing has brought his entire family with him here. Is this to censure me?"

"Father, save me, Father! Father, save me!" Upon seeing that his father and brothers had come, he shouted as he struggled with all his might.

Hui Feng, who was standing behind Qiao Mu, felt all his cold sweat streaming down his forehead.

*This matter had really gotten blown up!*

He silently prayed in his heart: *State Duke of Qing, you have to hang in there.* He felt that if this crown prince consort was set on punishing someone, then she would definitely carry it through to the end.

*If the State Duke of Qing dared to speak up and stop her, the crown prince consort wouldn't forgive even the State Duke of Qing right...*

Fortunately, the State Duke of Qing was completely unlike that brainless third son of his. He had come to beg for forgiveness.

"Bastard, shut up!" The State Duke of Qing rebuked angrily, resentful that his third son failed to meet expectations.

"This official deserves to die ten thousand times for being lax in his discipline. This official was alarmed to hear that his son had offended the crown prince consort at Huabei Gate. Please, pardon this offense."

### **Chapter 835: The Crown Prince Has Come**

"You're not angry at me for flogging your son with 200 military canes?" Qiao Mu questioned coldly, without a hint of expression on her small stoic face.

"He deserves to be punished for offending the crown prince consort."

Although the crown prince consort was still expressionless, Lightning, Hui Feng, and the others who were standing behind her could sense that her imposing manner had relaxed somewhat, and they involuntarily let out a long sigh of relief.

The State Duke of Qing's eldest son Shi Guangfeng cast his third brother a glance, and when he saw that his brother's butt was already bleeding red, a faint reluctance involuntarily flitted past his eyes.

He stepped forward and knelt on one knee before Qiao Mu, announcing resolutely, "This humble one, as the older brother, is also at fault for not strictly disciplining his younger brother, causing him to rudely offend the crown prince consort. Guangfeng is willing to be flogged with the remaining military canes in place of his younger brother."

Qiao Mu's cold gaze settled on Shi Guangfeng, observing this man who was not particularly handsome, but whose entire body was brimming with righteousness.

Shi Guangfeng was a famous and distinguished young general in the army, already having been conferred with the title of the General of Military Might at 28 years old.

Qiao Mu's gaze caused the hearts of everyone from the State Duke of Qing's Estate to be up in the air.

Shi Guangfeng's wife Madam née Su, in particular, was tightly gripping her handkerchief and gazing worriedly at her husband at this moment.

After a long while, just as everyone was practically unable to breathe from holding their breaths for too long, Qiao Mu suddenly raised her hand. "Stop."

In reality, the two minor soldiers had already been drenched in cold sweat when the State Duke of Qing's family had come over.

They were also under a lot of pressure to flog Shi Guangjin in front of the State Duke of Qing and the General of Military Might.

Upon hearing the crown prince consort's command, they hastily lifted up their military canes before returning to the team standing behind Hui Feng.

"State Duke of Qing, do you know why I punished your third son by flogging in front of everyone?" Qiao Mu flicked her finger and pulled out that listening talisman, directly playing out Shi Guangjin's original words for the State Duke of Qing's family to hear.

"Bastard! Bastard!" The State Duke of Qing was so livid that he fumed with rage.

*This bastard was actually his biological son? He had served the military his entire life for the kingdom and the people, yet how was he the father of such a little bastard who didn't know what was good for him?*

*What had he done to incur this?*

"Your son had charged over in his carriage, intending to knock over my family's carriage, which had my parents and siblings all inside. I had once vowed to the heavens that I would pay back in kind whomever wanted to harm my family in even the slightest. State Duke of Qing, in consideration of the crown prince's position, and in consideration of your and the General of Military Might's prestige, I'll let him off today." Qiao Mu's icy voice made people feel as if they had descended into hell.

"You have to properly discipline him after bringing him back. If he runs into me next time, I will have him dead!"

The State Duke of Qing felt his heart tremble from these last few words. The General of Military Might also raised his head abruptly, looking at this little lady who, although young, had a shockingly imposing manner.

Including the onlookers, there were more than a hundred people who were present in this huge space.



Yet no one dared to utter a sound. The State Duke of Qing didn't even dare look straight at the crown prince consort's eyes, which were as frigid as snow.

Suddenly, the sound of horse hooves came from beyond Huabei Gate.

A steed that flew over at lightning speed arrived before Qiao Mu and the others in a split second.

Crown Prince Mo flipped off the horse and flitted to Qiaoqiao with a whoosh. He then extended his arms and carried her up before examining her up and down. "Qiaoqiao, what happened? Did you get hurt?"

Everyone gave a dry laugh.

*Why hadn't they ever known that His Highness was blind?*

*Shi Guangjin was lying there, drenched in blood, yet the first thing you ask the crown prince consort after rushing over is whether she had gotten hurt...*

### **Chapter 836: The Calm Little Stoic**

"I'm fine." The little stoic calmly shook her head. Seeing that he had yet to change from his court dress, she knew that he must've run over right after leaving the grand first writing ceremony.

As a matter of fact, that was indeed what happened.

The State Duke of Qing had also hurried over after receiving the news only when the ceremony ended.

On the other hand, the crown prince had still gone to speak with the king in the royal study. It was only after leaving the royal study that he was informed that his darling was pitted against the State Duke of Qing's third son at Huabei Gate.

In no mind to care about changing his clothes anymore, he rushed over, worried that his pampered wife would be at a disadvantage.

"Your Highness, please pardon this offense." The State Duke of Qing and the General of Military Might hastily bowed again to beg for forgiveness.

Crown Prince Mo was just about to reprimand them, but the little stoic tugged at his sleeve. "Alright, nothing happened to me. It's only that Mom and them got a bit frightened."

Since someone came looking for trouble on the first day of the new year, Qiao Mu naturally wouldn't let that person off lightly.

Wei Ziqin and Qiao Zhongbang had also come out by this time, unable to continue sitting still inside the carriage.

"Mom, are you alright?" Crown Prince Mo ran up to support her; however, he called her "Mom" so naturally that everyone's eyeballs were about to pop out.

Seeing this, Wei Ziqin quickly tugged his hand before making her salutations in all seriousness.

"Greetings to the crown prince."

Crown Prince Mo promptly reached out to help her up, not paying much attention to how the people around them were viewing this.

*Could it be that Qiaoqiao's mom wasn't his mom? So what if he called her "Mom?"*

By this time, Qiao Zhongbang had already exchanged pleasantries with the State Duke of Qing. The State Duke of Qing repeatedly expressed his apologies, while Qiao Zhongbang hastily reassured him.

Meanwhile, the blood-drenched Shi Guangjin had already been carried away.

The State Duke of Qing's Madam née He was also secretly wiping her tears on the side. "Jin'er has been beaten too miserably."

"You still dare to say that." The State Duke of Qing's Old Madam glared at her and rebuked resentfully, "If it weren't for you ordinarily indulging him all along, would this have happened today? How many times have I admonished you already? If Jin'er doesn't learn to curb his temper, he'll bring disaster to the entire family sooner or later."

"Grandmother, don't get angry." The sickly State Duke of Qing's Estate's second son, Shi Guangyun, quickly advised in a soft voice.

The old madam reached out to pat her second grandson's hand, but when she saw Madam née He's frown, she still couldn't resist getting angry. "Look at what the son and daughter you've taught have turned into."

"Grandmother, why have you also included your granddaughter, me, when you're just criticizing Third Brother here!" Beside Madam née He, an 18-year-old young girl couldn't resist talking back in defiance.

In consideration of her prestige, the old madam merely glared at that young girl fiercely before turning her head around in scorn, not sparing Madam née He a glance at all. "Look at the good daughter that you've taught. Rou'er, help me along."

"Yes, Grandmother." Another young lady of a similar age walked up to support the old madam. She looked gentle and refined, her appearance extremely delicate and pretty.

On the other end, Qiao Mu's family had also boarded their carriage.

This time, with Crown Prince Mo accompanying the carriage outside, the numerous carriages in front didn't dare act rashly. They rapidly moved to the sides, forcibly emptying a spacious path for the Qiao Family to pass through first.

Qiao Lin lifted the curtain. "Brother-in-Law, Brother-in-Law, Happy New Year, now give me New Year's mo-... Mfmph! Mom, what are you covering my mouth for."

When Mo Lian heard the words "Brother-in-Law," he found it very much to his liking, and he immediately laughed heartily, handing over the New Year's gift that had been prepared in advance through the window.

Qiao Sen's eyes lit up, and he promptly sprawled onto the window, also parroting Qiao Lin in his New Year's greetings.

Wei Ziqin knocked her son's small head in both annoyance and amusement. "Only learning the bad."

**Chapter 837: Your Smile Makes One Perturbed**

The little monk chanted the name of the Buddha, putting his palms together. "Money is truly only a worldly possession. In life, how can you fix your attention on..."

Qiao Mu just picked up a pastry and stuffed it into his small mouth, immediately silencing the little monk.

This child was at such a tender age, yet who knows where he learned this nagging bad habit from. She had finally fathomed that Venerable Master Kongyin didn't bring him along on his journey most likely because this child's nagging made one's head hurt!

Since Crown Prince Mo followed beside the carriage on his horse, the road was naturally all clear. Meanwhile, he kept stealing furtive looks at his little wifey inside the carriage.

Seeing that her complexion didn't look all that well, Crown Prince Mo's heart felt a bit unsettled.

Qiao Mu was indeed slightly upset. She had yet to enter the palace on the first day of the new year, yet this kind of incident happened. She didn't know what the rumors had turned into now within and outside of the palace.

She was already incomparably annoyed just from having to recognize the people when they entered the palace later.

The small banquet that Her Majesty the Queen had hosted before the new year was merely a small-scale one. Many royal concubines, princes, and princesses didn't participate then.

Although not all the royal relatives would be present, she estimated that about eighty to ninety percent of them would be at the New Year's feast today.

The little stoic's face was covered in a layer of frost.

When she thought of how this Crown Prince Mo had fifteen to sixteen brothers and sisters, she felt a bad headache coming on.

*Just counting his concubine mothers, there were freaking several dozens of them!*

*The old king really was a scoundrel, marrying one concubine after another, fathering a whole line of children. It annoyed her just looking at them...*

"Qiaoqiao." Crown Prince Mo very carefully called his own little wifey from across the curtain.

Qiao Mu raised her eyes and grumpily rolled them at him.

Crown Prince Mo's heart sank, and he immediately thought of the root cause of this calamity.

"Qiaoqiao, if you're still unhappy, I'll immediately order people to take care of that bastard Shi Guangjin!"

Their old father Qiao Zhongbang, who was holding a cup of tea, felt his hand tremble, and he hastily called out, "Qiaoqiao?"

"I'm unhappy looking at you." The little fellow grumpily rolled her eyes at him again.

Crown Prince Mo immediately peered at her aggrievedly. "Qiaoqiao, I'm so good to you."

Unable to hold it in, Wei Ziqin burst out laughing. She then reached out to let down the curtain. "Alright, alright, we're about to enter the palace, so you two make sure not to be like this before outsiders."

*In the eyes of outsiders, wasn't the way this young couple was interacting just like mixing oil with honey, unable to tear themselves away from each other?*

With his mother-in-law breaking up mandarin ducks by letting down the curtain, preventing him from seeing his little wifey, the lord crown prince could only sigh, urging his horse to keep up with the carriage. Later, when they entered the palace, he planned to seize an opportunity to console his little wifey in private.

"Find someone to investigate why that Shi Guangjin went cuckoo, to the point that he wanted to attack me?" *There must be a reason behind this incident.* Qiao Mu didn't believe that two complete strangers would be at total odds at their first encounter.

The little fellow lifted the curtain, and a soft and fair small face flashed before the crown prince, so dazzling that it made a certain person's mind ripple slightly.

"I've already sent someone to investigate. We'll be able to know in a while." Mo Lian had previously dispatched someone to go investigate.

"You're not allowed to smile at me." The little fellow deadpanned without a hint of expression on her face.

"Why?" Crown Prince Mo was startled, his smile freezing on his face.

"Your smile makes one perturbed." Darling Qiao flung down the curtain forcefully.

Just now, watching the crown prince galloping over against the wind, she inexplicably felt that he... looked so handsome that it would incur the wrath of Heaven and the anger of men.

### **Chapter 838: Couldn't Even Control Her Heart**

Now, seeing Crown Prince Mo giving her a toothy smile, with waves rippling inside his curved phoenix eyes, her small heart started throbbing crazily and uncontrollably!

*Goodness! This was her heart, so how could it not be under her control!*

*This was all his fault, causing her to be unable to control her own heart! What was so good about smiling? He's not allowed to smile at her!*

The moment she let down the curtain, she still heard his hearty laughter. This infuriated the little fellow into gritting her teeth, and she motioned with her fingertip.

Qiao Zhongbang was very scared and on edge, watching his daughter in case she was about to do something.

In the end, he saw the little fellow pulling out a fresh and juicy carrot from her inner world and chomping down on it, her munching sounds ringing out crisply.

*She was chomping on it as if it were a certain person's head!*

Wei Ziqin was promptly amused, and she put her arm around her daughter's shoulder, pinching her small face with a smile. She found that the little fellow was kind of cute when she was angry, being a bit more lively than her usual expressionless self.

The carriage soon passed through Huabei Gate, entering the palace without a hitch.

They cruised along the spacious greenish-black stone-paved avenue all the way to the Gate of Health, where they finally came to a stop.

After reaching the inner gate, everyone had to alight from the carriage and either board a palanquin or a sedan chair.

The crown prince's royal carriage had long been parked by the side. Crown Prince Mo dismounted his horse and ran up to the Qiao Family's carriage, whereupon he saw the little fellow poke her head out of the carriage while holding a carrot in her mouth.

Without even thinking, he stepped forward to carry her up, and he couldn't help chuckling when he looked down. "Qiaoqiao, you're hungry? No problem, I've already prepared breakfast for you on the royal carriage. Let's eat a bit before going over."

"Benefactor, it is improper for males and females to make physical contact..."

"Shut up!" Crown Prince Mo irritably looked down at the little baldy that was clutching to a corner of his robe.

"Have you done your morning recitation?"

"I did, I did half..." The little baldy inexplicably answered, while also feeling a bit guilty.

"What does it mean to have done half?" Mo Lian put on a stern face and rebuked in a low voice, which really made him look quite scary.

Indeed, the little monk was intimidated, and he responded while trembling with fear, "That's because, B-Benefactor... Sister was going to run away!"

Qiao Mu gruffly cast a glance at the big and small duo.

*"Continue reciting your scriptures after eating." Less prattling on the side, affecting his and Qiaoqiao's brief time together as a couple!*

"Okay." The little monk knew that he was in the wrong, so after Crown Prince Mo picked him up and set him down in the royal carriage, he picked up his bowl of vegetarian food and took a bite.

After that, his large eyes lit up. "Delicious!"

Wei Ziqin and them also boarded their sedan chairs, heading in a different direction from Qiao Zhongbang and Qiao Sen.

The noon banquet that invited the family members of fifth-rank officials and above were separated into male and female seating, with the male guests heading towards the King's Palace.

On the other hand, the female guests all headed towards Her Majesty the Queen's Central Palace. After first wishing the queen a Happy New Year, they would sit down together and eat some dumplings for a small bite before the noon banquet.

In contrast, the night banquet was for the family members of third-rank officials and above, as well as the capital's eight great patrician families.

They had to take care of the pride of the eight great patrician families, after all.

With the prosperous practice of martial arts on the Sikong Planet, the status of the eight great patrician families in the capital was not inferior to that of the three dukes and six marquises.

The grand banquet at night would be co-hosted by the king and the queen in the garden of Clearwater Fine Park, with no distinction between males and females. After all, the invited guests were people from the patrician families that didn't bother about trifles, let alone guarding females against males.

Apparently, this Clearwater Fine Park, although newly constructed, had already become a famous scenic spot in the palace. The entire garden also contained three embedded gardens within, so it naturally wasn't possible to stroll through all of it in one night.

Besides, the banquet was to be held primarily in Clearwater Fine Park's southern garden.

### **Chapter 839: Virtuous**

"I've strolled through that Clearwater Fine Park, and it is indeed constructed nicely." While holding his little wife in his lap, the crown prince fed her like no one else was beside them. He was even coaxing, "If you like it, let's have Royal Father gift this park to you for your enjoyment."

The king, who was currently chatting and laughing with Xu Pingyong and several courtiers inside the audience hall of the King's Palace, suddenly felt his nose get itchy, and he hastily smothered this graceless sneeze.

"There is a hot spring inside the park, in addition to a large pond that encircles half the garden. The gazebos are elegant, and the scenery is pleasing. At night, it's so magnificent when the night luminous pearls placed among the flowers all glow. You'll definitely like it."

Qiao Mu brusquely rolled her eyes at him. "Why would I want to live in such a big park by myself?"

Crown Prince Mo looked down at his wife with a foolish laugh, and he couldn't resist giving her a smooch. "Qiaoqiao, you're so good to me. You're really virtuous."

When Darling Qiao heard the word "virtuous," her whole body involuntarily shuddered.

*How was she, this little demoness who killed people like flies, virtuous?* She really didn't know how the crown prince's eyes had developed.

"That's right, Courtesan Zheng has even invited the Luo Family Troupe, who has recently made a name for itself in the capital, to come put on an opera performance." As the crown prince spoke, he scooped out another spoonful of osmanthus flower custard, making the little fellow swallow it without any room for objection.

“In the past, they always called for the royal theatrical troupe to sing the opera, so there haven’t been any new and original ideas. Hence, Courtesan Zheng suggested having the Luo Family Troupe come and sing. It seems like the idea was quite well-received among the madams and misses. Do you like it?” He scooped out another spoonful for her.

Yet Qiao Mu reached out to grab his fingers in a huff instead. “Can’t eat anymore!”

“You ate so little. What to do if you get skinny? Eat this last mouthful, okay.” The crown prince blinked. He just liked feeding her food, and he even squeezed her soft, small body as he spoke, “Look, so skinny.”

Qiao Mu had no other choice but to finish eating this last spoonful before she promptly pushed him away. “Don’t be so close, the little monk is here.”

“The little monk is busy reciting scriptures.”

The little monk was sitting at their feet. Sure enough, after he finished eating his vegetarian breakfast, he shut his eyes and started reciting the scriptures, no longer bothering Mo Lian and Qiao Mu.

Qiao Mu couldn’t help finding it funny, and she cast him a glance, asking, “Wasn’t Her Highness Zheng stripped of the authority to manage the three palaces and six courts? Why did she still meddle with the New Year’s feast’s matters?”

*Besides, wasn’t she pregnant? And she still troubled herself with such matters?*

“Who knows.” Mo Lian harrumphed, and then he looked down at his little wifey. “Could it be, you think that she has an ulterior motive for summoning the Luo Family Troupe into the palace?”

Qiao Mu was just about to say something when she took out the jade messenger talisman from her inner world. After swiping her finger on it, her eyes revealed a cold light.

“The Hidden Pavilion has sent news over. Shi Guangjin visited Wu Xiaosu three times in this half month that she’s been imprisoned. If we want to find out the specific details of their conversations, that will need more investigation.” Qiao Mu put away the jade messenger talisman and said in a voice tinged with freezing irony and burning satire, “I didn’t expect this Shi Guangjin to be the romantic type.”

“There’s no need for further investigation.” She only needed to know who was the one adding fuel to the fire.

Mo Lian creased his brows. “Do you want to deal with that Wu Xiaosu?”

“That’s not necessary.” Qiao Mu shook her head. “She won’t be able to walk out of prison in the end, so why go through the extra trouble?”

Wu Xiaosu thought that the golden cicada she had her swallow contained the poison that was originally in it?

She had long improved upon it. If Wu Xiaosu could walk out of prison three months later, then it’d mean that she, Qiao Mu, wasn’t skilled in her craft!

As they spoke, the royal carriage had already arrived at the Central Palace.

## **Chapter 840: Feast (1)**

“Qiaoqiao, I’ll only be able to see you at night.” Mo Lian hugged his little lady without letting go. “Be more careful since you’ll be on your own. If a problem arises, immediately send me a message.”

“I know.” Afterwards, Qiao Mu thought of Courtesan Zheng’s unusual suggestion. She didn’t know what Courtesan Zheng had up her sleeves, so she could only respond appropriately to whatever Courtesan Zheng dished out!

Wei Ziqin and her second daughter had also alighted from their sedan chairs, and they walked over to say goodbye to the crown prince.

Crown Prince Mo thus sulkily watched his wife walk into the Central Palace before departing with the little monk.

By this time, many noble ladies and young misses had already gathered in the queen’s Brilliant Sun Hall.

The Qiao Family trio had arrived relatively late, especially since they had been delayed at Huabei Gate. Therefore, upon entering, they received many gazes that were giving off flying sparks.

It didn’t need to be said for those that had seen the Qiao Family trio during the small banquet before the new year. After all, they had already witnessed the crown prince consort’s temper.

However, most of the ladies, especially the family members of fourth and fifth-rank officials, hadn’t seen her before. So at this moment, they were all curiously sizing up this little lady that had suddenly become the crown prince consort, reaching the heavens in a single leap.

*She really looked quite young. Did she have her coming-of-age hairpin ceremony yet?*

A hundred or so small tables had been set up in two lines, with a spacious path running through the center and up a dozen or so steps to where Queen Zhao was sitting. She was smiling with closed lips as she looked down on all the people inside Brilliant Sun Hall from her elevated seat.

This morning, she had received news sent back from Her Majesty the Queen Dowager, saying that she had encountered Yu’er at Ziyu Mountain Villa, so she was keeping this naughty young grandson at the mountain villa to celebrate the new year with her.

When she thought of how disobedient her youngest son was, the queen felt very embarrassed on the inside.

Now, also looking at this stoic-faced eldest daughter-in-law, she was fuming with anger.

The Qiao Family trio walked up and properly curtsied before wishing the queen a Happy New Year. In terms of etiquette, no one could find any fault with them.

But the queen was still depressed!

*Look at the Shu Family’s fourth miss, Shu Hui, she was so considerate and acted appropriately according to the occasion. Not only did she personally present a painting, she even came with Madam Shu early this morning to pay respects and wish her a Happy New Year.*

*This was what a daughter-in-law ought to do!*



*Yet look at the little stoic's sluggish expression, what time was it already? She had only just arrived at Brilliant Sun Hall!*

*The first sentence the royal concubines said after wishing her a Happy New Year was: 'Why isn't the crown prince consort around...'*

That's why, upon seeing the little stoic, she couldn't suppress the irritation in her heart anymore, and it wanted to erupt fiercely.

Yet Noble Consort Zheng spoke up first with a chuckle. "Crown Prince Consort, you really didn't come early. Her Majesty the Queen has been waiting for you since early in the morning, not expecting that she would have to wait until now!"

"Your Sophora Flower Palace has been repaired?" Qiao Mu apathetically shifted her gaze, staring at Noble Consort Zheng.

Just this gaze was enough to frighten Noble Consort Zheng into feeling chilly all over, and her fingers involuntarily twitched on her handrest.

*How abhorrent!*

She was actually scared into shivering by this girl's mere look.

Noble Consort Zheng was incredibly infuriated.

The noble ladies below were also whispering to each other in pairs and trios, discussing what had happened a while back with Noble Consort Zheng's Sophora Flower Palace getting pulverized.

*Wasn't it precisely the crown prince consort who did it?*

At this moment, the crown prince consort was extending her regards to Noble Consort Zheng in a rather ridiculing tone of voice, and it was obvious that she completely looked down on Noble Consort Zheng.

Noble Consort Zheng's face trembled, and she forcefully suppressed the anger in her heart. After managing to smile at Qiao Mu with difficulty, she finally forced out a sentence from between the gaps in her teeth. "The crown prince consort really knows how to crack a joke."

"You know clearly in your mind whether I'm cracking a joke."