

My Crown 871

Chapter 871: Being a Concubine

She had boasted of her lifelong wisdom, yet she didn't expect to actually suffer such immense humiliation in the hands of a darn young lass!

Madam Shu felt that she didn't have the dignity to live on anymore. This rotten matter of hers must have already spread throughout the noble ladies' social circles today!

"Madam, Madam, Fourth Miss has come."

"Hui'er!" Madam Shu tightly grabbed her daughter's hands and started bawling her eyes out.

"Mom." Shu Hui also found it difficult to bear.

In her eyes, her mom was a very strong-handed person, exacting unrelenting methods towards her father's concubines that tried to stir up trouble. She had never seen her mom revealing this kind of weak side and bawling like a child.

"Hui'er, Hui'er. My child, you have to do me proud, okay. Only when you become the crown prince's side consort and obtain the crown prince's affection can you seek revenge for all the mistreatment Mom suffered yesterday!"

"Do you know what that woman is relying on?" Madam Shu exhorted earnestly to your younger daughter, "She is relying on His Highness the Crown Prince's power, which is why she dared to beat up your mom so wantonly! Wuwuwu, it's so pitiful that mom is getting on in years, so old yet having to be beaten up by a little b*tch in front of everyone, losing all prestige."

"Not only that, in order to trample on your mom, that b*tch even incited His Highness the Crown Prince to send an indoctrinating nanny over to humiliate your mom to her face! Ahhh!"

"Hui'er, Hui'er, you have to do me proud, okay. Do me proud!!"

"Mom, I know! I will definitely do you proud and make His Highness marry me! I will snatch away His Highness's affection from that b*tch and help Mom wipe out this humiliation!" Shu Hui nodded vigorously.

Upon hearing her mom's words, Shu Quan, who had just stepped through the door, almost fell backwards in anger. She hastily lifted the curtain and walked over, promptly exclaiming, "Mom, what are you saying? With Younger Sister's looks and family background, she can become the madam of a duke or a marquis! Is it worth it to squeeze beside His Highness? Although the title of a side consort sounds prestigious, it is still the position of a concubine. When she marries over, she has to kneel down in ceremony to the crown prince consort and serve her tea!"

"Moreover, you've seen for yourselves yesterday how His Highness treats the crown prince consort! How can His Highness and the crown prince consort stomach having Younger Sister butting in? Mom, you are pushing Younger Sister into an abyss of suffering!"

Madam Shu smacked the bed forcefully, and she glowered at her eldest daughter Shu Quan while her body trembled all over in anger. "Unfilial daughter!! What words are you saying? Hui'er is the apple of

Mom's eyes, is it possible for Mom to harm her? Shu Quan, you've married the eldest prince as the main wife, and you live happily with immeasurable glory! Yet you prohibit your sister from being a side consort to the crown prince? What kind of intentions are you harboring? You can't stand the fact that your younger sister can marry His Highness the Crown Prince! Feeling that she's suppressing you now, is that it?"

When Shu Hui heard this, she gazed icily at her own sister, feeling that she was being extremely shameless. *Fancy that she had thought her sister to be a good person before, yet in reality, in the face of personal interests, sisterhood was all bullsh*t.*

Shu Quan was so infuriated that her chest heaved continuously, and even her veins had popped on her forehead. "Mom, this is how you think of your daughter?"

"I don't care what you think!" Madam Shu yelled severely, and she smacked the bedboard forcefully. "Anyways, you're not allowed to obstruct your younger sister!"

Shu Quan's footing swayed slightly.

Xi'er anxiously hurried forward to support Shu Quan's arm. "Eldest Prince Consort!"

"Madam! Fourth Miss!" Xi'er wanted to say something, yet after Shu Quan squeezed her arm, she held her tongue with reddened eyes.

Chapter 872: Grievance

"Mom, can you calmly listen to me," Shu Quan's eyes watered as she bit her lips and uttered this word by word.

"What do you still want to say?" However, Madam Shu's vigilant gaze stabbed Shu Quan's heart.

"His Highness is absolutely not someone you can play with in the palm of your hand. I hope you can understand this point! Otherwise, the Shu Family will certainly meet with disaster! The entire Shu Family will have no survivors!" Shu Quan blinked back her tears, then she turned to glance at her younger sister who was wearing an indifferent expression. "Younger Sister, Older Sister hopes that you can live well. Marrying His Highness the Crown Prince is absolutely not a good choice. You have also seen the sorry states of Father's concubines. It truly isn't easy to be a concubine."

Shu Hui opened her bright eyes wide into a glare, and she snapped irritably, "I'm not becoming the concubine of an ordinary person, I am becoming the crown prince's side consort! You don't need to worry so much, Older Sister. You had better properly manage those women in your Eldest Prince's Estate!"

Shu Quan was so furious that her footsteps staggered, and then she said with a sorrowful smile, "Fine, fine, fine. So I was sticking my nose into other people's business! Xi'er, we're leaving."

Shu Quan started walking outside, but then she stopped again and turned around to warn, "Mother, Fourth Sister. I hope that you can open your eyes wide and look clearly. You cannot immediately win over a man's heart just because you say that you will strive to do it. At least in my eyes, His Highness is not a person who will be affected by this."

“He is firm, resolute, and determined! He seems gentle and warm on the exterior, like a cleansing spring breeze, but in reality, he is the most unfeeling, apathetic, imperious, and heartless man under the sun. At least before the crown prince consort appeared, I have never seen him able to look at a girl for such a long time without averting his gaze.”

“I can be certain of a fact. If you have the audacity to wreck his relationship with the crown prince consort, I believe that he will definitely exterminate our entire Shu Family for you two’s stupidity!” After speaking her piece, Shu Quan walked out of the room with her head held high, no longer giving her mother and younger sister another glance.

Only Xi’er, who was following behind her, distinctly knew that the prince consort’s body was still trembling even now. Her back silhouette was rigid, and she looked to be extremely lonely and pitiful.

The sound of Madam Shu angrily smashing a vase could be heard from inside the central room, but Shu Quan didn’t linger any longer, directly leaving the Shu Estate and boarding the carriage.

Once she boarded the carriage, she hugged her knees and started crying out loud.

On the side, Xi’er wiped away her master’s tears, but as she was at a loss to know what to do, she hugged her master and repeatedly called out, “Prince Consort, Prince Consort.”

Shu Quan only felt that a chilliness was spreading from her heart to the tips of all her fingers, so cold that her teeth couldn’t stop chattering.

“Xi’er, Xi’er, my mom actually said that I’m living with immeasurable glory, blessed and without worries, ha, hahaha, hahahahaha!” Shu Quan laughed so hard that tears were rolling down.

“If I had the choice, I would rather have nothing at all! Even if I had to live a vagabond life and sleep in the open on the streets, it’s better than getting entangled with those orioles and swallows, fighting and scheming against each other every day!”

“Prince Consort, you’re suffering so much.” Xi’er started bawling.

Shu Quan shook her head, and a teardrop splashed onto the back of her hand. “Actually, it doesn’t matter if I suffer. I only hope that my family can be well. But now... I’m afraid that this will all become an extravagant hope.”

Knock knock knock knock knock!!

The knocking on the door caused our dear Qiao Mu’s hand, which was in the middle of writing, to slightly pause, and then she said without lifting her head, “The door isn’t locked, come in!”

Chapter 873: Advanced-Level Talisman

“Sister, today’s weather is clear! Let’s go out for a stroll!” Qiao Lin skipped in energetically, yet when she saw that her sister was drawing talismans, she automatically lowered her voice and said quietly, “Sister, so you were drawing talismans.”

“Mhm, wait for a bit first. I’m just about to finish.”

Qiao Lin surreptitiously slunk to the edge of the table and stuck her head out to take a glance, but she completely couldn't comprehend her sister's undecipherable scribbles.

Nevertheless, she saw Qiao Mu raising her wrist slightly as she withdrew her energy with a whirl of her brush. Qiao Mu then exhaled a deep breath, looking down at the talisman paper that was emitting a blue light before nodding her head in slight satisfaction.

In the middle of her sleep last night, the Golden Talisman Jade Tome unexpectedly triggered the fifth jade slip on its own.

This officially opened the gates to advanced-level talismans, and she promptly woke up in excitement in the middle of the night, jumping out of bed to light a lamp. Since then, she had been drawing two of the five-spirit talisman types that the demonstration talisman had taught her.

Water spirit talisman: Draws in the rare power of the water spirit from between heaven and earth, lending a helping hand to the person activating the talisman.

Fire spirit talisman: Draws in the rare power of the fire spirit from between heaven and earth...

In addition, it had also taught her how to draw defensive talismans. It was precisely the talisman that Family Head Mu had thrown out previously to ward off Mo Lian's invisible attack.

On the fifth jade slip that the Golden Talisman Jade Tome had triggered, there was also an additional fine print: 'If you wish to cultivate the forbidden curse technique, strictly speaking, you must trigger the sixth jade slip and so on.'

'This jade slip can succinctly teach the most commonly seen curse—illness curse.'

'If you intend to study curses, you can inject your mystic conscious into the jade slip and open the hidden jade slip records. Those harboring evil intentions that cultivate this forbidden curse technique will easily succumb to vital energy deviation, which will lead to one's soul scattering.'

Qiao Mu decisively injected her mystic conscious to open that hidden jade slip.

Of course she was going to learn! Not to harm other people, but to know both herself and the enemy!

After learning it herself, she would be able to defend against it too. In case some evil characters wanted to conceal themselves and harm her from the shadows, she would be able to see through their tricks instantly.

As a result, Qiao Mu had been fiddling with those talismans for the entire latter half of the night.

After drawing a hundred or so water spirit talismans and fire spirit talismans, she then drew many defensive talismans. Conversely, she only drew two illness curses. After grasping the gist of it, she didn't continue drawing anymore of them.

This illness curse that she had drawn was much more powerful than the one that had been planted on Miss Li's body back then.

Her illness curse was at the advanced-level, while Miss Li's was merely at the beginner-level, so the two couldn't be mentioned on equal terms.

Qiao Mu had been studying all the way until Qiao Lin noisily knocked on the door and skipped inside. It was then that Qiao Mu finished drawing her last defensive talisman. Afterwards, she put away her talisman pen and a stack of talismans before turning around to look at Qiao Lin with a smile. "Where do you want to go play?"

Qiao Lin went up to hold onto her sister's arm with a chuckle. "Sister, I heard that a vaudeville troupe has come to the Mo Kingdom capital, and that their show is quite interesting! Let's go take a look."

"Is it the Luo Family Troupe?"

"It isn't!" Qiao Lin gazed exasperatedly at her sister. "Luo Family Troupe is a theatrical troupe that sings traditional opera. They should still be inside the palace now, right."

Qiao Mu had also heard that the Luo Family Troupe would stay inside the palace until the fifteenth of the first lunar month. She wondered if the king's group of young wives wouldn't get tired of listening to opera every day.

"Let's go, Sister! Let's go right now."

"I'm going too!" Qiao Sen ran inside that instant, probably having eavesdropped on their conversation for some time already.

Also coming in at the same time was of course the little monk, who followed behind Qiao Sen like a shadow.

Qiao Mu nodded. "Then let's go."

"Benefactress, can you gift one or two of the talismans that you just drew to this young monk? This young monk can sense a dense spiritual energy from the talisman paper." The little monk's pair of round eyes twinkled brightly.

Chapter 874: Good Dogs Don't Get Underfoot

When Qiao Lin and Qiao Sen heard this, they also immediately expressed their longing. Consequently, three pairs of eyes gazed anxiously at Qiao Mu.

Qiao Mu felt a bit amused, and she took out some defensive talismans, water spirit talismans, and fire spirit talismans to distribute to the three children.

"Since we'll be going out, should we first go to Beautiful Vista Court to inform Mom?" While leading the three kiddos out the door, Qiao Mu asked her sister Qiao Lin this.

"Sis, we don't need to inform her. I know that Mom had gone out with Madam Ren early in the morning."

"Madam Ren?" Qiao Mu was taken aback.

"Mhm." Qiao Lin held onto Qiao Mu's hand and chortled, "Let's go, Sister! We can go watch a vaudeville show as soon as we have the carriage prepared for us."

Qiao Mu then brought the three children out of the estate to where the Yue Family Troupe was performing: Spring Dawn Theater.

Spring Dawn Theater was located on Hualing Street, which ran parallel to the commoner district's Xiluo Street.

There weren't that many high officials and nobles that came here ordinarily. However, after this vaudeville troupe became popular, it also spurred on the businesses along Hualing Street.

Furthermore, there were also many high officials and nobles that were drawn here by its reputation, and at times, they would book the entire theater for the show.

After entering Hualing Street, the carriage that Qiao Mu and the children were in followed the signs all the way to Spring Dawn Theater's entrance.

By this time, many carriages had already parked outside the theater.

Qiao Lin excitedly hopped down the carriage first. When she saw a small stall selling silk flowers at the theater's entrance, she ran over there first and crowded over in front of it. "Aunty, your silk flowers look really nice."

"Young Miss, do you want to purchase a few?" The old aunty hawking the silk flowers quickly said, "You can exchange for five silk flowers with merely half a liter of rice."

Only after discreetly inquiring around and learning that this vaudeville theater had recently gotten popular did the old aunty come here early in the morning to sell silk flowers.

Unfortunately, those coming and going young misses and madams from noble families all turned their noses up at her small street stall, simply looking down on it.

"Okay, okay. I'll take five then." After all, Qiao Lin was a rich little lady, and there was enough grain stored in her inner world to last her at least half a year.

Not to mention the fact that her sister had given her two storage talismans filled to the brim with peaches, winter fruits, various other fruits, and snacks. She reckoned that it would take her at least a year and a half to eat all the food inside these two storage talismans by herself.

To Qiao Lin, it was too worth it to exchange half a liter of rice for five silk flowers!

She quickly took out a small bag of rice and handed it to the old aunty. "I'm buying them!"

"Tsk, what a country bumpkin." The sound of mocking laughter came from behind Qiao Lin's back. Qiao Lin merely pretended not to have heard it, and she took the five silk flowers that the old aunty handed over while shedding grateful tears. After placing the silk flowers in a wooden box, she gleefully carried the box in her arms.

"Sister!" Qiao Lin turned around, and when she saw that alluring young lady standing behind her back, she couldn't help but roll her eyes before pushing that young lady away.

"Good dogs don't get underfoot, so I'll have to trouble you to give way!"

"Ah!" That young lady's body swayed, making her two maidservants support her in a hurry.

"You d*mned village girl! You dare to push this miss!"

How would Qiao Lin listen to her barking? She joyously ran back to her sister with the wooden box and held it in front of her. "Sister, I bought silk flowers. We'll each take two, and the remaining one goes to Younger Brother."

Qiao Sen had just hopped off the carriage, and when he heard this, he immediately opened his eyes wide. "What would I do with it??"

"You can give it to your little girlfriend!" Qiao Lin winked at her younger brother. "It's the little lady I saw last time after the academy had let out. She was quite adorable."

Chapter 875: You're Looking for a Thrashing

Qiao Sen's small face immediately became flustered, and he protested, "Second Sister, don't talk nonsense! T-That Sun Tiantian is also my schoolmate!"

However, Qiao Lin promptly reached out to pinch her brother's small face and chortled, "That's right, give it to her. See, friendly affection between schoolmates is so nice."

On the other hand, Qiao Mu curved her small mouth as she grasped her brother's hand. "Xiao Sen, you haven't acted up and bullied your classmates in the academy recently, right?"

"I didn't, didn't, didn't!" Qiao Sen didn't expect the conversation to take a sudden turn to the topic of the academy, and he immediately shook his small head to declare his position. "Xiao Sen dares not forget Sister's teachings for even a single day. Right now, I have already become good friends with Ren Hongfei."

"Good friends, really?"

"Really, it's true!"

"Then how about that dissolute companion that you were hanging out with before, Gao Fang?" Qiao Mu asked, still a bit worried.

Qiao Sen laughed foolishly and said, "We haven't played together in a long time. After the academy lets out, I leave together with Ren Hongfei and Sun Tiantian. Second Sis saw us last time too!"

"Yup yup yup, that little lady smiled so sweetly at you. So her name is Sun Tiantian[1]. Even her name is sweet!"

Qiao Mu was at a loss for words.

"Come, come, come, let us divide up these silk flowers. Younger Brother, you have to remember to bring this most charming and lovely silk flower to Little Sister Sun Tiantian, okay!"

"Okay." Our dear Qiao Sen very glumly put away this girly item as he secretly pursed his small lips.

"Stand right there! You country bumpkin, did you not hear me calling you?" The young miss that Qiao Lin had pushed aside earlier was unwilling to let her off and had caught up to the sibling trio. With a wave of her hand, she motioned for several boy servants to come forward before belligerently putting her hands on her lips as she stood before them.

Qiao Lin was promptly incensed, and she stood in front of Qiao Mu and Qiao Sen, also putting her hands on her hips before scolding that young miss with frowning brows and angry eyes. "I say, are you done yet? I'm not even paying attention to you anymore, so what do you still want? Are you lacking a beating?"

As a matter of fact, Qiao Mu had recognized who that young lady was with a glance.

This was Xu Mingzhu, the third miss of the Marquis of Placation's Estate. At that time in the Qin Estate, back when she had slapped on an invisibility talisman, she had also given Xu Mingzhu a big slap across the face while she was at it when she saw that Xu Mingzhu was tormenting and killing the small beasts. It led Xu Mingzhu to mistake the slap as Mu Qianqian's handiwork, so the two came to blows in a catfight.

Beside her was the fourth miss, Xu Mingxin, who had accompanied Xu Mingzhu to the Spring Dawn Theater to watch the vaudeville show. She recognized Qiao Mu with a glance and quickly stepped forward to properly curtsy, "Xu Mingxin greets the crown prince consort."

Xu Mingzhu was just unable to restrain her anger. During yesterday's New Year's feast, everyone's focus was on that crown prince consort, so who would've still noticed her small, pathetic existence even though she possessed elegant and refined looks.

It was so abominable that she had clearly dolled herself up so prettily, but that hillbilly crown prince consort had taken all the limelight away.

"You want to make trouble, eh?" Qiao Lin rolled up her sleeves, making it seem as if she was looking to pick a fight.

She had caught on that this neurotic woman before them had simply come to cause trouble for them siblings!

"Sister." Fourth Miss Xu was frightened into hastily dragging Xu Mingzhu back. "Sister, it is best not to be overly impudent in front of the crown prince consort."

"Scram!" Xu Mingzhu brusquely flung away Xu Mingxin's hand before lashing out at her with a fleeting glance. "You useless thing, scram aside."

"How have I hindered you by purchasing silk flowers?" Qiao Lin lambasted, "I didn't even pay attention to you when I heard you mocking me earlier, yet you're still being unreasonable, eh?"

"You're looking for a thrashing!"

Chapter 876: Portent of Great Misfortune

"You're the one looking for a thrashing! Your entire family is looking for a thrashing!" Xu Mingzhu's anger flared, and with a draw of her hand, she summoned out a double-tipped spear with blades on both ends from her conscious.

"Talk when you've beaten me!"

Just as Xu Mingzhu leaped forth, a tiny figure suddenly swayed, popping out in front of Qiao Lin.

While wearing an amiable look on his small chubby face, the little monk stuck out a small pudgy finger, pointing it up above him at the leaping Xu Mingzhu. "This benefactress! This young monk observes that your face harbors malicious energy! The area between your brows is dark! This young monk fears that it is the portent of great misfortune!"

Qiao Mu's mouth twitched.

That instant, Qiao Lin's angry countenance also cracked up as she broke out into giggles.

"Come back!" On the other hand, Qiao Sen ran up irritably and picked up the little monk. "Why are you butting in for no reason?"

"Even a little monk baldy dares to challenge me! How outrageous!" Xu Mingzhu erupted with anger, and she channeled mystic energy from her hand into the sharp blades of her spear. A cold glint flashed past her eyes as she abruptly jumped up, jabbing towards Qiao Sen's back with her spear.

"You're courting death!" Qiao Lin, who had long been on guard, abruptly threw out a punch, which directly knocked the point of the spear askew.

"Water spirit talisman!" The little monk suddenly turned his small head around, throwing out the talisman after activating it.

Boom! Under Xu Mingzhu and her party's shocked and flabbergasted gazes, a water pillar engulfed everything in its wake before sending Xu Mingzhu and her group of wolfish boy servants flying in a heartbeat.

Bang bang bang bang! A water pillar descended from the sky again, pounding down on the heads of Xu Mingzhu and the boy servants.

Xu Mingzhu hastily activated her defensive weapon to protect her body, which was barely able to ward off the water spirit's tempestuous power. However, those boy servants had met with tragedy. They were each sent flying far away, and all of them could only groan after crashing onto the ground, unable to get up.

This water spirit attack lasted for a full three minutes before finally disappearing. Xu Mingzhu had already been pummeled so badly that she had vomited a mouthful of blood while collapsed on the ground.

During the time when the waves were flushing down continuously, no one dared to come forward. Some carriages that were also headed for Spring Dawn Theater had stopped far away.

Fourth Miss Xu hadn't been affected. She covered her mouth with one hand as she gazed in great shock at her older sister, who was sprawled on the ground and still unable to get up for the time being.

The little monk patted his small hands and exclaimed, "This young monk already told you not to attack! Benefactress! The portent of great misfortune immediately came true as predicted!"

Qiao Lin burst out into loud laughter before she caught the little monk in her arms, kneading his fleshy small face as she remarked, "Kongkong, you really are too adorable."

"What happened here." A gentle voice floated out from inside a nearby carriage.

After lifting up the curtain, a thin but pretty young lady stepped down from the carriage, and she swept Qiao Mu and the others with a slightly quizzical glance.

At this time, the carriage driver suddenly cried out excitedly, "M-Miss, aren't you constantly asking me who was the person that saved you that day? It's her! It's that honorable young miss who saved you."

Qiao Mu had also recognized that girl who had walked down from the carriage. It was precisely Li Xiu'e, the third daughter of Assistant Minister Li from the Office of Imperial Banquets.

Yet she saw a peculiar emotion flash past Li Xiu'e's eyes.

Li Xiu'e walked up and properly curtsied towards Qiao Mu. "This subject truly was unaware that it was Her Highness the Crown Prince Consort who saved this subject that day."

Nevertheless, Qiao Mu nodded indifferently. "Was only passing by."

Hesitating to speak, Li Xiu'e glanced at her again, and then she eyed the nearby Xu Mingxin. "Fourth Miss Xu, what happened to you all?"

Xu Mingxin gave an awkward smile. "My third sister and the crown prince consort had a small misunderstanding."

Chapter 877: Requesting an Illness Curse

Oh? Only a small misunderstanding? Yet that escalated to the need for an attack?

Li Xiu'e cleverly didn't comment further. Her eyes merely flickered slightly when she looked at Third Miss Xu's tragic state.

Once again, Xu Mingxin curtsied toward Qiao Mu. "Crown Prince Consort, please pardon this humble girl for taking her leave first."

Qiao Mu nodded, also disinclined to squabble with that Xu Mingzhu any further.

Thus, Xu Mingxin called forth several servants to help Xu Mingzhu up, bringing her into the carriage before promptly returning to their estate.

She was also very troubled on the inside. Xu Mingzhu had been fine and dandy when she left, yet she was now being carried back to the estate. She didn't know if the madam would let her, this lowly concubine's daughter, off. *Sigh...*

"Sister, who was that? Do you know her?" Qiao Lin pursed her small lips in the direction that Xu Mingzhu had left.

"You should have also seen her during yesterday's banquet. She is the third miss of the Marquis of Placation's Estate, Xu Mingzhu."

"There were so many orioles and swallows at yesterday's banquet, who would remember who each person was!" Qiao Lin puffed out her small cheeks in a huff.

This was exactly why Xu Mingzhu couldn't swallow her anger. After dolling herself up prettily for the banquet, she thought that she could surpass all the other flowers with her beauty so as to attract more

of the noble young sirs' attention. Yet in the end, this crown prince consort who hailed from the countryside had stolen all the limelight!

Li Xiu'e smiled and said, "Crown Prince Consort, then let's enter the theater. Has the crown prince consort reserved a box beforehand? If not, if you don't mind, you can join this humble girl in her box."

Qiao Mu led her brother and sister into Spring Dawn Theater's main hall, and all she could see was the back of people's heads, showing that the main hall was already full.

"Might as well, then. I'll have to trouble Miss Li." Qiao Mu nodded in acceptance after a short moment of contemplation.

If these imps couldn't watch a vaudeville show after coming to the theater already, hell knows how they would pester her.

Li Xiu'e smiled faintly, and she gave the maidservant beside her a look.

Before long, that maidservant brought over an usher, who welcomed them servilely before leading them to a private room on the second floor.

The people inside could watch the lively show below after pushing open the row of windows in the private room, which gave quite a nice view.

Very soon, another person brought in some tea and pastries. They weren't very exquisite, but it was enough to keep them from going hungry.

The children immediately ran to the window with a cheer, and they started watching the show with relish while lying against the windowsill.

On the other hand, Qiao Mu sat down at the table and poured herself a cup of tea. Only then did she look at Miss Li, who had sat down across from her, and said with a nod, "You can talk now."

Miss Li was taken aback, and she gazed at Qiao Mu blankly, momentarily feeling a bit embarrassed. "Crown Prince Consort, how did you know that this humble girl had something to say?"

"Your eyes told me." After taking a sip of the tea, Qiao Mu creased her brow slightly.

This tea really had been watered down. It didn't even have a bit of tea flavor.

Li Xiu'e couldn't resist smiling. "Crown Prince Consort really is a straightforward person."

She looked up at the two maidservants beside her. "You two go out first. I have something to tell the crown prince consort privately."

The two maidservants hesitated for a bit as they looked at each other in bewilderment. It was only after Li Xiu'e gave them a severe gaze that they finally backed out of the room subserviently.

Li Xiu'e resolutely stood up and walked up to Qiao Mu before bending over in prostration. "Will the crown prince consort please bestow this humble girl an illness curse!"

Qiao Mu hadn't imagined that Li Xiu'e would be requesting a curse from her, and an illness curse talisman at that, so she was involuntarily taken aback.

“What do you want an illness curse for?”

Chapter 878: I'll Help You

Qiao Mu, being so bright and intelligent, couldn't resist sucking in a breath after some ruminating. “The illness curse you got affected by last time? Was also something that you requested on your own? You applied the illness curse to yourself on purpose!”

Li Xiu'e shook her head. “That illness curse last time was something I purchased by chance in a talisman shop. At that time, I bought it for fun out of curiosity. I didn't imagine that I would be able to put it to good use.”

“Since the crown prince consort can dispel that illness curse, then you are naturally an expert in this field! This humble girl beseeches the crown prince consort to bestow an illness curse! This humble girl begs of you, Crown Prince Consort.” Li Xiu'e suddenly lowered her head and heavily gave Qiao Mu a sound kowtow.

The three children turned their heads around from the window. When they saw Li Xiu'e acting like this, they couldn't help but find it a bit strange.

However, very soon, their attention was once again attracted by the entertaining show on stage.

At the moment, a young male performer had led out a ferocious striped tiger onto the stage, drawing waves of gasps from the audience.

After studying Li Xiu'e for a moment, it was only then that Qiao Mu said with certainty, “During yesterday's banquet, I heard Her Highness Consort Cheng mention that you have already been betrothed to her son, the eldest prince Mo Jiao. You think that they will give up on you after you use the illness curse?”

“Her Highness Consort Cheng won't let her son marry a dying person.” Li Xiu'e's eyes were crystal clear. “She won't be able to accept that rotten luck!”

That was indeed the case. Qiao Mu nodded in agreement. Marrying a concubine should originally be a happy occasion, so no one would be willing to marry a half-dead concubine in case they also got tainted with bad luck.

“Other people all want to get married to a prince. Why aren't you willing?”

Li Xiu'e spat in disgust, not concealing her distaste toward Mo Jiao in the least. “He already has so many concubines, so his body must be filthy and stinky. He simply doesn't meet my standards!”

Qiao Mu curved her small mouth. She felt Miss Li had said some very amusing things, which quite suited her taste.

“But normally, when young misses are forced to marry, don't they make a terrible scene by weeping, then fussing, before threatening to hang themselves?”

“What use would that do?” Li Xiu'e raised her head and looked back at Qiao Mu with determination. “I don't want to do that kind of stupid thing for this kind of stinky man! If I get so ill that I can't even get

out of bed, I believe that Consort Cheng won't welcome a dying person carrying bad luck into the Eldest Prince's Estate."

Qiao Mu nodded again, starting to admire this Miss Li who spoke so straightforwardly. "You are only a normal person, but to be able to have this courage and insight, you are much more courageous than most of the people in the world. Alright! I will help you, but you have to promise me one thing."

"Please speak, Crown Prince Consort! This humble girl isn't afraid of scaling a mountain of swords nor plunging into a frying pot!" Li Xiu'e declared as she gazed at Qiao Mu with shining eyes.

"I don't need you to scale a mountain of swords, nor do I require you to plunge into a frying pot. I only need you to maintain secrecy. You cannot tell anyone that I am a curse practitioner." Qiao Mu didn't want to attract trouble to herself. Ever since curse practitioners had been labeled as evil creatures, they had always been suppressed by various forces. If people with ulterior motives found out that she was able to produce illness curses, and was hence a curse practitioner to the letter, that would certainly attract plenty of trouble.

Although she didn't have anything to fear, she just found it annoying.

"I, Li Xiu'e, swear to Heaven that if I dare leak the crown prince consort's secret, I will definitely meet with Heavenly Law's condemnation and die a miserable death!"

Qiao Mu nodded, and it was only then that she took out an illness curse from her inner world and held it in her hand, sternly telling Li Xiu'e, "My illness curse is much more intense than the one you used before."

Chapter 879: Gift

"This is an advanced-level illness curse. Once I use it on you, it will hurt a hundred times, a thousand times more than before. Have you prepared yourself to withstand the pain?"

Li Xiu'e's eyes shone brightly as she nodded vigorously. "I-I've prepared myself!"

"After I use this curse on you, I will first use talisman energy to lock the illness curse away for 10 hours. That way, after you get home, it will flare up at around 10 o'clock at night."

"Yes, yes!!" Li Xiu'e shuffled forward on her knees, and she gazed at Qiao Mu with eager eyes. "Crown Prince Consort, I'm not afraid, you can use it!"

It was Qiao Mu's first time seeing a girl who longed so badly to be ill.

While shaking her head, she took out an advanced-level protective talisman and handed it to Li Xiu'e. "You must not lose this talisman by all means. When you truly can't endure it anymore, activate this talisman, and it will be able to dispel the curse on your body."

"Yes, yes yes." Seeing that the little lady had so meticulously taken her situation into consideration, Li Xiu'e was deeply moved.

During the banquet, she had kept hearing the people beside her privately whispering how the crown prince consort was so arrogant and unreasonable, and how she was so cold-hearted and stoic-faced. However, after plucking up her courage and approaching the crown prince consort, it was only then that

she discovered that the crown prince consort simply wasn't as awful as other people made her out to be.

Only after approaching the crown prince consort would one be able to discern the warm and gentle heart that hid underneath her stoic and icicle face.

That's why hearsay really was useless when gauging how to interact with others. For certain people and certain matters, only when you put your heart into approaching them and pondering over them could you then dispel the heavy fog and discern the truth. One shouldn't just echo the views of others and have no views of one's own.

"Consort Cheng is a sly old fox, and she might sound you out multiple times. Timewise, you might have to drag it out for quite long." Afterwards, Qiao Mu pulled out a small bottle of medicinal solution from her sleeve and handed it to her. "This bottle of medicinal solution can help you temporarily block off your senses, so if it really hurts too much, then use it."

Li Xiu'e was already so moved that she didn't know what to say, and she nodded vigorously while tearing up. "Crown Prince Consort, this humble girl is unable to repay your great grace and kindness. After crossing this critical juncture, as long as this humble girl can be of use later on, please feel free to speak up."

Qiao Mu activated the illness curse, and a streak of light from it entered Li Xiu'e's forehead.

Li Xiu'e instantly sensed a chill creeping up her limbs, but this sensation rapidly dispersed. Qiao Mu lowered her two fingers and explained faintly, "I locked the illness curse with talisman energy for you, and it will disperse on its own after 10 hours. At that time, make sure you prepare yourself. It should hurt very badly."

Afterwards, Qiao Mu slightly clenched her fist, crushing the illness curse in her hand into powder and letting it scatter.

"Get out, get out, everyone get out!" At this time, a noisy commotion could be heard coming from the main hall below.

"The Qin Estate's eldest young sir has just bought the whole lot! Everyone get out! Get out!"

After taking a load off her mind, Li Xiu'e was in a very good mood at the moment. She wasn't afraid of pain, only afraid of marrying a man that disgusted her, not to mention also having to bear children for him. If she had to live with this disgust for her entire life, she would die from this revulsion!

Hearing the commotion that came from the ground floor, the people in the room looked down from the windows.

Someone suddenly pushed open the door to the private room, and a person that looked like the assistant troupe master walked inside while rubbing his hands in embarrassment. "This humble one truly is sorry. The Qin Estate's eldest young sir has booked the whole theater to treat his friends from the pugilistic world to gather here and watch the show. So, this... honored guests can rest assured, we will refund you your fees."

Li Xiu'e's face immediately darkened. "Is this an issue of money?"

Chapter 880: Pretending to Not Know Him

Seeing that Li Xiu'e didn't look like she was about to let the matter drop, apprehension flooded the assistant troupe master's heart.

Previously, when he went to go notify the other guests in the private rooms in the Qin Estate's eldest young sir's name, those people were all anxious to go greet that Young Sir Qin and ingratiate themselves with him.

But these two young ladies in front of him, one who was expressionless and the other who was frowning in anger, didn't seem to be people he could easily drive out.

Li Xiu'e eyed the assistant troupe master coldly. "Go down and tell that Eldest Young Sir Qin, his gathering and his guests have nothing to do with us. If he wants to clear the theater, then have him come up himself to talk it over with us."

The assistant troupe master gave a servile response, and seeing that both young ladies didn't seem like characters that could be pushed around, he hurriedly wiped his sweat and shuffled down the stairs.

"Crown Prince Consort." Li Xiu'e turned to look at Qiao Mu.

Yet Qiao Mu simply waved her hand and said, "We only came to watch the show, so there's no need to be so long-winded with them."

Since the show had stopped, the children's entertainment had also ended. Seeing that the people in the main hall below were all walking outside, they couldn't help frowning as they turned to Qiao Mu and said, "Sister, they're not performing anymore."

"Wait for a bit. Do you guys want to come over and eat some fruit first?" She took out some fresh fruits from her inner world and beckoned to the three children.

Qiao Lin and the two little boys rushed over, and they each picked up an orange and started to peel them.

At this time, the assistant troupe master knocked on the door again and walked in, relaying in embarrassment, "Young Sir Qin and some of his friends have said, that they request for honored guests to go down."

With her finger, Qiao Mu beckoned at that assistant troupe master.

The assistant troupe master cheekily ran near. "Miss."

However, Qiao Mu abruptly struck out, hooking that assistant troupe master's neck with her palm before ruthlessly slamming his old face against the table.

A loud bam was heard, and the assistant troupe master could only feel one side of his face hurting terribly, and he feared that it had bruised completely.

Qiao Mu stated coldly, "If you don't want to die, have them come up."

When she finished speaking, she released her small hand that had hooked onto the back of the assistant troupe master's neck. He only felt his entire body turn cold, and he automatically gave a shudder.

“Bring some hot water inside.” Qiao Mu coldly cast him a glance. How would the assistant troupe master dare say anything superfluous? He repeatedly nodded his head as he very cautiously backed out of the door step by step while stooping at the waist.

Sure enough, after a few minutes, a young waiter brought over hot water in an incredibly respectful manner.

Soon afterwards, the sound of shuffling footsteps came from the stairs, and before long, the door to the private room was pushed open.

While dressed in his dark purple robe, the slender and straight figure of Eldest Young Sir Qin appeared at the entrance.

He had a spot of vermillion between his brows, and he possessed a beautiful pair of captivating and enchanting eyes. He still wore his hair loose, which hung to his waist, and his entire being emitted a wild and evil charm.

“I had been wondering which fiend was making a fuss.” The moment Qin Xuan saw Qiao Mu, he curled up his lips and smiled.

He leaned against the doorframe and looked at the little lady with a smile. “So it was you, this ill-mannered and unreasonable little fiend.”

Qiao Mu expressionlessly cast him a glance before coldly stating, “Who are you.”

Rolling his eyes, Qin Xuan strode inside with his long legs. He dragged over a stool and sat down before her, gazing at her calmly. “Stop pretending, alright. Mu Xiao Bao, I know it’s you. Don’t think that I won’t recognize you just because you switched a face.”

Qiao Mu reflexively reached out to touch her small face, but she continued to deadpan, “I don’t understand what you are saying.”

Ha ha, Eldest Qin snorted in laughter.