

## My Crown 901

### Chapter 901: Smiled!

When it was almost noon, Crown Prince Mo came to the Marquis of Jiayuan's Estate to pick Qiao Mu up before heading to the Highest Judiciary.

On the way, he secretly told her, "Royal Father has already issued an edict. Tomorrow, Qiao Dongbo and those people will all be driven out from the capital."

Qiao Mu was leaning against him as her teeth engaged in a trial of strength with a stick of dried fruit. Upon hearing his words, she raised her head and pursed her small lips, saying, "You hid from your dad yesterday, so is it even possible for him to not say bad things about me today? There's an eighty percent chance he poured out his grievances for the entire morning!"

Yet laughing out loud, Mo Lian encircled her body as he leaned over to prop his chin up on her small head. "Guess what Royal Father said to me?"

"What else could it be other than incessantly criticizing how fierce I am." Qiao Mu harrumphed, responding instantly without even thinking it over.

"Actually, no. You definitely won't be able to guess."

When his dad saw him entering the palace, he had immediately jumped up from the throne in agitation and asked dryly, "Son, you think that you can just buy anything to play with? In the future, don't buy so many of those nonsensical talismans for your wife. You even bought such a big wad of them, can these talismans be eaten or what?"

As he recounted what happened, even Mo Lian himself couldn't resist laughing. "The king simply didn't think that you had drawn these talismans yourself. He thought that I had bought them all for you! How about next time, you draw a few talismans on the spot to give him a further scare?"

*Is there a son who suckers his dad like this?* After casting him a glance and silently scolding him for being a gremlin, Qiao Mu yanked on a lock of his jet-ink hair. "The new batch of ebony that you requested Baili Xi to process, is it going well?"

"They're already in the midst of transporting it over, and it should arrive around the day of the Lantern Festival." Mo Lian simpered as he looked down at her. "Qiaoqiao, I heard that Duan Yue came to visit you in the morning?"

"Yeah." Qiao Mu rolled her eyes at him. "Why do you keep sending someone to tail me, tipping you off at the slightest disturbance?"

"Isn't this because I'm worried about you." Mo Lian continued calmly, "I heard that you smiled at the Marquis of Su'an's Estate's Old Fifth?"

*Did she smile?*

Qiao Mu touched her small, chilly face as she muttered, "I don't think so."

*It didn't feel like it!*

“You smiled!” Mo Lian asserted with certainty. Lightning that guy had even secretly described it to him: ‘The crown prince consort’s sudden smile at the Marquis of Su’an’s Estate’s Old Fifth was like the spring wind stroking the face, and the flowers on a thousand trees blossoming! The Marquis of Su’an’s Estate’s Old Fifth stared at her in rapture then and there...’

*See, see, see, see! Lightning described it so accurately! What other information did he have yet to grasp?*

“Oh.” *Then she probably did smile.* She didn’t have much of an impression anymore.

Suddenly, she felt her body lightening. While she was still gnawing on a stick of dried fruit, Mo Lian had lifted her up, turning her around to look at him face-to-face.

“What are you doing?” His face was so close, practically touching our dear Qiao Mu’s small face, that she swiftly flushed red at once.

“Smile.”

“Huh?” Qiao Mu was baffled.

He suddenly leaned in closer, so close that she could distinctly see his long, curled eyelashes blinking lightly.

“Smile.” His scent completely dominated hers, and she immediately became utterly nervous and flustered, not even knowing where to place her pair of small hands anymore.

He was so close that even her heart was starting to sway. *It was so sudden, who did he mean? Besides, who was able to smile like this!*

“Smile.” He even gripped her small chin with a very solemn expression.

## **Chapter 902: Waited So Anxiously**

Qiao Mu’s round, large eyes looked at him as she revealed a bit of her small, pearly teeth just to get it over with.

“You didn’t smile!” However, Mo Lian leaned in and nuzzled her small face with his warm one. “You have to smile at me like the spring breeze stroking one’s face!”

He was brooding over that guy Lightning’s description!

Qiao Mu felt that he was being a bit comical, and she grabbed a lock of his hair. “What exactly did Lightning say to you?”

“He said you smiled very genially at the Marquis of Su’an’s Estate’s Old Fifth.” *And the crucial point was that it made the person enraptured!* Sh\*t, he was furious just thinking about it.

It was too bad that he wasn’t there at that time. If he were, then he would have gouged out the Marquis of Su’an’s Estate’s Old Fifth’s eyeballs!

“I really didn’t smile.” Even Qiao Mu herself didn’t remember smiling at that guy. If she did, however, there was an eighty percent probability that it was a mirthless smile!

“You did smile!” As he stressed these words, he hugged her so close that his face was touching hers. He could even bite her small mouth if he lowered his head. “Hurry up and smile, or else I’ll punish you.”

Qiao Mu only felt that when this man turned childish, he was like a small kid demanding for candy.

That pair of curved phoenix eyes contained a wisp of tender gloominess that simply melted her heart.

“You rogue.” Qiao Mu couldn’t resist chuckling, and she subconsciously bit her small lips as she tried her best to push aside his boiling body. “Quickly go away! You’re about to burn up.”

“I’m not leaving.” As he hugged her, he nuzzled her vigorously. “Smile again.”

“It’s not like I’m an idiot who smiles all day long!” Qiao Mu was grumpy and irritated, so she pulled at the lock of hair she was grabbing. “Hurry and let go! Or else I will drench you with water!”

“I won’t let go even if you drench me with water!” When a certain person became an undeterred rogue, he was absolutely invincible.

Qiao Mu couldn’t resist snorting in laughter, and a sweet smile rippled across her small face as she poked his shoulder. “I’ve finished smiling, so quickly let go now.”

Yet he still didn’t react after some time, just hugging her and fixating on her small face the entire time without blinking.

Qiao Mu found it quite embarrassing being stared at like this, so she quickly covered up his pair of phoenix eyes that were as deep as the starry night sky. “Why do you keep staring at me.”

“Qiaoqiao, you’re too good-looking. When I look at you, I feel like my heart has jumped out of my chest! Mhm, just like it’s about to take flight. So just let me look at you some more. It’s not like you will lose a piece of flesh.”

“Phooey.” Qiao Mu turned her face aside, puffing out her small cheeks as she pretended not to look at him anymore.

In reality, her heart was beating madly. She kept feeling that if she was too close to him, he was more than likely to eavesdrop on the sound of her heartbeat, which would make him laugh at her.

Nevertheless, she still couldn’t resist furtively peering at him from the corner of her eye. Her sneaky action made Mo Lian’s heart soften even more, and he was unable to restrain a smile.

While nuzzling her up and down in his embrace, Mo Lian murmured in a low but faintly discernible voice, “What to do, Qiaoqiao. There’s still two more months until your coming-of-age hairpin ceremony. Sigh...”

*He was waiting so anxiously!*

Qiao Mu’s small face burned even more intensely, and she reached out to beat his back with her fist neither lightly nor forcefully.

Suddenly, the carriage swayed slightly, like it was gradually slowing down.

Yanking at his long hair, Qiao Mu hastily insisted in a soft voice, “We’ve arrived! Quickly let go.”

After Mo Lian reluctantly released her from his embrace, Qiao Mu broke away from his arms with a whoosh, lifting the curtain and jumping outside.

The heat in her cheeks finally dispersed a bit after feeling the cold breeze outside, but only she could hear her heart that was beating like a drum in her body.

### **Chapter 903: As Malicious as Snakes and Scorpions**

Qiao Mu facepalmed, and when she looked back and saw how he alighted the carriage after her with a grin, she couldn't resist glaring at him.

This person had a strange magical power, which acted just like a magnet, that tightly attracted other people's eyeballs. It was particularly despicable.

Needless to say, Mo Lian wouldn't care about how the little fellow was giving him a dour look. He merely held her small hand in secret amusement as he led her towards the Highest Judiciary's entrance. "We have come here to the Highest Judiciary's prison twice already. Since you know the way already, I won't go down with you, okay."

Qiao Mu nodded, indicating with her gaze for him to let go.

*You're not going down with me, so why do you keep holding my hand? You're hindering me from moving about!*

Mo Lian looked at her innocently. "I'll escort you over to the entrance."

The Assistant Minister of the Highest Judiciary had already run out to receive them upon being informed. It was still the person they saw last time, the official that was almost forty years old.

Accompanying him was an official that was born with small pupils. Upon seeing the crown prince and crown prince consort, he walked over to welcome them with a simpering smile.

Mo Lian introduced in a low voice, "This is Sir Ge."

He then gave Qiao Mu a meaningful look as he transmitted his voice into her ears alone. "It's the person who had barged into Second Royal Brother's Estate to capture Ding Tingding."

Realization dawned on Qiao Mu, but she just glanced at Sir Ge without saying anything, merely following the Assistant Minister of the Highest Judiciary into the prison.

Along the way, the Assistant Minister of the Highest Judiciary politely exchanged pleasantries with Qiao Mu. "The people from the capital's Qiao Family are locked up inside the prison on the north side. Qiao Dongbo and them have all been locked up individually. Who does the crown prince consort wish to meet?"

"I'm not meeting Qiao Dongbo." Qiao Mu pursed her lips and said, "Bring me to the cell where the normal Qiao Clan members have been locked up."

"Yes!" The Assistant Minister of the Highest Judiciary called over a jailer to lead the way and bring Qiao Mu to the largest prison cells on the north side.

Each prison cell had locked up forty to fifty people, and she saw a mass of black heads upon glancing over.

Seeing that there was someone coming over, those people couldn't resist shouting "Let me out of here" over and over again, just like dying quails.

"Scram, scram, scram!" The jailer cracked his whip, flinging back inside the several hands that had reached out between the wooden bars.

Qiao Mu walked past them, searching for Sixth Uncle Qiao's family in the prison cells.

All of a sudden, someone squeezed to the front of the wooden cell and crashed her head against the bars. She dug her fingers into the wooden bars with a death grip as she roared, "Qiao Mu! Qiao Mu, you still dare to come? You b\*tch harmed us into this state, yet you dare come to visit us? You black-hearted woman with rotten innards, with a heart as malicious as that of snakes and scorpions, why don't you just go die?"

Afterwards, a whip suddenly lashed out at Qiao Ni's hand, prompting a tragic scream in exchange.

As Qiao Mu turned around to gaze coldly at Qiao Ni, a mocking smile tugged at the corner of her mouth.

*Miss Qiao must not have known that she would end up so tragically in this lifetime!* Qiao Mu strode past Qiao Ni, throwing the latter's roars out of her mind.

She found Old Sixth Qiao and his family in the third large prison cell.

After Qiao Mu gestured for the jailer to open the door of the cell, many people tried to charge outside that instant.

When the jailer noticed this, he effortlessly whipped them back inside with several cracks of his whip.

"Behave well for me! You all will be exiled to the Northwestern Desert tomorrow, so you don't need to be so impatient. You will definitely get your chance to go outside." The jailer's schadenfreude induced a series of anguished howls from the Qiao Clan members.

These years, they had been indulging in their high position and comfortable life in the Mo Kingdom capital, so how could they possibly adapt to the impoverished and bitterly cold environment of the Northwestern Desert!

#### **Chapter 904: Begging for Mercy**

"Qiao Mu, Qiao Mu!!" A dark and skinny woman screeched as she charged to the entrance, yet she was promptly whipped back inside with two cracks of the jailer's whip.

With bloodshot eyes, she fixated unwaveringly on Qiao Mu from across the wooden bars. "Qiao Mu! Do you still have a conscience! Do you still have any notions of blood relations and familial ties? Do you feel that you haven't harmed us enough? You actually want to send us away to the Northwestern Desert? You, you!!"

Qiao Mu gazed icily at that dark and skinny woman through the wooden bars. This person was precisely her long unseen Youngest Aunt-in-Law Xu Jiao. Right now, she was even more tanned and thin than when they last met, and her jaw had even sunken in.

While looking at Qiao Mu like this, Xu Jiao suddenly prostrated on the ground and kowtowed from both mental and physical exhaustion. With a look of bitter remorse and grief, she shed tears while pleading, "Qiao Mu, Eldest Niece! Forgive your uncle, aunt, and cousin! Let us out! Don't drive us away to the Great Northwest! Wuwuwu, that truly isn't a place that people can reside in! Qiaoqiao, just take it as what happened in the past was Second Aunt's fault, it was Second Aunt who wronged you. Whether you want to blame me or resent me, it's all up to you. In consideration of the fact that we are a family, and in consideration of your dad and your mom, please leave us a way out!"

"Right! Qiaoqiao, leave us a way out." By this point, Qiao Zhongheng truly was terrified.

Originally, they thought that they would be able to enjoy the good life after Qiao Dongbo brought them back to the Qiao Clan's main family. Yet who knew that Qiao Dongbo was a two-faced person. After being arranged in a courtyard, their family still lacked food and clothes, just like before.

It was only that their shelter now was better than the rundown temple, and the furnishings in the rooms were all exquisite. However, what was the use when they couldn't eat nor drink them. They merely seemed impressive on the surface, but in truth, they were in a daily state of being driven to near insanity from hunger.

Moreover, they had done nothing at all this time around. They were just wholly suckered in by Qiao Dongbo, entering this prison just because they got implicated.

They were unwilling to be driven away to the Great Northwest like this. That's why no matter how disturbed she felt on the inside, she had no choice but to give in and lower her head at this point in time!

However, it was as if her heart had been set ablaze, combusting spontaneously. She felt that her burning rage was nearly about to swallow her whole.

*Since when was the eldest branch so high up and removed that they couldn't even claim connections with them?*

*Now, just to survive, she actually didn't hesitate to use Wei Ziqin, claiming connections to this person whom she had always looked down on, as an excuse to beg for mercy?*

After mulling this over with consternation, Xu Jiao raised her head, looking anxiously at her niece with a look that pleaded for her forgiveness.

Yet Qiao Mu simply stared at Xu Jiao with a long, drawn-out gaze that seemed to have coursed through the long river of history, perhaps even spanning the length of a century. That pitch-black gaze without a single ripple made Xu Jiao feel greatly unsettled in her heart.

Xu Jiao felt that her niece's chilly eyes seemed so lifeless that it was a bit frightening.

It seemed like it was starting from when this niece was seven, ever since she regained consciousness after accidentally rolling down the hill in front of the school, that Xu Jiao's life started to steadily decline and deteriorate by the day.

Although quite unwilling to do so, Xu Jiao had no choice but to admit that in this day and age, she probably couldn't rival her niece's current status even if she spent the rest of her life trying.

Perhaps, she would only obtain an opportunity to live by begging for mercy.

After giving Xu Jiao an apathetic glance, Qiao Mu pulled out a bag of silver from her sleeve and threw it at Xu Jiao's feet.

Xu Jiao, however, only felt her heart sinking with a thump.

### **Chapter 905: 20 Taels of Silver**

At this moment, Qiao Zhongheng very cowardly shrunk behind his wife, while Qiao Long also didn't dare let out a peep.

Gritting her teeth, Xu Jiao shakily bent down to pick up that bag of silver.

The moment she opened that bag and saw the piece of silver inside, her eyes immediately bulged.

"20 taels?" It was as if a string in her mind had broken, making her mind suddenly explode!

Although Qiao Mu had curled up her lips, there wasn't a hint of a smile within her pitch-black pupils as she stared at Xu Jiao and said, "Youngest Aunt-in-Law, if back then, you had even the slightest bit of..."

Qiao Mu stuck out her pinky to make a gesture. "Conscience."

"Then you wouldn't have so heartlessly conspired with Wu Yanzhen to sell my younger sister to the Dou Family."

Xu Jiao's entire body shook uncontrollably, and her eyes were suffused with disbelief as she looked up at Qiao Mu. "H-How did you know it was 20 taels?"

It was neither more nor less. Her commission was exactly 20 taels, but how did Qiao Mu, this child, know that?

*Those were events that happened eight years ago!*

*Even the granny didn't know! So how would a seven-year-old Qiao Mu know??*

Yet Qiao Mu merely swept Xu Jiao a chilly gaze, and as she walked closer to that prison cell step by step, she softly spoke, "Did you know? That young master of the Dou Family was a psychopath! If Younger Sis really had been sent to that hell on earth by your conspiracy, do you think she would have lived past 12 years old?"

Xu Jiao trembled all over, and when she saw Qiao Mu's nearly mental expression, she screeched in slight horror, "Don't come over."

Qiao Mu halted her footsteps and gazed at this woman coldly. "I'm buying the lives of your family of three with 20 taels. You can keep the change."

At this point, Old Sixth Qiao and Sixth Aunt Qiao raised their heads and looked at Qiao Mu with slightly contracted pupils. It seemed as if they hadn't expected that she could be so merciless as to forsake her own uncle and aunt-in-law.

On the other hand, Qiao Ya's pair of apathetic eyes contained a faint puzzlement as they gazed at her just like that.

"Qiao Mu, Qiao Mu!!" Xu Jiao fell into a complete panic, tightly clenching the bag of silver as she bawled in regret, "Qiaoqiao, Qiaoqiao, Aunt-in-Law knows her mistake! Aunt-in-Law really knows her mistake! Give me another chance, okay? Or, give your cousin a chance! Your cousin was merely a small child eight years ago, so he didn't know anything, he is innocent! Qiaoqiao, Qiaoqiao, I beg you, don't be so cruel!"

*Innocent.* Qiao Mu scoffed, turning to look back at her deeply.

*If she hadn't been reborn, her younger sister would have died next year! At that time, who would there be to give Qiao Lin another chance?*

*Who would there be to take pity on Qiao Lin?*

*Who would there be to sympathize with her, who had lost her mother, her younger sister, and her younger brother, thereby becoming a person who had lost everything. Her future was so tragic...*

*Don't blame her for being heartless!*

*This is an age where it's either you live or I die!*

*But it's more fitting for you to be the one to die!*

While trailing behind Qiao Mu, Qiao Ya and her parents were subjected to everyone else's envious gazes as they walked out of the prison cell. They had all sorts of feelings welling up in their hearts.

When Qiao Mu walked back out under the sun, she immediately saw that person turning around and grinning at her.

At that instant, something seemed to have melted her icy heart, causing it to ease up.

Qiao Mu instantly took to her heels and ran up and into Mo Lian's embrace.

Simultaneously, that look of hers that was requesting for a hug made Crown Prince Mo wild with joy.

## **Chapter 906: A Hug**

His little fellow was taking the initiative to request for a hug, so of course he had to seize this fine opportunity to tightly hug her without letting go.

Qiao Ya was startled, and she stared blankly at the two people who were hugging each other before her. However, these emotions flashed by quickly before she lowered her head again without speaking.

"Xiao Ya." Sixth Aunt Qiao secretly spoke to her daughter, "The fact that we could get out this time is all thanks to Qiaoqiao, ah no, it's the crown prince consort. It is all thanks to the crown prince consort's benevolence. Don't wear this expression, relax a bit."



Sixth Aunt Qiao was afraid that her daughter would offend Qiao Mu, so she quickly admonished her daughter.

Yet Qiao Ya's expression grew even more stiff, so much that it was a bit unnatural, hence she stiffly turned her head aside instead.

After placating the little fellow's mood, Mo Lian asked tenderly, "What happened? Did the Qiao Clan's people say something unpleasant?"

Qiao Mu shook her head. "Who cares what they say. It's fine, I just wanted to... hug you all of a sudden!"

After saying this, the little fellow also lifted up a certain person's face of her own accord.

Crown Prince Mo was stunned, and a rosy flush crept up the tips of his ears. He mumbled while hugging Qiao Mu, "If you want a hug, you can get one whenever you want, however long you want. It's best if you hug without letting go."

"Don't be so pleased with yourself," Qiao Mu muttered softly as she pushed against him. "Let's go."

However, Mo Lian reached out to touch his face. *Mhm! I indeed have a pleasing face!*

In order to set her mother's mind at rest, Qiao Mu especially arranged Old Sixth Qiao's family in a residential compound on Xiluo Street.

The residence was of a suitable size, with an inner and outer yard. It was more than sufficient for three people to live in.

Along the way, Sixth Aunt Qiao tried to be friendly with her. However, she kept saying "Crown Prince Consort," no longer "Qiaoqiao" like in the past, so the conversation was very unnatural.

Moreover, with the crown prince, this powerful figure, present, Sixth Aunt Qiao and Old Sixth Qiao were ill at ease, not even knowing where to place their limbs. The occasional talk was also quite awkward, and later, they just didn't say anything anymore.

After arriving at the edge of Xiluo Street's boundary, the carriage stopped at the intersection. Further in was the tent district, which wasn't all that clear of traffic, making it faster to just walk.

Mo Lian held Qiao Mu's hand, and they escorted Old Sixth Qiao and his family to the entrance of that small residence.

Qiao Ya hadn't spoken the entire time. At this moment, she raised her head and quickly glanced over the residential compound. A wisp of something swiftly flashed past her eyes before rapidly disappearing again.

"In the future, you can stay here." Qiao Liu's wife glanced at Qiao Ya, who was hanging her head, before turning to tell Sixth Aunt Qiao, "This small residence is basically fully equipped. You can directly move in without buying any other necessities."

"Yes, yes, thank you, Crown Prince Consort, thank you." Sixth Aunt Qiao hastily lowered her head, bending at the waist as she repeatedly expressed her gratitude.

Seeing her stand on ceremony like so, Qiao Mu also felt uncomfortable in her heart and sighed gently, saying, "If there isn't anything else, the crown prince and I will leave first."

Qiao Ya extremely quickly tugged at her mother's sleeve.

Sixth Aunt Qiao froze, and then she smiled apologetically as she asked, "Uhm, Crown Prince Consort, do you know how much food there is inside this residence, and how long it will feed our family of three?"

At this, Qiao Mu was slightly taken aback, after which she replied absent-mindedly, "It should be no problem to last you until the Lantern Festival. Sister Xiao Ya is also a mystic cultivator, so she can go to the central plaza to accept missions and earn mystic currency. At that time, you can purchase food from the food stores with the mystic currency."

"Okay, okay." Old Sixth Qiao and Sixth Aunt Qiao responded servilely, and they escorted Qiao Mu and the crown prince out the door.

### **Chapter 907: I Won't Change**

After walking out of the residence, Qiao Mu felt quite jaded. Even after boarding the carriage, she still wasn't very willing to speak.

Mo Lian sat down next to her and caressed her small face. "Why are you staring into space. You've done enough after arranging a place for them. Each family has their own life, so let them be. I'll be unhappy if I see that you become moody because of some irrelevant people."

"In the past, when we lived in hardship at home, Sixth Uncle Qiao and his family would occasionally send over some food to help us out." Qiao Mu sighed and acknowledged, "I know what my mom is thinking. She is correct, the grace of a drop of water should be reciprocated by a gushing spring. We should repay Sixth Uncle's kindness to us."

"Ordinarily, with our current family circumstances, it's not much of a problem for us to help out if we can. However, I keep feeling... a bit disturbed on the inside." At this point, Qiao Mu turned to look at Mo Lian before she flipped her hand over to grab onto his large palm. "Did you see how Sixth Aunt was acting just earlier? She didn't treat me as a junior at all. She was being too courteous that it made me totally ill at ease."

*No, to be more precise, her attitude embodied a hint of obsequiousness, which made it too unbearable.*

She would actually rather that they treat her like they had in the past.

However, it seemed that the down-to-earth Sixth Uncle and his family had already completely vanished like smoke in the powerful current of the times.

"I knew that people's hearts are most capricious," Qiao Mu said dully. "It's me who didn't know to adapt to the circumstances, getting upset over nothing."

"Nonsense." Taking her into his arms, Mo Lian gazed at her unwaveringly and rebutted, "The saying that 'people's hearts are capricious' is referring to those weak-willed people who act as the situation dictates."

"I won't change. My feelings toward you can be attested by the long course of time." Mo Lian lowered his head to plant a kiss on her small face.

Seeing that she still looked a bit gloomy, he couldn't resist adding, "There are loads of people in this world who are strong-willed. For instance, Duan Yue, that guy, although he looks particularly unreliable on the whole, but not just anyone can change his mind and affect his determination."

Qiao Mu looked up at the man while twitching her mouth, and she couldn't resist smiling. "Are you praising him or dissing him!"

*Such a scoundrel, always talking behind Duan Yue's back!*

*Of course I'm dissing him!*

Mo Lian pursed his lips. "I heard that he invited you to go have fun at the lantern fair."

While tilting her small head, Qiao Mu studied him with a spurious smile. "Could it be that you're not coming along?"

"Of course I'm coming along!"

Qiao Mu felt that boys really were quite difficult to deal with.

They were definitely schizophrenic. When they were on good terms, they got along so well that they could even wear the same pair of pants, but when they were on bad terms, they could brawl anytime and anywhere.

When she thought about how in addition to dragging along three kiddos on the day of the Lantern Festival, she also had to bring along two boys that would intermittently diss each other in an infight, her heart was enshrouded by a faint sense of distress...

—My Qiao's section break—

The Marquis of Su'an's Estate was located comparatively farther away from Minshun Boulevard. Hence, relative to the bustling Minshun Boulevard, the Marquis of Su'an's Estate was indeed rather out-of-the-way.

Ever since the fourth princess forced the Hu Family's third son, her consort, to death, the Marquis of Su'an's Estate had fallen on hard times.

At present, even almost all of the paint had already peeled off the door plaque.

When a maidservant in the estate was passing through the long, solitary corridor, she cowered to the side upon encountering Hu Youkang.

Yet who would have expected that Young Master Hu didn't even spare her a glance as he walked past her with his hands behind his back. From the looks of it, he was returning to his own courtyard.

*He actually didn't come try to get touchy with her?* The maidservant watched Young Master Hu's back dumbfoundedly.

*Could it be that the sky was about to rain crimson rain?*

She looked up at the sky.

### **Chapter 908: It Was Indeed Her**

*Creak.* Hu Youkang carelessly kicked open his court's door. When he saw that damaged shutter that was swaying back and forth, he clicked his tongue while shaking his head, and a hint of contempt flitted across his eyes.

*What kind of marquis's estate was this! The fact that it merely possessed this bit of financial ability would simply make people die from laughter.*

Hu Youkang walked straight into his own room, and after closing the doors, he walked up to a hundred treasures rack.

Needless to mention how dilapidated this hundred treasures rack was, there was also a flaking horse figurine and several cheap pieces of jade placed on its shelves.

Hu Youkang turned a button on the lowest level of the hundred treasures rack, which then slid to the side noisily, revealing a small secret room behind it.

However, Hu Youkang continued to click his tongue. *Leaving aside how crude this mechanism was, what the hell was the use of a bullsh\*t secret room in this freaking destitute and impoverished marquis's estate, whose wealth didn't even amount to a billionth of his treasures?*

*It f\*cking caused him to almost be excited to death, making him think that this fellow really did stash away some good secret stuff. In the end, there was merely a lousy bronze cauldron, two chests of gold ingots, and several sacks of grain!/  
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"Mhfmphfph!" In the center of the small secret room, one male and one female, who had been tied back-to-back on chairs with their hands behind them, watched the 'Hu Youkang' who was walking inside with horror.

Their mouths had been gagged with pieces of cloth, so they could only let out muffled sounds, and their expressions were also a bit distorted.

"What are you 'mhfmphing' about." 'Hu Youkang suddenly walked up and kicked the man's leg. "If not for the fact that I saw that it was nice and quiet here, you think that I would like staying in this rundown place?"

"I'm merely borrowing your place, yet look at how stingy you are." 'Hu Youkang' kicked him two more times before suddenly giving a malicious smile.

The person tied to the chair was precisely Hu Youkang himself.

Speaking of his unlucky history, it started on the day that he went to Spring Dawn Theater.

After returning from being bashed over the head by a vicious woman at Spring Dawn Theater, Hu Youkang went to have his injury treated. Afterwards, he was unable to dispel the sulky mood in his chest, so he seized a young maidservant that night to help relieve his bad mood.

Who knew that when he was only half done with the deed, someone bashed his head again fiercely, causing him to pass out.

When he finally regained consciousness, he found out that he was tied together with that plain-looking young maidservant in this secret room.

However, the most horrifying thing was that the other party was clearly an enchanting and alluring woman who could melt people's hearts with a flirtatious wink, but he witnessed her transforming drastically into his, Hu Youkang's, appearance in the blink of an eye.

*It was simply too horrifying, alright!*

*A woman transformed into a man in an instant!*

Yet it wasn't just a facial disguise plus a change of clothes, but a live transformation of the body, as well. *Even the Adam's apple looked totally real, alright! This truly was too terrifying.*

Especially at this moment, when he saw the 'Hu Youkang' before him smiling at him using his exact same face, the real Hu Youkang felt that he was nearly about to suffocate.

"What a good-for-nothing, look at how frightened you've become." While using this unremarkable male face, 'Hu Youkang' smiled with the seductive demeanor of a woman.

The real Hu Youkang was so freaked out that his eyes rolled back, almost passing out on the spot.

He had never known that his smile could be so horrifying. This kind of feeling of looking himself in the mirror simply made one tremble with fear.

"Alright, I won't tease you anymore." Accompanied by the cracking sounds of repositioning bones, the 'Hu Youkang' before him with an ordinary face gradually transformed into a beauty with rosy lips and bewitching eyes.

Her voice had also changed from that of a man's to a velvety female voice.

### **Chapter 909: Explosive News!**

Once again, seeing the snake beauty successfully transforming from 'Hu Youkang' into a beautiful woman, he saw her entire face, height, and physique all undergo a terrifying change.

Hu Youkang finally passed out from this huge shock.

The young maidservant that was tied with Hu Youkang was also gaping at the sight.

Because of her terror and fear, her body shook nonstop, and the cold sweat rolling down her head made it seem as if she had just been fished out of the river.

"Tsk, ts, ts." The snake beauty sighed, and she swayed her lithe, snake-like waist as she walked up to the young maidservant.

The snake beauty bent her waist until her cheeks practically pressed close to the young maidservant's face, her breath delicately exhaling across the latter's face. "Don't be afraid, and don't worry. I am a good person. Hm?"

However, the young maidservant was so terrified that her eyes had bulged. It was like her brain had been so shocked that she lost the ability to speak, only continuously trembling with a nod.

After letting out a giggle, the snake beauty walked straight to the table on the side and sat down. She then rolled out her sleeves and started to grind ink as well as spread out paper.

“If it were not for this Hu Youkang being too useless, how would I just come back right now?” *Sigh.* She had infiltrated the Qiao Residence with such difficulty, but in the end, she could count the number of times she saw the little fiend on one hand.

Furthermore, the little fiend would also stare at her extremely vigilantly each time. She really didn’t know where she had revealed a flaw. After all, she was clearly wearing a different face, yet how was the little fiend able to see through her disguise every time?

Ever since she had missed latching onto her at Beilan City, she could only return to the capital to find her.

Even so, it was difficult to be on intimate terms with her even after finding her. *It really was vexing!*

While grasping the brush, the snake beauty pondered for a bit while supporting her chin with one hand. After a while, a faint smile tugged at her lips, and she abruptly lowered her head as she started writing.

When she was done, she lifted the entire paper up, pursing her small mouth to blow at the ink on the paper that had not yet dried.

A bewitching smile bloomed on her small, gorgeous face.

*Chitter-chatter...*

*Chitter-chatter...*

In the Mo Kingdom capital’s central plaza, there stood an extra-large and extra-long panel constructed from lapis lazuli, and it issued various missions from which people could choose from.

Many special operation squads would come here to accept a mission every few days to earn their living expenses.

Today, it was just like usual, with people bustling about the central plaza, and there were numerous people who were accepting or turning in missions.

Squads that were familiar with each other would also greet each other politely and make mutual inquiries.

Today, when it was nearly noon, many small squad members were crowded in front of the mission panel just as usual, filtering through the various missions and searching for the ones that they wanted to accept.

Afterwards, everyone’s gazes simultaneously landed on a large, crimson piece of paper with flamboyant cursive calligraphy written on it with black ink.

That wasn’t a normal mission posting, but a...

“Excuse me, excuse me, please excuse me.” Huge Bear Squad’s vice captain Hua Gu strutted over with stubby steps, squeezing into the crowd with her wide physique. “What are you all staring at in front of the panel? If you’ve taken a mission, then quickly leave! You’re all rooted to the spot here.”

“Hey, you guys quickly look, are my eyes playing tricks on me?”

“No, they aren’t! This is an...”

‘Appointment Card:

Between 9 to 11 o’clock in the evening on the day of the Lantern Festival, will surely take away the Northern Mo Crown Prince’s most treasured. Hereby giving notice!

Signed by: Ding Tingding’

Hua Gu’s eyes were about to pop out, and she shouted, “What the f\*ck! I’m not seeing wrongly, right! Ding Tingding has thrown down the gauntlet to the crown prince!”

“Ding Tingding? What Ding Tingding? Is it that Ding Tingding?”

“Which other Ding Tingding exists in this world!”

“F\*ck, Ding Tingding is playing big this time!”

### **Chapter 910: Stealing Me?**

“Wow, Ding Tingding is targeting His Highness the Crown Prince this time!”

“Can this be the same as those people in the past! Oh my Heavens.”

“I bet that this time, Ding Tingding’s plan will definitely fall through. What kind of person is His Highness? Would he let that brat have his way!”

The crowd created a buzz, discussing in a frenzy without stopping.

“Guess what kind of treasure is His Highness the Crown Prince’s most treasured? Could it be some kind of cultivation technique that defies the natural order or the like!”

“Perhaps it’s some kind of miracle elixir.”

“Sh\*t, Ding Tingding couldn’t be coveting His Highness’s kingdom, right.”

“Move aside, move aside! Everyone disperse and make way for His Highness.”

“Everyone move aside, you’re prohibited from crowding around here.” Afterwards, two lines of royal guards ran over and parted the crowd.

Thereafter, that panel constructed from lapis lazuli was exposed from the mass of jostling people.

A slender figure dressed in ink-colored robes strode near this lapis lazuli mission panel, staring coldly at that fluttering piece of crimson paper above him.

Raising his right hand, he curled his fingers.

That piece of crimson paper then flew into his hand with a whoosh.

As the man lowered his eyes, he gazed icily at this piece of crimson paper.

After all, no one was clearer than himself.

Cultivation techniques that defied the natural order, miracle elixirs, even the kingdom—none of that—was his most treasured.

*Ding Tingding, this d\*mn despicable scoundrel, actually intended to stretch his evil talons towards his darling!*

He wanted to kill this guy personally!

With his eyes turning cold, Mo Lian tightly clenched this piece of crimson paper. By the time he unclenched his fist again, the piece of paper had already turned into powder and scattered with the wind.

More than a thousand people had gathered in the central plaza, but no one dared to speak at all.

His Highness was honestly a bit terrifying when he exhibited full-blown deterrence. Everyone could tell that that man was in a very bad mood.

Who dared to touch the lion's tail at this moment!

*It's not like they thought that they had lived for too long!*

Although everyone didn't dare to say anything, they were still rather curious, even anticipating the arrival of the Lantern Festival.

Ding Tingding had been undefeated for years, which was why he was called the Thief Sage Ding Tingding. They truly had no idea if he would fail this time in stealing from His Highness.

If he failed, then it would break his undefeated record.

Several days later, the Marquis of Jiayuan's Estate.

When Qiao Mu heard the report that a shipment from Southern Baili had been received, she guessed that it must be her batch of ebony that had finally arrived.

When she ran out to take a look, it was as she had expected. Yet while she was checking and confirming the shipment, the youths from the Hidden Night Pavilion had surrounded the entire estate so that not even a drop of water could trickle through.

There were no less than 30,000 pieces of ebony in this shipment, which put Qiao Mu in an excellent mood.

For the time being, she planned to throw this batch of ebony into her inner world. However, she wouldn't be so dumb as to put them all away in her inner world at the main entrance. She had the servants drag them inside the estate first.

This was to avoid observant people from suspecting why her inner world was so large.



After moving everything into her own court, she asked Shaoyao while putting the items away, "Shaoyao, have you noticed that there have been more people around me these few days? Why do I feel that this court is almost encircled by people within and without?"

Shaoyao twitched her mouth. "Miss, Ding Tingding has issued that kind of provoking challenge to His Highness. Is it possible for His Highness to not be keyed up."

"Oh, it said that Mo Lian's stuff was going to get stolen." Qiao Mu nodded. "That guy is stealing Mo Lian's stuff and not my stuff, so why has he surrounded me with so many people."

"Miss! His Highness's most treasured that Ding Tingding wants to steal, is you!"