

My Crown 851

Chapter 851: Animosity

After one o'clock in the afternoon, people from the eight great patrician families started entering the palace in succession.

At the same time, the people from the Luo Family Troupe were also let in from the side gate to prepare for the start of the opera at 1:30.

Everyone was smoothly making their way toward Clearwater Fine Park. When the madams with mandates heard that the Luo Family Troupe had been invited this time around, they instantly became a bit more interested.

On the other hand, since the noble ladies didn't really like watching operas, the elders had the maidservants follow their misses as they strolled about Clearwater Fine Park on their own.

Recently, the Luo Family Troupe had become all the rage in the capital. This was particularly so during the new year, when all the great patrician families wanted to hold banquets, which couldn't dispense with hiring a theatrical troupe to put on a show with operas and acrobatics .

Those smaller patrician families weren't even able to invite the Luo Family Troupe.

Qiao Mu naturally didn't have much interest in watching operas, and when she queried Wei Ziqin for her opinion, Wei Ziqin also shunned it. "Being born in a village, Mom can't stand this kind of sentimental nonsense where they fuss about imaginary illnesses."

Besides, Wei Ziqin wasn't so dumb as to insist on sitting among that group of noble ladies. She would most likely be disdained anyways, so why bother butting in on their fun?

"Then Mom can come with us back to the Eastern Palace to rest for a while." Last night, she didn't sleep well from the noisy firecrackers going off the entire night, so she wanted to go take an afternoon nap at the Eastern Palace.

As the trio were headed towards the outside of the Brilliant Sun Hall, they soon encountered three others before they could walk too far.

The moment Wei Ziqin saw them, she recognized the older woman as the madam of the Royal College's assistant chancellor, née Zhuang.

Meanwhile, the two females behind her with gentle and refined bearings were the eldest prince consort Shu Quan and the Shu Family's fourth miss Shu Hui.

These two daughters were what Madam née Zhuang took the most pride in for all her life. The eldest was able and virtuous, and after getting married to the eldest prince, they made an affectionate couple that treated each other with mutual respect.

This younger one was even more beautiful, not to mention that she was modest and courteous, sweet-tempered and filial. Ever since her coming-of-age hairpin ceremony, the matchmaker had worn out the doorstep with offers of marriage, exemplifying the saying that a family with a perfect daughter would be sought after by a hundred families.

Shu Hui was 18 this year and of marriageable age. Recently, there were even signs that Her Majesty the Queen was picking her as a daughter-in-law.

If the Shu Family's fourth miss became conferred as the crown prince's side consort, it would be a colossal benefit to the Shu Family.

Nominally speaking, she would be merely a side consort, but that was still the crown prince—the person that the king, the queen, and even the queen dowager doted on dearly.

Besides, even now, the crown prince hadn't gotten intimate with anyone yet, so their family's fourth miss would be in a favorable position to seek favor after entering the Eastern Palace. With her intelligence, was it even possible for her not to obtain favor?

The Shu Family trio was just preparing to head to the opera theater in Clearwater Fine Park. They didn't expect that they would bump into the Qiao Family trio that just so happened to come out along the way.

Madam Shu's expression instantly turned a bit unsightly.

A few days ago, the crown prince consort had turned down her eldest daughter's invitation to her banquet to admire the plum blossoms. This made her very displeased, and she even scolded the crown prince consort so many times in her heart for not giving a sh*t even though they extended a welcome. Although Quan'er had tried calming her down, she was still a bit incensed.

Furthermore, during the noon banquet earlier, she had personally "scrutinized" the eldest Miss Qiao's behavior. It made her even more certain that this young lady had come from a country village of commoners, which was why she miserably failed to see the larger picture.

Thinking of how such a little lass would be trampling her well-educated, sensible, and graceful younger daughter underfoot, she was unconvinced no matter how she thought about it.

If it weren't for the king suddenly issuing a royal edict, conferring the eldest Miss Qiao as the crown prince consort, it would still be unknown whom this position of crown prince consort belonged to.

Seeing that her mother had raised her head up high like a gamecock, intending to walk directly past the trio from the Qiao Family, Shu Quan hastily pulled her mother's sleeve before affably giving Qiao Mu a salute. "Crown Prince Consort. Madam Qiao, Second Miss Qiao."

Chapter 852: The Crown Prince Consort Never Squabbles with Others

When other people were courteous, Qiao Mu would naturally be courteous too, and she even returned a semi-salute with a nod of her head. "Eldest Prince Consort."

"Madam Shu." Wei Ziqin took the lead to greet née Zhuang.

With a bit of contempt in her expression, Madam née Zhuang insincerely responded, "So it's Madam Qiao."

Shu Quan yanked the hem of her mother's jacket, and the expression on her delicate and pretty face slightly sunk. To smooth things over, she explained to the Qiao Family trio with a smile, "We were just preparing to head to the stage at Clearwater Fine Park. Where is Crown Prince Consort headed to..."

Qiao Lin pursed her small mouth, and she deliberately declared loudly in a fit of childishness, "We're waiting for Brother-in-Law to fetch us."

"Lin'er." After patting the back of her daughter's hand and pulling her to her side, Wei Ziqin then nodded lightly at the displeased Madam née Zhuang. "My youngest daughter spoke carelessly, so would Madam Shu please pay no mind."

However, Madam née Zhuang gave a harrumph before jeering with an artificial smile, "Then you can just wait here. Until His Highness has the time to come 'fetch' you!"

Madam Shu particularly emphasized the word "fetch," as if mocking the trio from the Qiao Family for their wishful thinking.

It was obvious that it was impossible. At this moment, His Highness was still in the King's Palace socializing with the royal court's high-ranking civil and military officials, so how could he have the leisure to come fetch them from the Brilliant Sun Hall?

And they had the nerve to think of such a thing! Small households had no breeding to speak of!

This time, the contempt in the depths of Madam Shu's eyes truly gushed out, glaringly obvious to the Qiao Family trio's eyes.

Due to her young and aggressive mindset characteristic of a little girl, Qiao Lin was immediately enraged. "You really shouldn't doubt me! My brother-in-law will be here shortly!"

"Lin'er." Seeing that her daughter was getting into a temper, Wei Ziqin's head also started swelling, and she hastily grasped her daughter's small hand. "It's fine, it's fine."

Qiao Lin just couldn't stand other people belittling her mom. *This whoever Madam Shu was just like an arrogant peacock, looking down her nose at other people!*

"Mom." On the other end, Shu Quan was incredibly embarrassed. She repeatedly tugged at her mother's sleeve, yet Madam Shu flung her hand away in a fit of pique.

"Humph." Madam née Zhuang swept Qiao Lin a displeased glance while assuming an air of superiority. "Madam Qiao, daughters should be educated from young. Look at our family's Shu Hui. Even Her Majesty the Queen constantly praises her etiquette and bearing for all being in accordance with the standard. Looking at your second miss's situation, if you want to find a better indoctrinating nanny, I have a good recommendation here. Otherwise, when she gets older in two more years, who knows if she'll be able to find a husband."

Qiao Lin's small face was immediately flushed red in anger.

Wei Ziqin was also so infuriated that her body trembled all over.

Without saying anything further, Qiao Mu flew up and slapped Madam Shu's face.

"Ah!" Madam Shu didn't expect that the crown prince consort would suddenly bestow her with a slap in the face, and the sound immediately attracted many gazes.

Madam Shu felt that she had completely lost all her self-respect and pride!

Not only was she the madam of the great Royal College's assistant chancellor, but she was also born into a family of scholars. Yet today, the Qiao Family trio had placed her in an extremely awkward situation.

Yet Qiao Mu didn't stop her slapping. *Wanting it to blow over with just a single slap? Not an option!*

Qiao Mu didn't even feel like wasting her breath on this Madam Shu, and she directly bestowed her with two more sound slaps. This caused Madam Shu to collapse to the ground, stammering with gasping yelps while terror suffused her gaze.

During the noon banquet, when the crown prince consort bickered with Wu Hongmo, it was only her manner that was a bit intolerably aggressive.

When she fought for real, other people simply didn't need to think of interfering!

Look at how the crown prince consort was punching and kicking Madam Shu like a sandbag. Which of the madams and ladies passing by dared to stop her?

Chapter 853: How Could You Let the Crown Prince Consort Personally Make a Move?

"You!" Madam Shu finally managed to brace herself and steady her figure with great difficulty, but her face was quivering incessantly.

All the hackles on Shu Quan's body had raised up, and she was so strung up that she had slightly curled up her fingers. She grabbed hold of her mother, whose cheeks had both swollen up, and hastily apologized to Qiao Mu. "Crown Prince Consort, my sincerest apologies, my mother drank too much wine during the noon banquet, so her brain is still a bit muddle-headed."

"You're the one that drank too much wine!" Madam Shu was totally unappreciative and flung away her daughter's hand. She pointed at Wei Ziqin with her finger and hollered, "The daughters brought up by a village woman are each more uncouth and barbaric than the next!"

"Are you all dead? How could you let the crown prince consort strike by herself?" A stern shout suddenly came from behind the Qiao Family trio.

The moment this shout reached Shu Quan, she felt like her scalp was about to explode.

Meanwhile, the hidden guards who were observing in secret automatically gave a groan before hastily swarming out. They cut to the chase and lifted up Madam Shu, whose hair had loosened from her disorderly hairpins, beating her up violently.

Madam Shu screamed miserably without stopping, while the spectating madams and ladies were all flabbergasted.

"What's the use of having you guys follow the crown prince consort? Hmph, actually needing the crown prince consort to personally make a move." Mo Lian walked over with a cold expression. He then turned his gaze and hastily asked, "Mom, what's wrong? Who infuriated my mom this badly?"

The moment the crown prince finished speaking, the surroundings were absolutely silent. All the madams and ladies present who were still originally watching the scene inwardly moaned in their minds, resenting themselves for doing so.

“Your Highness.” As if in a panic, the fourth miss Shu Hui suddenly knelt down and wept prettily while pleading on her mother’s behalf, “Mother only had a small quarrel with the crown prince consort’s mother, and it didn’t concern anything important. It was the crown prince consort who suddenly made a move...”

The crown prince’s gaze that suddenly landed on her was really cold! Shu Hui’s heart trembled fiercely, and her neck also shrank while her pupils involuntarily dilated.

“Fourth Sister.” The eldest prince consort shouted to stop her, resentful that Shu Hui had failed to meet expectations, before quickly coming forward to salute the crown prince. “Your Highness, my mother drank a bit too much wine during the noon banquet, causing her to be somewhat muddle-headed. Please pardon her for offending the crown prince consort.”

“My family’s Lin’er is merely twelve, yet she had fingers pointed at her and was cursed that she wouldn’t be able to find a husband! Are these the words a drunk would say?” Wei Ziqin was so incensed that her body shook all over. She had never seen such a vicious woman, making a joke out of her daughter’s marriage upon not liking what she heard.

“A shrew.” The crown prince was enraged, and the surroundings instantly turned into deathly silent. “Why did Assistant Chancellor Shu marry such a shrew?”

Madam Shu collapsed to the ground in fright. After having been beaten up black and blue by Qiao Mu and the hidden guards, even the slits of her eyes couldn’t be found, let alone discerning her expression at this moment.

Shu Hui was also shivering all over in fright, kneeling there without daring to move at all. Only Shu Quan braced herself to exclaim, “Y-Your Highness! W-Will you please use discretion in your speech.”

If the crown prince labeled her mother as a shrew, then her mother’s reputation in this lifetime would be ruined.

At this moment, Shu Quan truly was overcome with extreme regret. *Why wasn’t she able to hold back her mother, whose mouth had no filter? Did Mother still think that this was the same as dealing with those concubines in their own home?*

“Someone, throw Madam Shu out of here. In the future, she is prohibited from entering the palace without special decree!” The crown prince declared coldly, not even sparing Madam née Zhuang a shred of pride.

In all the New Year’s feasts, Madam Shu was the first person to be thrown out by the crown prince’s order. In the future, how could Madam Shu go out to see others?

How was Madam née Zhuang, collapsed on the floor, willing to leave?

Chapter 854: Issuing a Decree

Madam Shu had wept until her snot and tears were plastered to her face. At this moment, her image was totally destroyed!

Two eunuchs came forward and directly picked her up from the floor. They each took her by the arm, propping her up as they headed out of the Brilliant Sun Hall.

However, Madam Shu was stomping her two legs while releasing incessant shrieks, and she was making such a huge scene that even Queen Zhao couldn't pretend to not have heard her.

Queen Zhao walked over with Elderly Nanny Huaxuan, Nanny Qing, as well as several royal maids, and she couldn't help but feel her head hurting when she saw such a standoff.

"Your Majesty the Queen, Your Majesty the Queen." In a last-ditch struggle, Madam Shu wanted to throw herself at the queen, yet the two eunuchs were holding her down unwaveringly.

"Crown Prince, this is?" Queen Zhao had actually long known that the crown prince consort and the mother and daughter duo from the Shu Family had gotten into a quarrel, but she just wanted to see how much fighting strength the Shu Family duo possessed.

Yet looking at the tragic sight of their crushing defeat now, they were completely not the Qiao Family trio's match. More precisely, they couldn't vie with the crown prince consort in even the slightest.

"Drag them away!" The crown prince waved his hand impatiently. Queen Zhao didn't stop him either, so everyone just stared on blankly as Madam Shu, who now looked like a beggar, was dragged away while screaming crazily.

Shu Hui's small face involuntarily turned ghastly pale. She could neither remain there, nor could she leave, so she pitifully raised her head to look at Queen Zhao.

"Throw her out together as well." The crown prince pointed at the ashen-faced Shu Hui.

Queen Zhao's expression instantly changed. "My royal son."

Crown Prince Mo turned to look at Queen Zhao, and he directly declared in anger, "Royal Mother, if this son's wife has to suffer grievances in your Brilliant Sun Hall every time, then this son won't dare bring her over in the future!"

Queen Zhao wore a sullen expression, but she also couldn't help being anxious. "Nonsense! How did Royal Mother let her suffer a grievance? Wasn't it just a small quarrel with the Shu Family? It's all a misunderstanding."

This crown prince consort was too finicky. Queen Zhao felt displeased.

"Madam Shu pointed straight at my mother, cursing that my sister wouldn't be able to get married. Does the queen want to hear it for herself?" Qiao Mu questioned coldly.

Queen Zhao's heart sank with a thump, and she secretly scolded Madam Shu for not knowing how to conduct herself. She smiled with difficulty as she consoled, "Crown Prince Consort, you've suffered a grievance. Royal Mother will properly compensate you."

Nevertheless, Qiao Mu said frostily, "Compensation is not needed. However, I hope that Your Majesty the Queen will properly discipline Madam Shu as a warning, so that she won't view the sky from the bottom of a well and not know the immensity of heaven."

"Royal Mother, issue a decree to send an indoctrinating nanny over to Madam Shu. Have her relearn social etiquette and ceremony anew for three months, in case she boasts how well-disciplined she is

every time she meets someone.” Crown Prince Mo grasped Queen Zhao’s arm and swayed it back and forth. Looking at her son, Queen Zhao was completely helpless against him.

If she issued such a decree, that would make Madam Shu a public laughing-stock of the capital!

Madam Shu had always bragged how she had educated a pair of remarkable young ladies, yet she had to relearn discipline anew at her advanced age. *This truly was sarcastic.*

But if she didn’t go along with her son today, it seemed like he wouldn’t be able to swallow this grievance.

After weighing the matter over in her mind multiple times, Queen Zhao still felt that her son was more important. She was afraid that her treasured son really wouldn’t come to the Brilliant Sun Hall in the future, so she issued a queen’s decree to the Shu Family.

When the badly battered Madam Shu received this decree, she felt as if she had been struck by a thunderbolt from out of the blue, and she made a fuss over wanting to hang herself. Of course, this was all a later part of the story.

When it was finally time for the evening banquet, Qiao Mu, who was full of energy after her nap, followed Crown Prince Mo into Clearwater Fine Park.

Evening fell rather earlier in the winter, so the night luminous pearls among the flowers had already lit up, illuminating their surroundings into an ethereal setting.

“The crown prince and the crown prince consort are here!”

With this announcement, all the people from the eight great patrician families inside the brightly-lit audience hall simultaneously turned to look at the entrance.

Chapter 855: The Eight Great Patrician Families Congregate

So many pairs of eyes simultaneously cast their gazes at the crown prince and crown prince consort. Friendly, admiring, hostile, and probing gazes intertwined as they converged upon the two people.

There were even two waves of hidden energy that stealthily rushed at the two people in the blink of an eye.

Those with weaker focus would certainly stumble from the hidden energy’s impact. That would amount to a breach of etiquette in the palace hall, as well as losing out in front of the eight great patrician families.

However, it was unfortunate that the one they were plotting against was the crown prince, a figure whose cultivation was as unfathomable as the depths of the sea.

As a result, two faint sounds of backlash could be heard, and two figures swiftly bounded away from their seats. The cushions under their butts exploded with a bang at once, and the cotton stuffing flew everywhere.

The normal people looked over cluelessly, while the cultivators were inwardly apprehensive.

It was two people from the Hong Family who had made this probing move. Mo Lian already knew the identities of the two people with a sweep of his eye.

Because of the previous Hong Yaowei incident, he had already ordered people to gather the information of all the people in the Hong Estate.

These two people were precisely the two sons of the Hong Family's eldest branch: Hong Riwei and Hong Daowei.

Suddenly, the sound of uproarious laughter could be heard. Duan Yue, who had cocked his head as he looked at those two discomfited Hong Family brothers from five or six tables away, clicked his tongue and commented, "Oh my, wanting to plot against someone else with just this bit of lousy cultivation. You'd better take a hike."

At this, Hong Riwei and Hong Daowei's complexions instantly flushed into the color of a pig's liver.

Mo Lian coldly eyed the two people from the Hong Family before walking forward while holding Qiao Mu's small hand. Along the way, they had to pass before the royal court's senior officials and the eight great patrician families' seats in succession.

The left side was reserved for the royal court's high-ranking officials and their family members.

Conversely, the right side was reserved for the eight great patrician families. Of course, there was also a hierarchy to the eight great patrician families' seating arrangements, as well.

At the head of the pack were the talisman patrician family: the Mu Clan; the concealed weapon and reconnaissance patrician family: the Duan Clan; and the elixirs patrician family: the Qin Estate. Following these families were the patrician family that made a name for itself with its medical expertise: the Dou Clan, and then the smelting and mining patrician families: the Wu Clan and the Hong Clan.

While the forging patrician families: the Fan Clan and the Qiao Clan; brought up the rear.

That's correct, even in Qiao Mu's past life, the Qiao Clan's main family was considered one of the great patrician families.

When the main family's patriarch, Qiao Dongbo, saw Qiao Zhongbang and his family, he had gone up to greet them.

However, Qiao Zhongbang didn't look too pleased.

Upon seeing Qiao Mu at this moment, Qiao Dongbo excitedly stood up from his seat.

However, before he could even try to exchange greetings with Qiao Mu, he was completely interrupted by the Hong Family brothers' probing attack.

Qiao Mu's icy gaze swept over Qiao Dongbo without pausing at all.

She practically recognized everyone from the main family, but she didn't want to acknowledge a single one of them at all.

All of a sudden—

Qiao Mu's gaze settled on the people beside Qiao Dongbo.

More precisely, she had locked onto a 23-year-old man dressed in a white cheongsam who had a gentle smile on his lips.

Her breathing changed in an instant, so suddenly that it was difficult for Crown Prince Mo not to notice.

Just like that, her footsteps slowed down, and Mo Lian naturally also stopped, as well. He followed her gaze and saw a young man who nodded lightly back at him with a smile on his lips.

Qiao Mu's arctic gaze fixed unwaveringly on the man just like that. This abnormal, deep stare attracted the attention of everyone nearby, even the king and queen who were sitting far away in the chief seats of the main hall.

Even though the white-robed young man didn't understand the situation, he still stood up with a smile and greeted the two people with a salute.

Chapter 856: Caught Off Guard

Duan Yue cocked his head with a stunned gaze as he glanced at Qiao Mu.

Miss Qiao's attentive gaze was too focused, right! It really made one moody!

Sitting near Duan Yue were precisely the two young sirs from the Qin Estate. At this moment, Eldest Young Master Qin was propping his chin with one hand, and he turned his head aside to look at his younger brother, inquiring with his gaze: *Is it?*

However, Second Young Master Qin simply pressed his lips together tightly without uttering a word.

On the other hand, Eldest Young Master Qin suddenly eased up his brows and smiled. Looking at his younger brother's moody expression, he could confirm with one hundred percent certainty.

That dear little girl who had suddenly disappeared from the Qin Estate, leaving only the fake name of Mu Xiao Bao, was definitely the crown prince consort in front of them.

Tsk tsk tsk. After not seeing her for so many days, Mu Xiao Bao's appearance really went through a complete makeover, taking people by pleasant surprise.

Oh, she was still a stoic face though. This really was her signature trademark, so easy to remember!

After halting in front of the white-robed young man, Qiao Mu didn't budge even after that young man completed his salute.

What was the situation? The crown prince consort's gaze was too piercing!

The young man was almost unable to maintain the gentle smile on his lips.

Because of Qiao Mu's stare, gazes from all directions converged on his body. Even with the young man's composure, he was still unable to withstand several harsh gazes that were directed at him.

"Fan Qiuhe..." Qiao Mu murmured before she suddenly smiled without any forewarning.

When she broke into a smile after speaking in her gelatinous and sweet voice that almost bordered on a raving, it was as if luxuriant flowers fully blossomed on the snowy summit of a precipitous icy mountain.

*F*ck!* The crown prince and Duan Yue were probably yelling this in their minds...

Qiaoqiao actually smiled while looking at a male stranger??

The crown prince's stabbing gaze was like a tangible sharp blade as it landed on the white-robed young man.

On the other end, Duan Yue, the two young sirs from the Qin Family, Second Dou, Sixth Zheng, etc., also all converged on Fan Qiuhe.

If a person's gaze could cut him apart, Fan Qiuhe felt as if he had already been dismembered by those young sirs' gazes now.

Ha, ha ha! Crown Prince Consort, you've gone over the top!

Fan Qiuhe's smile stiffened on his lips.

He had to admit that the little lady before his eyes was truly too pretty. Even if he were a blockhead, ripples couldn't resist surfacing in his heart when she smiled at him.

However, smiling at him right now equaled tying him to a stake and roasting him over a bonfire! Look at those surrounding people's gazes, they were probably thinking of devouring him, right!

The king had straightened his clothes and sat up properly, while Queen Zhao's lips were tightly compressed together. The senior officials' family members on the other side of the hall were also whispering into each other's ears.

It was when the hall had fallen into such a silence that Qiao Mu's figure abruptly moved!

She agilely leaped forward, and under everyone's stupefied gazes, she kicked at the short table in front of Fan Qiuhe with a boom.

Mo Lian was practically caught off guard, and the corner of his eye jerked. He absolutely couldn't have imagined that the little fellow would, in this situation... *Cough cough!* Suddenly charge up to smash things...

It was simply beyond all expectations!

The wine cup in Eldest Young Master Qin's hand rolled onto the short table with a clang, and his pair of seductive eyes revealed a hint of disbelief.

She really went up to beat him just like that!

After contrasting himself, who had been slapped by the little fellow in private, with Fan Qiuhe, who was cutting a sorry figure in public right now, Eldest Young Master Qin suddenly roared in laughter.

Sure enough, in this world, no situation could ever be the most tragic; it could only be more tragic, hahahahaha!

Fan Qiuhe was forced backward by Qiao Mu's sudden kick. However, he couldn't prevent that short table from smashing heavily at his feet after flipping several times in mid-air.

Chapter 857: Attacking, Just Like That

The soup and drinks splashed at his feet, as well as two people from the Fan Family beside him who jumped up with shocked expressions.

Yet the little fellow was not finished. She directly drew out her ferule and flung a streak of fire in Fan Qiuhe's direction.

With a hiss, the streak of fire shot straight for Fan Qiuhe's feet like a writhing snake, about to slither up his legs.

Fan Qiuhe was greatly alarmed, and he hastily activated his defensive shield to resist this streak of fire.

Everyone could hear a sizzle, and they saw that a corner of Fan Qiuhe's robe had already caught on fire. That raging fire was especially fearsome, burning the hem of Fan Qiuhe's robe to ashes upon contact.

Decisively pulling off his outer robe, Fan Qiuhe flung it to the floor before retreating backwards.

At this moment, the defensive mystic weapon in his hand had already activated, enveloping his entire body within.

When he looked up again, he could no longer maintain his smiling face, and he looked like sh*t...

He saw the crown prince consort step lightly onto the flipped table with a figure as lithe as a swallow, chasing after him like a shadow. She then raised the ferule up high and fiercely shouted, "Wrathful Dragon Slash!"

A gigantic wave of mystic energy that rose up to the skies erupted from her body before converging on the ferule. A mystic energy maelstrom that took the shape of a dragon's head charged down on him!

*F*ck—*

Everyone was in tears on the inside!

Wasn't this a freaking banquet to entertain the eight great patrician families? Why was the opening so electrifying!

As for the king and Queen Zhao, who were sitting high up in the chief seats of the main hall, their eyelids were twitching continuously as they watched this attack about to land on the head of this lad from the Fan Family.

In his anxiousness, the king bounced up from his dragon throne and hastily shouted, "Crown Prince Consort!"

Boom! A powerful attack containing the strength of a level-12 mystic cultivator smashed heavily into Fan Qiuhe's defensive mystic weapon.

Fan Qiuhe only felt the vital energy and blood in his chest churning, and he almost couldn't hold himself back from vomiting a mouthful of blood.

Fortunately, the defensive mystic weapon helped him ward off more than half of the attack power, or else the consequences would have been unthinkable!

Why in the world was this crown prince consort out to kill upon seeing him? Fan Qiuhe's gaze trembled as his defensive shield suddenly cracked and fell apart in the blink of an eye.

He tugged at the corner of his mouth with difficulty, wanting to display a decent smile.

But he really was f*cking unable to smile at the moment!

Qiao Mu abruptly flung her hand, and the people from the Fan Family and Qiao Family, who had originally moved quickly to the side because of the battle, hollered "Wah!" as they stepped backwards again in utter horror.

They saw a cyan little chick fly towards Fan Qiuhe with a swoosh, when all of a sudden, it manifested its humongous true form with outspread wings and let out a shrill cry.

It opened its beak, and a ruthless shower of icicles sprayed over at Fan Qiuhe.

"He'er, watch out!" At the moment of imminent peril, an elder abruptly rushed over, grabbing his arm and pushing him behind himself. Then, he lowered his palms and roared, "Tiger Form Fist!"

Boom! An explosive mystic technique warded off Qingluan's mouthful of frigid ice. However, the person's arms were instantly frostbitten upon coming into contact with the ice, turning into a bluish-purple color.

"Fourth Elder!" Fan Qiuhe was greatly alarmed on the spot.

"Crown Prince Consort!" How could Queen Zhao still sit still? She also abruptly jumped up from her seat and sternly looked at Qiao Mu with a severe gaze.

"Haha." Qiao Mu's laughter was extremely peculiar. She only used her glutinous and monotone voice to enunciate "Haha," and it wasn't that she was laughing at the moment...

Chapter 858: Old Grudges

It was as if the mystic energy in Qiao Mu's body was burning up as it roared wrathfully with all its might.

Meanwhile, the temperature around Qiao Mu fell rapidly, making the people around her savor the feeling of falling into an ice pit.

It was as if the little lady before them had personally torn open the gates of hell from where she was standing in the deepest pit of the underworld, smiling at you with a super bizarre gaze.

Mo Lian only felt as if his heart had gone numb from the cold. His eyes could almost see one thick layer of ice after another swiftly manifesting around the little lady and trapping her within.

Qingluan spread its wings and screeched at Fan Qiuhe from up close.

Fan Qiuhe raised up his arms and crossed them before his forehead in defense. He had originally thought he was going to get pelted with iced water, but nothing happened even after a long time.

Fan Qiuhe cautiously put down his arms, after which he was taken aback in shock by Qiao Mu, who had floated over like a phantom in front of him at some point in time.

“Crown Prince Consort!” Fan Qiuhe almost fell down on his butt.

“Do you see this dagger?” Qiao Mu aloofly summoned an ordinary dagger from her inner world, and she caressed it lovingly like a prized divine weapon, one stroke after another.

It was even to the extent that her pupils emitted an almost wicked radiance.

She suddenly aimed for Fan Qiuhe’s heart with the dagger.

“Hey! Crown Prince Consort!” Although Fourth Elder’s arms were frostbitten, he still managed to flash towards Fan Qiuhe in time with a bellow.

“Don’t worry, I have great patience.” Qiao Mu pressed the chilly dagger against Fan Qiuhe’s face. Her face, which was as lustrous and white as jade, closed in as well, and as she gazed at Fan Qiuhe’s abruptly widened eyes from a mere hair’s breadth away, she whispered softly, “You won’t die that easily.”

Just like the me from back then, crawling in the dark... like a putrid and rotting living corpse. After losing all my limbs, I was only able to use my head and body to move, like a pitiful, quivering, feeble vermin.

Hahahahaha!

“I will definitely give you a death you will never forget...” Her voice seemed close yet distant as it echoed in Fan Qiuhe’s ear, on the verge of sleeptalking.

It was so velvety that it made one’s heart tremble uncontrollably.

Fan Qiuhe suddenly felt that the dagger on his cheek had withdrawn.

“Qiaoqiao.” The crown prince abruptly scooped her into his embrace.

It was then that that bone-chilling feeling of falling into the abyss suddenly vanished.

Qiao Mu turned around and blinked her pretty, glistening eyes. The abnormal expression on her face gradually disappeared, turning back into that rigid stoic face.

The surroundings were so silent that one could hear a pin drop.

After having witnessed the crown prince consort angrily denouncing the Vassal King Consort of An’nan and brutally thrashing Madam Shu, the noble ladies and young misses kept calm at this strange sight, so the expressions on their faces weren’t as bizarre as that of the royal court’s high-ranking officials.

“So much for the Fan Clan of the eight great patrician families. After I hit the young one, the old one impatiently jumps out to take the blow!” Qiao Mu pursed her small lips and scoffed.

Naturally, the expressions on the Fan Family’s people were extremely unsightly, with all sorts of colors alternating on their faces.

“Ha, ha!” The king exhaled a sigh before automatically letting out two awkward chortles. He then coughed and remarked, “Crown Prince Consort, uh, is full of youthful vigor. It is indeed improper to so readily compare notes. Cough, you’re young, you’re young, ah, so it’s inevitable that you won’t be

attentive enough to guests. Please, will everyone from the Fan Family not take this to heart! Sit, sit, everyone take a seat.”

*A load of bullsh*t!*

Everyone from the Fan Family was in a rage. *The crown prince consort had clearly executed a killing move earlier!*

Chapter 859: Presenting a Tribute

A killing move, a killing move, got it? A killing move that could claim a person’s life anytime and anywhere!

*The king actually spouted such bullsh*t, saying that the crown prince consort was full of youthful vigor and liked to compare notes with other people? Comparing notes your *ss. Would that require zealously driving the other person to death?*

“Ahahaha.” Meanwhile, the king kept chortling awkwardly as he tried to smooth things over with the Fan Family.

It wasn’t until Queen Zhao cast him a glance and ordered a junior royal maid to replace the Fan Family’s short tables that the king realized the crown prince consort hadn’t flipped the tables over with her kick, but had instead jolted them to powder from her mystic aftershock.

Ah, haha! The king could only continue his awkward chortles to cover up his embarrassment. *Cough cough!*

This freaking oddball crown prince consort! It was simply baffling how she latched onto the young sir from the Fan Family without letting go! It made him so embarrassed now.

“Qiaoqiao, did you get hurt?” As if no one else were present, Crown Prince Mo led Qiao Mu to their seats before repeatedly examining her small hand.

As Qiao Mu shook her small head, she reached out to stroke the little chick that was lying in her arms.

The two people’s seats were located at the head of the official’s seats.

Mu Qianqian and her mother’s table were located behind and to the side of the Mu Family’s patriarch Mu Boming. If disregarding Mu Boming’s table, it could be said that they were practically seated across from the crown prince and Qiao Mu.

Her eyes could practically spit out fiery flames of jealousy.

On what basis!

A village girl was actually able to obtain His Highness the Crown Prince’s doting affection and inexplicably rise up to become the crown prince consort.

When she recalled how the crown prince punished her during the small banquet before the new year because of this b*tch, to the point that her mouth festered, Mu Qianqian’s soft maiden heart couldn’t stop hurting and shattering.

Why was His Highness the Crown Prince treating Qianqian like this!

“We have the pleasure of gathering everyone together today, allowing Us to admire the eight great patrician families’ chivalrous heroes. We will first make a toast to all the heroes.”

It was only then that the eight great patrician families, as well as all the civil and military officials, stood up together and responded with a “Thank you, Your Majesty.”

After using his hand to beckon for everyone to sit down, the king said with a smile, “We have heard that Family Head Mu is accomplished in his talisman-inscription technique. The protective talismans that he produces can court luck and avoid disaster, as well as dissolve misfortune and calamities. It can even save one’s life at critical moments. Hence, as long as they appear in the Trade Union, they’ll get snapped up.”

“Your Majesty is exaggerating.” Even though Mu Boming looked to be in his early thirties, he was actually already 50 years old.

The king looked at him with hints of admiration and envy in his gaze.

Look at what the other person was like at 50 years old, yet look at himself! He was only two to three years older than the other person, yet there was no comparison to be made between their appearances!

Sure enough, the Mu Clan was a great patrician family. They must secretly have some kind of talisman that could preserve one’s youthful looks.

It wasn’t until Queen Zhao coughed lightly that the king returned to the present after letting his imagination run wild. Upon looking down, he found out that Mu Boming was handing over a silk brocade bag.

“Ah, quickly, quickly bring it up!” The king hastily urged.

Gong Chang’an bowed and walked down the steps. After using both hands to pick up the silk brocade bag that Mu Boming was handing over, he then rapidly walked back up and presented it to the king.

Mu Boming said with a smile, “This is just a little something to show my respect. These are two advanced-level protective talismans that this one personally inscribed. After activating the talisman with a drop of blood, it can guarantee for seven days and nights that evil spirits won’t dare advance an inch. It’ll also court luck and avoid disaster, draw on advantages and avoid disadvantages, as well as dispel any forbidden curses cast by a curse practitioner. This one is specially presenting these talismans to His Majesty and Her Majesty the Queen.”

After Mu Boming made his explanation, a faint look of delight immediately appeared on the king and queen’s faces.

The royal concubines around them, along with Noble Consort Zheng, looked on enviously.

Chapter 860: Having No Sense of Shame

Wasn't that the protective talisman that even a thousand taels of gold couldn't purchase during the peaceful times of the past, not to mention now in these turbulent times?

It was said that after carrying the protective talisman that Great Master Mu produced, no ghosts, evil creatures, or spirits would dare approach within a few feet of them.

Otherwise, they would be pulverized by the talisman energy on the protective talisman.

The king and the queen had both heard the crown prince say that a curse practitioner had appeared in the Mo Kingdom capital.

Therefore, the fact that Mu Boming presented such a timely gift of two protective talismans that could dispel forbidden curses simply made the king and queen all too pleased.

"Family Head Mu, you have performed an excellent deed." The king nodded continuously while chuckling. "Someone come quickly, We want to reward Family Head Mu handsomely."

"Thank you, Your Majesty." Mu Boming bowed in a neither obsequious nor supercilious fashion.

"Qiaoqiao, how is that talisman?" The crown prince whispered quietly into Qiao Mu's ear.

"Nothing great about it." Qiao Mu said aloofly as she repeatedly spooned the mincemeat into her small bowl.

"I'll do it for you." Seeing how her small hands were so busy, he quickly picked up her bowl while asking secretly, "Those really are advanced-level protective talismans?"

"They are." Qiao Mu fiddled with her small hands as she said indifferently, "But my blue intermediate-level protective talisman inscribed on ebony can last for 12 days after activation. Do you want?"

Qiao Mu took back the small soup bowl from his hands and sipped a mouthful with the spoon. "It's just not too useful."

Crown Prince Mo nodded continuously.

Qiao Mu then took out two from her inner world and tossed them at him. "I drew them for fun."

Mo Lian beamed at her. "Qiaoqiao, even so, what you drew for fun is better than what Family Head Mu drew."

Qiao Mu swept Mu Boming a sidelong glance, and when she saw that he had already returned to his seat after presenting the talismans, she then evaluated, "Family Head Mu's talisman-drawing technique is still pretty good. It's only that I had an additional minor fortuitous encounter."

If it weren't for the fact that the Golden Talisman Jade Tome included vast talisman methods and was thus always able to give her pointers, she would only be a rookie talisman practitioner if she were to learn from that talisman patrician family.

When she thought of this, she felt grateful to this ancient tome in her heart.

Mo Lian's lips turned up slightly, and his mood finally improved somewhat. Seeing that the little one beside him had returned to her original state, his tightly squeezed heart finally relaxed a bit.

Qiaoqiao herself was probably unaware that the her from earlier was truly quite frightening.

When those pitch-black eyes, enshrouded with a dense black fog, fixed on Fan Qiuhe, there was no one who would think that she was joking.

“We heard that ten days after the Lantern Festival[1], the eight great patrician families will be holding a competition.”

“That is correct.” Mu Boming replied with a smile.

Meanwhile, Qiao Dongbo, who was in a state of excitement, had been gazing at Qiao Mu in both shock and pleasant surprise ever since she first attacked.

It was only until now that Qiao Dongbo slowly recovered from his excited mood in a daze.

If the Qiao Clan’s main family obtained such a genius blessed by the heavens, would they need to fear losing the competition between the eight great patrician families after the Lantern Festival?

Bearing this in mind, Qiao Dongbo’s face lit up with delight as he stood up, cupping his hands toward the king. “My king, my humble self is Qiao Dongbo, the patriarch of the Qiao Clan. The crown prince consort’s granduncle from the main family.”

This sentence caused an uproar—

Everyone couldn’t resist turning to look at Qiao Zhongbang and Wei Ziqin, who were wearing unsightly expressions, before curiously directing their gazes toward the crown prince consort.

Mo Lian’s expression also sank as well.

He had long heard of how the Qiao Zhongbang couple had been rejected by the main family when they went to visit after just moving to the capital. He didn’t expect this patriarch from the main family to actually be so shameless as to claim kinship during this New Year’s feast with all eight great patrician families congregated.