

## Noble Ruler 881

### Chapter 881: Way of Escape Back Then

Jiang Yucheng's expression finally cracked as he was so shocked that he blurted out, "Why would that thing be with you?!"

*Could the person who secretly barged into the zither room to steal the phoenix-tailed zither be Weichi Song?! That person hid their aura extremely well, and I never thought that it could be related to Weichi Song!*

"Didn't I already say just now that someone gave me a big present yesterday?!" Weichi Song stroked his beard and presented the phoenix-tailed zither to the crowd. "Everyone, take a look and see if this is the Princess's zither from back then."

The crowd exchanged glances and fell silent.

"Eldest Young Master Jiang, you should be the most familiar with this. Why don't you check it? If not, someone might say that I produced a fake item to start rumors," said Weichi Song as he pushed the zither to the front.

Jiang Yucheng was standing ten steps away from it. With his eye power, he could already confirm that this was the zither lost from the zither room when he saw it the first time!

However, he really couldn't understand how this item landed in Weichi Song's hands! *He said someone gave it to him yesterday... Who is that person?*

“Let me take a look.” A person walked out amidst the eerie silence—it was Yuwen Wei.

He smiled and walked over. “Back then, the Princess liked this zither very much and specifically told me to prepare many accessories for it. Hence, I’m rather familiar with it. Everyone will trust me if I’m the one who recognizes it, right?”

Weichi Song passed the item over. “Please...”

Even though Yuwen Wei’s status wasn’t as good as Jiang Yucheng, his family history ran far. Thus, his status was also very distinguished.

The words he said had quite a lot of value.

Yuwen Wei meticulously took the phoenix-tailed zither and examined it carefully. Then, his expression gradually became solemn.

After a moment, he nodded. “This is the Princess’s item, and... There is a Trap Dragon Formation on the inside of this zither!”

“Let me take a look too!” Jian Shuye couldn’t hold it back any longer as he went forward and focused on it.

There seemed to be a faint light shimmering on the phoenix-tailed zither. Flipping it over, one could see that there indeed was a palm-sized Xuan formation shining brightly underneath!

Jiang Yucheng was in a mess! *Back then, I only cared about dealing with Shangguan Yue. Hence, I didn't look at the phoenix-tailed zither at all. And even though I have always wiped the fragrance on the phoenix-tailed zither in these two years, I have never discovered any of this!*

Thinking of this, he immediately said, "This Xuan formation didn't exist before! I've never seen such a Xuan formation on it before! It's just a third-grade Xuan formation. Any Xuan Master could carve it on the zither. Cabinet Master Weichi, you don't have to resort to such means to lie to everyone even if you doubt the Princess's death, right?"

Upon hearing this, Weichi Song sneered. "Of course, you've never seen this before. This was because there was originally a seal on this Xuan formation! This Xuan formation was only revealed after I solved the seal!"

"W-what seal?" Jiang Yucheng was stunned. *I had no idea about any of this!*

"This is a Trap Dragon Formation, and the aura... It was made by the Princess!" Jian Shuye nodded in confirmation. "As this phoenix-tailed zither's material is extremely precious and unique, normal people can't even leave any marks on it. Even though this Xuan formation is only a third-grade one, only a top Xuan Master can do this! If I didn't see wrongly... The phoenix-tailed zither should've used her Tianjing Yuan meridian's force to seal the Xuan formation and hide its aura."

Weichi Song stroked his beard. "That's right. I only saw this Trap Dragon Formation after I broke the seal."

At that time, Shangguan Yue's abilities had already reached that of an eighth-grade Xuan Master. If she intentionally wanted to hide something, it definitely wouldn't be difficult.

Jiang Yucheng's heart kept sinking, and his entire body turned cold. *Careless—I was really careless! I forgot that I wasn't Shangguan Yue's match at all, causing me not to even see her using such a method! Now, it has become concrete evidence!*

Afterward, a few other people stepped forward to take a look, and all nodded to confirm that this was indeed left behind by the Princess back then.

As she had a Tianjing Yuan meridian, her aura was very easily recognized. Any of the extraordinary characters in the Tianling Dynasty just had to take a look at it to confirm.

“Hm, what is this?” Jian Shuye was talking when he suddenly realized there was something else below the Xuan formation. He moved in closer, and his expression changed slightly. “It’s a blood word!”

Everyone was shocked when he said this. *If it weren’t because something happened, why would this phoenix-tailed zither have a blood word hidden on it? Besides, it was even hidden with all these complicated layers!*

Jiang Yucheng’s heart harshly skipped a beat and almost jumped out of his chest! All the blood in his body seemed to freeze at this moment. *It can’t be... It can’t be! Everything happened very suddenly back then. Shangguan Yue wouldn’t even have the time and energy to do such a thing!*

Jiang Yucheng kept convincing himself, but there was a voice in the depths of his heart that kept ringing. *Why not? She was smart and cunning. Why would she not be able to do such small tricks?*

“The Princess also left this blood word behind!” Jian Shuye’s expression completely turned cold.

Yuwen Wei and the rest who were standing nearer also had a change in expression. They naturally could recognize it.

“What’s the blood word written on top?” someone asked anxiously.

Weichi Song laughed, but there was no smiling intent in his eyes. “Jiang Yucheng, you should know what’s written on it, right?”

Jiang Yucheng’s temple throbbed! “I don’t—”

“Jiang!” Jian Shuye suddenly raised the phoenix-tailed zither and sharply hollered, “The word ‘Jiang’ is written on it!”

“Jiang Yucheng, isn’t this your ‘Jiang?!’”

### **Chapter 882: Then Confront!**

The voice was like thunder that landed heavily, instantly shocking everyone present! *The blood word hidden in the phoenix-tailed zither is actually ‘Jiang?!’ Anyone with a brain can guess that the Princess had other intentions for using such a complicated method to leave this clue behind on the phoenix-tailed zither! Trap Dragon Formation... Blood word... Jiang... When all of this is combined together, isn’t it secretly hinting that Jiang Yucheng was the one who harmed her?!*

Lang Kun Hall fell into dead silence!

Jiang Yucheng’s ears whirred!

Jian Shuye’s sharp questioning was like a heavy fist that slammed down, catching him off-guard and causing him to be completely stunned.

He originally thought everything was done perfectly without a single mistake and that nobody could find any clues. However, he never expected Shangguan Yue to leave something behind!

The phoenix-tailed zither actually hid such a shocking secret!

Everyone's gazes gathered together—suspicion, shock, anger...

All sorts of gazes wrapped around Jiang Yucheng like fire!

His entire person was about to burn up as a never-before-felt sense of danger overwhelmed him!

Jiang Yucheng had never felt so humiliated before in his life, until this point!

He tried his best to calm himself down and tried hard to make his voice sound calm. "A 'Jiang' can't mean much. Let alone the Tianling Dynasty, there are many people with the surname 'Jiang' in just one Xi Ling City. Why do the few of you immediately think it's me? What if this word doesn't refer to someone's last name but something else?"

Jian Shuye was so angry that he laughed. "Jiang Yucheng, don't act stupid here. There are indeed quite a few people with the last name 'Jiang,' but the Princess doesn't know many of them, right? If she wasn't driven to a corner, the Princess would never leave such a clue behind. This also means that it's very likely she was harmed in the zither room! And you—aren't you the one who most regularly goes to the zither room? Do you really know nothing about this?"

Jiang Yucheng's gaze suddenly faltered. "Master Jian, you're right. However, this really has nothing to do with me. Back then, the Princess and I were in love, and we were about to get married. Why would I have any reason to harm her?"

"You have to ask yourself!"

Weichi Song suddenly carried on and nonchalantly said, "Your so-called love.... Didn't you get together with the Third Princess and even throw a majestic wedding in less than two years after the Princess's passing?"

"That's right!" The moment Weichi Song said this, another burly voice sounded. It came from the person who was very upset with this wedding from the start—Meng Jingzhi! "Let's not say that you will never marry in your entire life for the Princess, but you should at least express your feelings, right? In the end, you got together with the Third Princess the moment you finished handling the Princess's funeral, yet you have the cheek to say 'in love?' Hah, you can't even be considered a man if this is in the western frontier! Even women will look down on you!"

It was fake that Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan were together for feelings, but it was true for status! If Shangguan Wan didn't have such a status, why would Jiang Yucheng fancy her?

Even though Meng Jingzhi was stationed at the western frontier most of the time and didn't return to Xi Ling, this didn't mean that he knew nothing about Xi Ling's events.

He was a warrior, but he had good eyesight. If not, he wouldn't have stayed in his position for dozens of years!

Back then, even Mu Qinghe bringing troops to appease the rebels in Dahuang Swamp couldn't allow the former to replace his position!

It was obvious how capable he was!

Jiang Yucheng's face turned black for a moment.

Shangguan Wan was originally quite shocked and worried about the phoenix-tailed zither when she heard herself being scolded the next moment. She was so angry that her face turned white, but after glancing at Meng Jingzhi, she swallowed her ugly words.

That person was a bull!

There were already many troubles today. Another Meng Jingzhi would be adding oil to the fire!

Jiang Yucheng didn't care about him as he lightly said, "My wedding with Wan'er has nothing to do with this. Even if there's really something else behind the Princess's death, you guys can't push the blame to me just based on this blood word, right?"

He was bent on using this point! *The word on it is indeed 'Jiang!' At that time, I was indeed one of the closest people to the Princess! Hence, anyone who sees the blood word will connect the two together. But if they don't take out any other evidence, I still have a chance of survival!*

"That's right! Your words aren't concrete evidence. If you smear Jiang Yucheng like that, my Jiang family definitely won't take this lying down!" Jiang Lizuo stood up and hollered. "I want to see who exactly wants to drag my Jiang family down and smear my son's reputation!"



Jiang Lizuo was the Grand Elder after all, and he had a distinguished status. Additionally, Jiang Yucheng was already married to the Third Princess, so the status of the entire Jiang family had been elevated.

Ordinary people really couldn't afford to offend this Jiang family!

However, Weichi Song suddenly laughed. "Everyone will eventually know who is being smeared. Since you want evidence... I'll give it to you!"

Jiang Yucheng's brows harshly twitched. *Seeing how confident Weichi Song is, does he really have any other evidence?*

Weichi Song stared at him and gradually said, "I personally saw the Princess grow up, and I had the privilege to be loved by her, to be half her mentor. Ever since something happened to the Princess, my Chong Xu Cabinet has also been impacted continuously. Not many elders or disciples were left in the cabinet, and we can barely even hold up our clan now! And the reason for all of this is because I wanted to investigate the Princess's death."

Weichi Song's expression gradually turned cold and solemn, and the surrounding space seemed to freeze as well. "But it's not only my Chong Xu Cabinet. In the past two years, quite a few people wanted to investigate the cause behind the Princess's death. However, these people either ended up dead or injured. Some even silently disappeared, never appearing again. It's as if someone has been secretly using all sorts of methods to stop them. Everyone, you should know clearly that the people who don't want the truth to be revealed the most will most likely be the ones who harmed the Princess!"

A few people secretly nodded. Even though nobody talked about it on the surface, everyone knew what was going on.

Jiang Lizuo was so enraged that he laughed. "What? Weichi Song, are you saying that it's my son that went for your Chong Xu Cabinet?"

Jiang Yucheng knitted his brows as well. “Cabinet Master Weichi, I’ve already sent that Qi Dahe to you personally before. He did use Messed Yuan Gravel on Chong Xu Cabinet, but I really had no—”

“Whether it’s true or not, won’t we know when we invite him over and confront him?” said Weichi Song lightly.

Jiang Yucheng felt that it was very ridiculous and couldn’t help but say, “You clearly know that Qi Dahe isn’t sane. How can we confront him?”

“Oh, you’re talking about this?” Weichi Song suddenly laughed. “I’ve already treated him!”

### **Chapter 883: Can You Answer?**

“Qi Dahe, come and say it for yourself!” Ignoring Jiang Yucheng and the others’ shocked expressions, Weichi Song suddenly turned around and waved to a person.

It was a youngster that looked like he was in his twenties. He had previously been standing behind Weichi Song and the rest the whole time, so everyone instinctively thought that he was Chong Xu Cabinet’s disciple. Due to this, nobody paid attention to him.

After hearing Weichi Song’s words at this point, he stepped forward and felt around his collarbone before removing a thin mask.

Underneath the mask, his face looked thin and frail as if he had just recovered from an illness. His ear on his left side was missing, leaving behind a bowl-sized scar that looked frightening.

It was Qi Dahe!

Looking at Qi Dahe—who should've long died in Chong Xu Cabinet—Jiang Yucheng tightly clenched his hands in his sleeves! *He didn't die! He actually didn't die! The point is that his murky eyes have already recovered their clarity! Other than looking a little weak, he is no different from an average person!*

Qi Dahe looked up at Jiang Yucheng, and he suddenly became agitated as anger and vengeance filled his eyes! His entire body shook, and he wanted to rush up and chop Jiang Yucheng into pieces!

Even though his blood was boiling, he couldn't say a single word. He could only make bitter and incomprehensible cries from his throat.

"Someone used a pill on his throat, so he can't talk anymore." Weichi Song looked at Jiang Yucheng lightly. "I wonder what the culprit was worried that he would say."

When Yuwei Wei saw this scene, his gaze flickered as he asked, "Cabinet Master Weichi, this Qi Dahe is—"

"It's a long story." Then, Weichi Song simply explained the entire incident of him discovering the Messed Yuan Gravel and using this to find the murderer secretly.

"...Only Nan Jiang has Messed Yuan Gravel, and there aren't many people in the entire Tianling Dynasty who have been to Nan Jiang. Coincidentally, Eldest Young Master Jiang brought people there not long after the Princess died, so I asked him to help me investigate. After a long time, he brought Qi Dahe over and said that he did it. At that time, Qi Dahe had already been brutally punished and interrogated. His

consciousness was unclear, and he couldn't even answer any questions. It was impossible for me to ask him anything."

Jiang Yucheng coldly said, "Cabinet Master Weichi, are you saying this because you suspect me? This Qi Dahe had signs of being backlashed by the Messed Yuan Gravel. You clearly saw it that day as well! Are you not planning to admit to it now?"

However, Weichi Song laughed. "Qi Dahe, raise your arm and show it to everyone."

Qi Dahe followed his instructions, folding his sleeves up and showing his arm.

On the inside of his arm was a red line that spread upward from his palm.

"Is this... the evidence of being backlashed by the Messed Yuan Gravel?" Jian Shuye immediately went in to take a closer look and was stunned after doing so.

Only a handful of people could recognize this in the entire Tianling Dynasty. If not, Weichi Song and the rest wouldn't have taken so long to find out about this incident.

"That's right. He indeed has Messed Yuan Gravel in his body, and this is the evidence of him suffering from the backlash."

Jiang Yucheng heaved a sigh of relief in his heart. "Since you also said so, Cabinet Master Weichi, where is your suspicion coming from?"

Weichi Song pointed at Qi Dahe. "It's naturally because... the timing of the Messed Yuan Gravel's backlash in Qi Dahe's body happened much later than when we found out about the gravel! Honestly speaking, we found out about this Messed Yuan Gravel on the day Liuyue and Wanzhou entered my Chong Xu Cabinet. Wanzhou has grown up in Nan Jiang since he was young, and he was the one who identified it."

"In the following two days, we thought of a way to clear all the Messed Yuan Gravel in Qing Yuan Mountain. Logically speaking, the culprit would've felt the backlash at that time, but all the injuries in Qi Dahe's body only came about within this month!"

With every sentence Weichi Song said, Jiang Yucheng's heart sank by an inch!

"Other than myself, there are quite a few extraordinary heavenly doctors present. If you don't believe me, you can come up and check it personally. This injury of Qi Dahe's clearly only appeared after I asked Jiang Yucheng for help!"

The moment Weichi Song said this, the crowd collectively fell silent as they looked at Jiang Yucheng with strange gazes. *Since he has spoken to this extent, even a fool can hear what the problem is! If Jiang Yucheng didn't do this out of guilt, then why did he do this?*

"Qi Dahe, who injured you?" asked Weichi Song.

Qi Dahe furiously pointed at Jiang Yucheng, and his throat let out a few hopeless and hoarse whimpers.

"During the interrogation, let's just take it as he did it. Then, who planted the Messed Yuan Gravel in your body?"

Qi Dahe still pointed at Jiang Yucheng. Due to his anger and rage, his fingers trembled slightly.

Jiang Yucheng stared at him closely. “Qi Dahe, we’re master and servant. I have never done anything wrong to you. Why do you want to smear me like this?”

“Everyone can see clearly if he is smearing or not. I heard that you once gathered all the subordinates who went to Nan Jiang together and interrogated them one by one. After that, most of them went back respectively, and only this Qi Dahe went missing since then. When he appeared again, you sent him to my Chong Xu Cabinet. During the period of time in between, isn’t it simple for you to do something? Calculating the time, his injury from the Messed Yuan Gravel should be incurred around that period.”

Weichi Song spoke slowly, but every single word was like a heavy rock that harshly slammed on Jiang Yucheng’s heart!

“What do you have to say for all of this?”

Everyone looked at Jiang Yucheng, awaiting his reply. In actuality, everyone already had their own guesses even if he didn’t say anything.

Weichi Song couldn’t fabricate what he said, so they could basically confirm that it was true!

Then—Jiang Yucheng was indeed problematic!

Facing the crowd’s burning gazes, Jiang Yucheng took a deep breath in and coldly said, “Back then, Qi Dahe accompanied me through life and death. Why would I treat him like this? Cabinet Master Weichi, you were the one who took the initiative to ask for my help back then, so I did this. In the end, you said that I made everything up and lied to you? What’s in it for me if I do this?”

“You naturally fabricated a lie to cover the real one.” Weichi Song pulled at his lips without much smiling intent as his gaze was sharp and cold like a sharp sword that was about to shred Jiang Yucheng’s hypocritical mask! “If you don’t mind, can you show everyone your arm? I have a problem that I have long wanted to ask you—why did your arm get injured on the day we cleared the Messed Yuan Gravel and caused the culprit to suffer from the backlash? Jiang Yucheng, can you answer these questions one by one?”

#### **Chapter 884: A Slam After Another!**

Weichi Song followed up closely, and his series of interrogative questions almost suffocated Jiang Yucheng!

The latter originally thought that Qi Dahe would die not long after he arrived at Chong Xu Cabinet. Even if his subordinate didn’t die, the people in Chong Xu Cabinet would also kill him due to their vengeance.

Even if Weichi Song and the rest suspected anything, they couldn’t cause any uproars, and the incident would just be concluded.

However, he never expected that not only did Weichi Song and the rest not kill Qi Dahe, but they even tried their best to save him!

*After considering all of this, I actually left a huge problem for myself! Jiang Yucheng felt extremely regretful. If I knew this, I wouldn’t make this extra move back then! Even if Weichi Song and the rest kept suspecting me, it would be a waste of their efforts if they couldn’t find any evidence! If I had just thought about it a while longer back then, I wouldn’t have landed myself in such a state! Now, the time misalignment of Qi Dahe being backlashed by the Messed Yuan Gravel has become their best evidence to go against me!*

Jiang Yucheng knew that if he couldn't give them a logical explanation, he would have to bear the responsibility for this crime!

"Cabinet Master Weichi, I really don't know what's going on. Qi Dahe used to be my subordinate, but I dismissed all of them after we came back from Nan Jiang. If not to help you this time, I wouldn't even look for them again. During this long period of time, nobody knew what they were doing and who they were with. Perhaps they have already changed their master and are specifically going against me!" Jiang Yucheng clenched his teeth and said that he had nothing to do with this matter.

"There's something perhaps some might still remember. I was once attacked in my residence and injured. As a result, I have been tracking that person's whereabouts during that period, and the person I wanted to find that time was coincidentally Qi Dahe's good friend!"

"To be honest, that person is called Xia Mu. He's good friends with Qi Dahe, and they have experienced life and death together. The two of them didn't have other relatives, so they became neighbors and took care of each other after I dismissed them. They are on very good terms. If Xia Mu could try to assassinate me, why won't Qi Dahe have the same thoughts?"

Even though Jiang Yucheng's explanation was a little weak, it was not void of convincing power. After all, the news of him being attacked in the Jiang Residence had spread far and wide amongst the aristocratic families.

If he was acting, this was too much...

"During this period of time, Qi Dahe was locked up in my place. But at the start, I only detained him because I wanted to investigate Xia Mu. Who would've thought that I later discovered that he actually suffered from the Messed Yuan Gravel's backlash? Hence, I thought that he was the person Cabinet Master Weichi wanted to find. After a series of interrogations, I sent him over. I really don't know about the rest."



Saying this, Jiang Yucheng cupped his fists toward Weichi Song. "Speaking of this, I was negligent in this incident. Cabinet Master Weichi, I hope you won't blame me, but I really have nothing to do with this. Back then, Chong Xu Cabinet was extremely strong. How can I execute and kill more than half of the cultivators in Chong Xu Cabinet overnight? Cabinet Master Weichi, you're thinking too highly of me."

Hearing Jiang Yucheng say this, the crowd had various expressions. Quite a few people looked like they had faltered.

Chu Liuyue listened at the side and couldn't help but laugh coldly. *Jiang Yucheng's mouth can really talk as usual. He can turn black to white and right the wrongs. The previous evidence Weichi Song showed had no chances of argument, yet he could use his glib and sharp tongue to fight for a loophole for himself! I really underestimated him.*

"Eldest Young Master Jiang," said Chu Liuyue suddenly. "According to what you say, the 'Jiang' on this phoenix-tailed zither and the Messed Yuan Gravel have nothing to do with you, right?"

Jiang Yucheng looked nonchalant as if he was very sincere. "Yes. I was about to get married to the Princess back then. Why must I do all of this and bitterly plan to harm her?"

The crowd exchanged glances. Actually, this was the point they were most curious about.

With Jiang Yucheng's status and position back then, he definitely wasn't worthy of the Princess. To him, this wedding would only be beneficial and not disadvantageous at all.

Any normal person won't personally ruin their future and happiness, right?

One had to know that many youngsters wanted this chance back then, but they all failed. This was because the Princess was already engaged. Due to this, Jiang Yucheng was the target of envy amongst the many aristocratic children in Xi Ling City for a very long period of time.

At that time, he also seemed to be rather serious about the Princess, so there was no reason for him to do so.

No matter what he wanted to do, wouldn't it be completed if he successfully married the Princess? Why would he spend so much effort to kill the Princess and remove all her roots? In the end, he just changed and married the Third Princess, Shangguan Wan. Compared to the Princess, the latter was still lacking in some areas.

Chu Liuyue nodded thoughtfully as if she was convinced by him. "That's true... I heard that the Princess was quite nice to you back then and that you won her liking with much difficulty. Everything was originally going smoothly, so you really had no reasons to betray her, right?"

She spoke slowly as if she was narrating, but it was also with faint doubt.

For some reason, Jiang Yucheng felt apprehensive and anxious when he saw such a Chu Liuyue. *Her words seem to have another meaning...*

Chu Liuyue suddenly laughed, and there was unconcealable curiosity and mockery on her pretty face.

Jiang Yucheng was dazed for a moment when he saw her smile. Her clear and black gem-like eyes seemed to have secret light flashing across like sharp knives coming straight at him!

“Since you had such deep feelings for the Princess, then why did you join hands with Xiahou Rong, fabricate a document to deploy her troops outside, and lie to get the Thirteen Yue Guards out of Xi Ling?!” Chu Liuyue said this sentence very clearly and understandably!

*At that moment, almost everyone was stunned. Thirteen Yue Guards? Didn't they betray their master back then? As a result, Jiang Yucheng even ordered people to get the guards back dead or alive. This order hasn't even been retracted to this date. What does Chu Liuyue mean by 'fabricating documents' and 'deploying people away?'*

The crowd's gazes landed on Jiang Yucheng.

Even Xiahou Rong—who was standing amidst the crowd—suddenly became under the spotlight. He never expected that Chu Liuyue would suddenly mention him and even directly expose the matters from back then, so his entire person was dazed as he looked pale.

He almost instinctively hollered, “Chu Liuyue, what nonsense are you saying!?”

Chu Liuyue lightly laughed. “I was just speaking the truth.”

“You—how dare you?! Don't think that you can be arrogant just because you have Chong Xu Cabinet backing you up. If you don't produce any evidence today, don't blame—”

Before he could even finish his sentence, Chu Liuyue raised her hand and shook it slightly.

A secret letter appeared in front of the crowd.

“Inside is the imperial edict that Officer Xiahou personally fabricated back then. Why don’t we get Officer Xiahou to identify it himself?”

### **Chapter 885: Important Witness!**

Xiahou Rong stopped talking as he stared at the secret letter in Chu Liuyue’s hands with his eyes wide open and mouth agape. His face was as white as a sheet, and he instinctively denied it. “I-impossible...”

*I’ve always kept that thing properly in my study. Even Xiahou Tingan doesn’t know where it is. How can it be in Chu Liuyue’s hands?!*

“Officer Xiahou, what exactly is going on?!” Jiang Yucheng demanded an answer with a low voice and a face as cold as ice. *How could Xiahou Rong let Chu Liuyue get such an important thing?! Isn’t he courting his own death?!*

Xiahou Rong glanced at him and felt very guilty. “I-I didn’t...! I’m very loyal to His Majesty. How can I possibly do such a thing?!”

“We can just look at it to see if you’re telling the truth,” said Chu Liuyue as she passed the letter to Yuwen Wei. “Officer Yuwen, you’re very familiar with His Majesty’s handwriting. Why don’t you personally take a look to see if this letter is problematic?”

Yuwen Wei looked solemn and took it with both his hands.

This secret letter had already been opened, but the remaining gold seal mark on it was obviously used only by the royal family. Even the format and paper used for the letter were also strictly done according to the standards.

If one took a rough glance at it, it was really exactly the same as the real one.

He opened the envelope and retrieved a letter.

There were only a few lines of words on it. The general meaning was that there were troubles at the border, and it commanded the Thirteen Yue Guard to go and handle the situation.

Logically speaking, the Thirteen Yue Guard was the Princess's personal guard and wouldn't listen to anyone else's commands.

But as the Princess did indeed usually handle many matters related to the borders and this letter kept hinting that this incident might threaten the Princess, it managed to convince the Thirteen Yue Guard to set off together.

Furthermore, it wasn't convenient for the Princess to leave as her wedding was around the corner. Thus, the Thirteen Yue Guard left her in Xi Ling while they went to the border on their own. They planned to handle the situation before coming back.

Later on, they realized that something was amiss and rushed back to Xi Ling, but they were still a step too late.

These people had set up many traps to deploy away all the dependable forces around the Princess before dealing with her.

Chu Liuyue had defended and guarded herself securely, but she had never expected that these two people would work together to kill her! How could she defend against them?!

“This letter, this paper, this ink, and this seal are all His Majesty’s exclusive items, but the handwriting is not His Majesty’s.” Yuwen Wei furrowed his brows tightly. “And this letter does look like it was from two years ago.”

The Yuwen family had always been loyal to the Tianling Dynasty.

*Since Yuwen Wei has already said so, it’s an undeniable fact! In this way, everything makes sense! Back then, someone first fabricated such a letter to deploy the Thirteen Yue Guard out of Xi Ling. Then, they took advantage of the Princess not having anyone by her side and secretly killed her! In the end, they didn’t even forget to remove and handle all the people who wanted to investigate the truth!*

*This series of methods is almost flawless! If it weren’t planned in advance, they would never be able to do it to such a stage! They clearly wanted to drive the Princess to her death!*

Yuwen Wei looked solemn and glanced at Chu Liuyue. “Ms. Chu, may I ask if you really found this letter in the Xiahou Residence?”

Chu Liuyue smiled and said, “Of course. I think there aren’t many people close to His Majesty who can fabricate such a genuine letter, right?”

Other than the handwriting, everything else was legitimate! One just had to think to know that it was done by His Majesty’s confidants!

After much thinking, as the Grand Preceptor of the three lords, Xiahou Rong usually accompanied His Majesty and interacted with him the most. Hence, it was the easiest and most convenient for him to do such a thing!

This time, even the observing officials looked at Xiahou Rong with different expressions. *It's a death penalty to fabricate the imperial edict! If things are serious, his family and relatives might even be implicated! Xiahou Rong must be crazy to do such a thing!*

"Officer Xiahou, do you not plan to explain it?" The gentle smile on Yuwen Wei's face had already disappeared and was replaced by a cold and sharp gaze.

The Yuwen family had never intervened in the power struggle in the imperial court. But if it concerned His Majesty, this incident was much more serious, and they had to get to the bottom of this!

Xiahou Rong made up his mind and was determined to deny it no matter what. "Chu Liuyue, you said that this was found in my Xiahou Residence, but do you have any evidence? Who knows if someone else did it, and you framed me for it? I, Xiahou Rong, am very loyal to His Majesty and have never done anything to betray him!"

Chu Liuyue squinted her eyes. "Officer Xiahou, do you dare to swear on it since you're so insistent? If you really betrayed His Majesty, your entire Xiahou family will be completely eliminated!"

Something was stuck in Xiahou Rong's throat for a moment, but he still braved himself and said, "M-my conscience is clear. Why won't I dare to do it?! I-if I really have betrayed His Majesty, I'll die without a proper burial ground!"

Chu Liuyue crossed her arms and touched her chin. "You haven't finished talking. Isn't there the part about your entire family?"

Xiahou Rong's eyelids twitched harshly. "Chu Liuyue, don't go overboard!"

"Overboard? I'm helping you clean your reputation!" Chu Liuyue widened her eyes slightly. "Didn't you yourself say that your loyalty toward His Majesty could be attested by the heavens? What, do you not dare to continue?"

Xiahou Rong was stuck in a difficult position. *If I don't say it, Chu Liuyue and the rest won't let this lie, and it would make me seem guilty. But if I say it...*

"The gods are three feet away from you when you raise your head! Officer Xiahou, if you're open and just, what's there you can't say?"

Chu Liuyue said this clearly, but every single word was like an extremely sharp blade that pressed Xiahou Rong to the corner.

The surrounding people didn't say a word, but every gaze landed on him substantially, forming an invisible suppression that suffocated him.

Jiang Yucheng coldly said, "Officer Xiahou, if your conscience is clear, why can't you swear on it?"

*If Xiahou Rong makes a mistake, the consequences will be unimaginable!*

Xiahou Rong clenched his teeth. "I, Xiahou Rong, swear! If I really did something to betray His Majesty, everyone in my Xiahou Residence will not have a peaceful death!"



*Pak!*

*Pak!*

*Pak!*

Not far away, sudden applause came amidst the dead silence. One after another, the claps were rhythmic.

At the same time, a middle-aged man's low voice sounded. "Officer Xiahou, you have wise words!"

When Xiahou Rong heard this voice, his expression changed drastically.

Even Jiang Yucheng, Shangguan Wan, and the rest suddenly widened their eyes and turned around.

They saw a person in Lang Kun Hall, decked in a yellow dragon robe, walking out slowly.

Perhaps because he had stayed in bed for a long time, but he had become much thinner. However, his bone structure was burly and large, and his back was straight as he still exuded an imperious, elegant aura just by standing there!

This was the Tianling Dynasty's Emperor—Shangguan You!

## Chapter 886: Don't be Worried!

A tone caused thousands of waves to ripple!

If all the earlier quarrels had secretly caused waves in people's hearts, then Shangguan You's appearance had completely started a shocking wave in the crowd's heart.

Who in the Tianling Dynasty didn't know that His Majesty was in a coma due to his severe illness and hadn't woken up in two years?! Many even guessed that he would never wake up, but they didn't expect that he did wake up and even appeared at this time.

When Chu Liuyue heard this, her heart trembled as she instinctively looked up. Even though she had already guessed that her father would appear today, she still couldn't conceal her excitement and elation when she personally saw him standing there.

Looking at the familiar and kind appearance, her mind was momentarily blank. Everything in the surroundings suddenly became blurred at that moment. Only that person occupied her entire vision and became increasingly clear.

Chu Liuyue opened her mouth, but she couldn't say a word as her heart was overwhelmed with longing at this point. *Finally... I can finally see him again! Back then, I felt that I had no way out and knew that Father was also in their hands. Hence, I chose to set myself on fire and commit suicide in the end. But after I was reborn, I unknowingly discovered that Father was still alive but was unconscious the whole time. Although I don't know why Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng didn't kill Father the whole time and even tried to wake him up later on, this is a happy thing for me. I have been waiting patiently for this, and this day finally came after countless days of torturous waiting.*

The scene seemed to become still. Even Weichi Song and the others didn't expect Shangguan You to suddenly appear as they stood rooted to the ground in shock.

Xiahou Rong was the fastest one to react. Perhaps it was because he had made a vicious oath earlier or because he was pointed out, but he was the first to realize what was going on compared to the rest.

He looked up at the man standing on the upper ground in a daze, and his lips trembled. “H-His Majesty? You—you’re awake?!”

Once he said this, he finally shocked the others awake.

Shangguan You looked up, glanced at the sky, half-squinted his eyes, and looked emotional. “Yeah, I woke up! Why? Officer Xiahou, are you very disappointed?”

“I wouldn’t dare!”

*Putong!*

Xiahou Rong immediately kneeled down. “Your Majesty, I don’t even have time to be happy that you’re awake. Why would I be disappointed?!”

Jiang Yucheng also tidied his expression and kneeled down. “Congratulations, Your Majesty! Congratulations, Your Majesty!”

This move brought along the rest.

Everyone in the square knelt down in unison, and the shouts were deafening! “Congratulations, Your Majesty! Your Majesty, may you live for a million years!”

Shangguan You looked down, and his gaze turned hazy when he saw the crowd kneeling down. “Everyone, at ease!”

The crowd then stood up respectfully, but with Shangguan You around, the atmosphere had greatly changed from before.

Most people chose to remain hushed, afraid that they would say something wrong and cause trouble for themselves.

*Anyone that had a brain would’ve reacted. How is this a wedding and an ascension ceremony? Someone clearly set up a trap, and they’ve been waiting for a good show! It looked calm on the surface, but tensions were rising in secret!*

Jiang Yucheng glanced at Shangguan Wan and reminded her, “Wan’er, His Majesty is awake. Your efforts weren’t wasted.”

Shangguan Wan was dazed and rapidly realized something. Her expression then abruptly changed, and tears welled up in her eyes. “Father—”

She rapidly rushed forward as two rows of clear tears streamed down as if she was crying out of happiness.

“Greetings, Father! Father, it’s great that you’re awake!” As she spoke, she touched her face and took pity on herself. After that, she muttered, “My injury is worth it... to be able to see you safe, Father.”

Shangguan You glanced at her quietly, but it didn't look like his heart ached. Instead, he looked rather nonchalant.

Then, he lightly asked, "Looking at this ceremony, it seems like you're planning to ascend the throne?"

Shangguan Wan's cries instantly disappeared as if someone forcefully cut her off.

Panic flashed across her face at that moment. Without even wiping her tears, she hurriedly said, "N-no... It's because you didn't wake up for a long time, s-so..."

As an emperor, they would be most afraid of someone eyeing their position!

Shangguan Wan had clearly touched a big taboo! Even though the Tianling Dynasty couldn't carry on without a leader and that it was right for her to ascend the throne, she couldn't say such words in front of Shangguan You.

After all, he hadn't died yet! This was especially the case when he was still awake at this moment!

"W-when did you wake up? I actually didn't know. I've really failed in my duties..." Shangguan Wan tried hard to save her face.

However, this move clearly didn't have much use on Shangguan You. "It was all because of Physician Zuo's meticulous care that I can wake up so smoothly."

Shangguan Wan was dazed. *Physician Zuo?*

At this point, another person walked out from behind Shangguan You—it was Zuo Mingxi!

Everyone was dazed at that moment. *There is also a Zuo Mingxi beside Shangguan Wan! Why are there two—*

“Wh-who are you?!” Shangguan Wan’s expression changed suddenly, and she hollered!

The ‘Zuo Mingxi’ standing in front suddenly laughed lightly. “Why are you yelling? Do you not recognize me?”

As he spoke, he removed his mask. A handsome appearance with eyes as clear and cold as ice appeared, and he smiled in a flirtatious manner.

It was Jian Fengchi!

Shangguan Wan seemed as though she was struck by lightning when she saw Jian Fengchi.

Jiang Yucheng also suddenly realized something as shock flashed across his eyes. *Could it be...*

Shangguan You stood at the top of the nine flights of stairs as his gaze turned. He looked at Chu Liuyue and smiled slightly. “Ms. Chu, right? Don’t worry. I’ll be your witness.”

Chu Liuyue's nose turned sour, and tears suddenly welled up.

### **Chapter 887: They forced me!**

She looked down and tried to hide her emotions. When she looked up again, her eyes as clear as a black gem seemed to be washed in water.

She bent her knees and bowed as her lips moved. "Thank you... Your Majesty!"

Shangguan You's heart tingled as he stared at the woman below. Actually, he had once heard her voice when he was pretending to be unconscious.

At that time, he felt that this girl was a smart, cunning, and decisive woman. Even though she didn't have a high status, she could still use all sorts of conditions to force Shangguan Wan in reverse and turn the situation to her advantage.

Now that they met, he realized she looked so... For some reason, he felt like he had seen her before.

He quickly scanned through his memories, but after much thinking, he discovered that he really hadn't seen her before.

In this close to two-year period, he was basically sick and stuck in bed at Qingfeng Palace day and night.

He rarely even saw the other people in the palace, let alone someone like Chu Liuyue from outside Heaven's Canopy.

*It's probably because her eyes look too similar to those of Yue'er...* When Shangguan You thought of this, his heart ached as he looked at Chu Liuyue even more kindly. "I should thank you for doing so much for Yue'er. If you didn't take the initiative to reinvestigate what happened back then, I'm afraid many people can still enjoy their lives for a while."

When he said the latter half of his sentence, Shangguan You's tone turned completely cold. Even though he didn't reprimand them in a harsh tone, the low and stern nature of his voice was filled with the suppression of a ruler as it suffocated the people.

Everyone collectively fell silent in Lang Kun Hall, and they were as quiet as they could be.

"Yuwen, bring that letter to me."

Upon hearing this, Yuwen Wei immediately acknowledged the order as he respectfully presented the letter to his superior.

Shangguan You opened it and examined it closely.

Xiahou Rong stood with his hands down as cold sweat kept breaking out. His heart beat crazily, and all the blood in his body surged up as if it were about to break through his earlobes!

Not long later, his entire back was already drenched!

It had just been a short while, but he felt that a year had passed! It was very torturous!



In this almost suffocating atmosphere, Shangguan You finally spoke. "I have never written this letter before."

His light sentence was like thunder that struck the crowd's hearts. *He never wrote it before! This means that someone fabricated this letter!*

Nobody answered, and the air seemed to freeze inch by inch.

Shangguan You looked at Xiahou Rong. "The letter is dated the third of July. That day, I was in the Imperial Study with Officer Xiahou discussing important matters. But for some reason, I felt very tired and asked Officer Xiahou to leave first while I went to the side room to rest. When I woke up again... It was already today."

Gasps could be heard from the audience. *Didn't they say that His Majesty was heartbroken over the Princess's death and received too much agitation in a short while, so he fell ill and couldn't get up? So what His Majesty means is that he was already unconscious since the third of July? One has to know that the Princess died on the tenth of July!*

At this point, everyone could tell what was wrong. *Back then, someone clearly attacked His Majesty and caused him to fall unconscious and sleep without waking up. At the same time, the person fabricated this document and tricked the Thirteen Yue Guard to be deployed out of Xi Ling before taking the chance to harm the Princess!*

It was already understood without saying who did this.

Other than Xiahou Rong—who was in the perfect position back then—who else could it be?

“Officer Xiahou, it seems like you didn’t leave the Imperial Study that day and did a lot of tricks.”  
Shangguan You looked down at Xiahou Rong from above as he whipped his sleeves lightly and threw the letter to Xiahou Rong. “Look at this! Did you write it?”

Xiahou Rong finally couldn’t take it anymore.

*Putong!*

He kneeled down! “Your Majesty, please check again! I was framed! I really didn’t do anything!”

As he regretted it in his heart, Xiahou Rong kept saying that he was wronged.

The reason he always kept the letter was to use it as evidence to control Jiang Yucheng. Even though they had done quite a few things together, they still didn’t trust each other very much. Hence, he left this item just in case. However, he never expected Chu Liuyue to find this item and even get His Majesty to identify it personally!

*This time, I can never wash my reputation clean! If I had known about this earlier, I would’ve directly destroyed the secret letter back then!*

In front of such concrete evidence, Xiahou Rong’s cries of debate seemed weak and useless.

“I seem to have heard Officer Xiahou swear in the name of the entire Xiahou Residence just now. You seem to have said that if you really betrayed me, the entire Xiahou Residence will not have a peaceful death...”

Xiahou Rong was suddenly stunned as intense uneasiness overwhelmed his heart! “Y-Your Majesty—”

“Officer Xiahou, I didn’t expect you to be so heartless to your own family...” said Shangguan You lightly as he shook his head. “I trusted the wrong person in the end.”

“Your Majesty, I didn’t! I really didn’t do anything to betray you! It’s a trap—someone must’ve framed me! Your Majesty, please check properly!” Xiahou Rong panicked as he anxiously went forward while kneeling.

But before he could reach the nine flights of stairs, Shangguan You already spoke. “Officer Xiahou Rong, your first crime is insubordination and attempting to assassinate me! Your second crime is the fabrication of a secret edict and lying to everyone! The punishments for the two crimes will be carried out together. Xiahou Rong will be stripped of his position as Grand Preceptor, and he will then become a slave. Tomorrow, he will be executed in front of the crowd at noon! Furthermore, everyone within three relations of the Xiahou family will also be sent to the borders to become slaves, regardless of their genders! They are never to return to Xi Ling in their lives!”

Every single word and phrase reverberated very clearly throughout the hall!

Xiahou Rong suddenly paused in his actions as he collapsed onto the floor in defeat. The last hint of blood on his face instantly disappeared!

At that moment, it was as if all the energy in his body had been sucked away. Even breathing became difficult for him. *Oh no... Oh no! The moment this verdict came, the entire Xiahou family was exterminated! My wife, concubines, relatives, the old and the young... Being sent to the borders and becoming slaves is even more terrifying than directly being executed! It’s better to die than live!*

“Your Majesty! Your Majesty, please show mercy! I’m begging you—please take the Xiahou family being loyal for more than a hundred years into account and forgive my wife, children, and the old and young.”

*If the Xiahou family is ruined in my hands, I will become the sinner of the entire family!*

Shangguan You looked at him with a deep gaze. “Xiahou Rong, you also know that the Xiahou family’s hundreds-of-years-long loyalty was destroyed in your hands!”

After so much talking, he deserved it!

Xiahou Rong collapsed onto the floor, and his heart became entirely cold.

“Bring him away!” Shangguan You waved his hands.

Just as the people beside were about to go forward, Xiahou Rong suddenly pointed at Jiang Yucheng harshly. He yelled with a contorted expression, “It’s him! He and the Third Princess were the ones who forced me to do this!”

### **Chapter 888: Let Me Say It**

*If I’m dying, we’ll all die together!* At this point, Xiahou Rong had completely lost it. *With His Majesty’s imperial edict, the Xiahou family can never make a comeback! Everyone in the family clan—which amounts to thousands of people—will be implicated, and Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng are the ones who caused all of this! Since I can’t live, then... Nobody else will have a good life either!*

Jiang Yucheng narrowed his eyes at that, and he stared at Xiahou Rong sinisterly. “Officer Xiahou, watch what you’re saying! Don’t drag innocent people down just because you made a mistake and implicated your entire family clan!”

Shangguan Wan also panicked as she hurriedly retorted, “That’s right! I have nothing to do with this. Xiahou Rong, don’t talk nonsense!”

*Innocent people?! Nonsense?! Xiahou Rong laughed out loud in mockery. “Jiang Yucheng, are you now saying that you’re innocent? Back then, weren’t you the one who gave me the drug to be used on His Majesty?! Now, you’re jumping out and saying that you’re innocent, pushing all the blame on me while escaping by yourself. Dream on!”*

Xiahou Rong decisively started a vicious cycle and directly exposed everything back then!

*The crowd was stunned! This sentence has too much information! Jiang Yucheng was the one who provided the drug that His Majesty was poisoned with? Then, doesn’t it mean that Jiang Yucheng had a part to play in this matter?*

“If you didn’t promise to give me the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill after the deed was done, why would I agree to do such a thing?! Now that everything is exposed, don’t even think of escaping!”

*Since I’m bound to die, I will definitely drag a few others down with me!*

Jiang Yucheng’s temple pounded rapidly, and he really wanted to go forward and stuff Xiahou Rong’s mouth!

His face turned green as he clenched his fists tightly and suddenly sneered. “Officer Xiahou, didn’t you say that I gave you the drug back then? Do you have any evidence? This is just a baseless accusation. If whatever you say is the truth, then everyone present will be at your disposal!”

Xiahou Rong was stunned and immediately clenched his teeth. *We committed those incidents very discreetly back then. Even the drug was given to me by Jiang Yucheng personally. Other than the two of them, nobody else can come out and testify! If Jiang Yucheng refuses to admit it, it’ll be really hard to convict him of his crime.*

“Besides, my Jiang family is an aristocratic family. I was also about to get married to the Princess. What reasons do I have to spend so much effort and first harm His Majesty before hurting the Princess?”

Xiahou Rong was enraged. *This Jiang Yucheng is so cunning! He didn’t only do this one deed back then, yet he’s completely denying everything!*

“You gave the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill to me as a reward back then! Do you dare to deny it?! You need to know that after the Princess died, all of her belongings were handled by you and the Third Princess! Only the two of you can get your hands on the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill!”

“Oh? Since you said so, then... Officer Xiahou, can you produce the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill and prove that you’re not lying?” asked Jiang Yucheng in return.

Xiahou Rong just lost the item a few days ago, and it’s impossible for him to produce it now!

As expected, Xiahou Rong was instantly stumped, and his face turned red when he heard this. “You! You clearly know—”

“It seems like you can’t produce it, Officer Xiahou.” Jiang Yucheng interrupted him. “Since this is so... Officer Xiahou, don’t let your mouth run—”

“It’s here.” Before he could finish, he heard a clear voice from the side.

Jiang Yucheng’s heart skipped a beat. He turned around and saw Chu Liuyue smiling while taking out a black wooden box.

The moment Jiang Yucheng saw that box, his heart sank! *Didn’t someone steal it? Why is it with Chu Liuyue?! Thinking about how the letter was also stolen from the Xiahou Residence... Could all of this have been done by Chu Liuyue alone?! But she was clearly at Dahuang Swamp previously. How can—*

“This should be the thing you are looking for, right?” Chu Liuyue waved the box in her hands and smiled with deep meaning. “I can prove that this item was indeed taken from Officer Xiahou’s study.”

As she had already produced the letter earlier, the crowd was very convinced by her words.

The Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill was the only ninth-grade pill that Shangguan Jing had left behind, and it had always been carefully protected by the Tianling royal family. Previously, it was His Majesty who gifted it to the Princess and let her keep it.

After the Princess died, all these items were handled by the Third Princess and Jiang Yucheng. If such a precious item like the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill appeared in Chu Liuyue’s hands, it clearly meant that someone had taken it away earlier.

This coincidentally proved what Xiahou Rong said earlier—Jiang Yucheng used this Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill as a reward for helping him drug His Majesty and fabricating the document!

Chu Liuyue presented the wooden box to Yuwen Wei. "Your Majesty, please check it."

Yuwen Wei took the item and carefully opened the box.

An intense herbal fragrance permeated throughout the area, and Shangguan You's expression changed slightly. "This is indeed the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill!"

He looked at Jiang Yucheng. "Jiang Yucheng, what else do you have to say?"

Jiang Yucheng clenched his teeth. "I-I didn't manage to protect it well and let the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill be stolen. But whatever Officer Xiahou previously said were all lies! Your Majesty, please investigate properly!"

He was bent on denying everything.

Xiahou Rong felt extreme hatred and started searching through his mind, wanting to bring Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan down with him. But after thinking for a while, he then realized that he really couldn't produce any strong evidence!

Jiang Yucheng had always been meticulous when doing things and wouldn't leave any traces behind. Every time they discussed, nobody else was around.

Even if they had taken out the Nine Clouds Yuan Recovery Pill now, he still insisted that it was stolen because he failed in protecting it, not because he gave it out!



Other than the words coming out of his mouth, Xiahou Rong really couldn't do anything to Jiang Yucheng!

He was so angry that his entire body trembled as he pointed at the duo, "Okay, okay, okay! You don't want to admit it, right? If you didn't do anything to His Majesty then, why did you guard Qingfeng Palace so strictly for the past two years and even sent three heavenly doctors to take care of him on a routine basis?! Isn't this being guilty of something?!"

As he spoke, he suddenly looked at the crowd and sharply hollered, "Xiong Yishui! Xia Lang! Do you dare to step forward and tell everyone what exactly is going on with His Majesty's body?! Right, Zuo Mingxi as well! The three of you were in charge of caring for His Majesty from the start. You can say a few words now, right?"

Ever since Shangguan You came out, Xiong Yishui and the rest were stunned. *The three of us did take care of His Majesty on a routine basis, but we never discovered any signs of His Majesty awakening! Thinking about it now, perhaps His Majesty was long awake!*

After suddenly being called out, the trio had ugly expressions as they stammered.

Jian Fengchi laughed lightly and said, "Since the three of you don't want to say anything, why don't I tell everyone about it?"

### **Chapter 889: Dogfight**

Jian Fengchi waved the mask in his hands and smiled playfully. "Talking about it, I took care of His Majesty for quite some time. Even though I did it under Physician Zuo Mingxi's name... this was also for His Majesty's good. I believe everyone present is loyal to His Majesty and won't mind it, right?"

This crime was too serious, and nobody dared to deny it.

Him standing next to His Majesty and coming out of Lang Kun Hall with the latter proved that His Majesty trusted him very much! How could the others say anything?

“Actually, this incident starts with the Third Princess,” said Jian Fengchi with a smile. “I still remember that I coincidentally met the Third Princess when I entered the palace using Physician Zuo’s identity for the first time. I wonder if you still remember what you said back then, Third Princess?”

Shangguan Wan’s face turned scarily white. I didn’t even know when Jian Fengchi pretended to be Zuo Mingxi. Why would I remember what I’ve said? But... I’ve trusted Zuo Mingxi all along, and I didn’t hide much about Father’s condition from him...

“Back then, the Third Princess was very worried about His Majesty not waking up, so she told ‘me’ to reduce the dosage and find ways to wake His Majesty up.” Jian Fengchi sincerely clapped.

*Pak!*

*Pak!*

*Pak!*

“The heavens can be the judge to the Third Princess’s filial piety! To awaken His Majesty, she couldn’t even bear to use those drugs on him anymore. Just based on this point alone, I believe nobody present can compare to her, right? Hm?”

Jian Fengchi's words were like a sharp knife that directly sliced through Shangguan Wan's hypocritical outer surface.

Finally, the calm expression she forced herself to have cracked!

"I-I didn't..." She instinctively retorted, but she looked anxious, and her feet were weak. She clearly was exposed!

Shangguan Wan finally couldn't take it anymore as she said with much hatred toward Zuo Mingxi, "Zuo Mingxi, to think I trusted you so much! How dare you betray me like this!?"

*If he didn't join hands with Jian Fengchi, why would this happen?"*

"I, you... I don't know anything!" Zuo Mingxi wanted to say something, but he felt guilty and didn't know what to say.

He really didn't know that Jian Fengchi had always been secretly using his identity to enter the palace, but it wasn't like he hadn't noticed it.

During this period, he would occasionally feel that he liked to sleep even more than before, and his head became even more muddled. This feeling would become even more intense when it was his time to do his duties.

He vaguely felt that something was off, but he didn't dare to announce it. He was terrified that Shangguan Wan and the rest would directly kill him if they found out.

However, he didn't expect that he still couldn't hide the issue! It even ended up in this state today!

Shangguan Wan felt extreme hatred, but she knew that there was no use to say all of this now. The only way was to try her best to get herself out of the situation and prove her innocence!

But how could it be that easy?!

She thought of the many words she previously said in Qingfeng Palace, thinking that her father wasn't awake. *If Father has heard all of that...*

"Oh right, there's Jiang Yucheng too." Jian Fengchi's gaze turned, and his lips curled up in a sinister manner, his eyes filled with mockery. "Later on, you also said something similar. I remember it very clearly."

Jiang Yucheng's expression seemed to freeze for a moment as his eyes, lips, and nose became scarily stiff!

Various scenes kept flashing through his mind! *No wonder... No wonder I felt that Zuo Mingxi was quite weird previously. So it was someone else instead!*

When he saw Jian Fengchi accompanying His Majesty out earlier, he felt very uneasy. *It's indeed exposed now! No matter if Jian Fengchi is speaking the truth or not, Shangguan Wan and I have no way of denying it! Who told him to be standing beside His Majesty now!? Everything Jian Fengchi is saying now was clearly already approved by His Majesty, and... It even represents His Majesty's stance!*

“I didn’t enter the palace many times, but every time I saw the two of you, you would talk about the usage of drugs back then. Wasn’t Officer Xiahou talking about this just now? What, do you deny it?”

*With the evidence being flung at our faces, we would be very thick-skinned to deny everything!*

Dead silence.

Jiang Yucheng and Shangguan Wan fell silent.

They couldn’t wash off their suspicions just by denying it now. After all, there was a very high chance His Majesty knew about all these things!

If he had woken up much earlier on, then... Many things were already confirmed!

But when the crowd thought that the truth was already out and that the duo was about to admit their crimes, Jiang Yucheng suddenly said, “I really didn’t know that His Majesty was poisoned back then. Wan’er told me that she had used too many drugs back then to cultivate His Majesty’s body, causing him to fall into a coma. As for using less medicine, we did discuss it for quite a long time, but I didn’t know it was poison.”

Hearing this, Shangguan Wan gradually widened her eyes in shock and looked at Jiang Yucheng in disbelief. “W-what did you say?”

Jiang Yucheng looked apologetic. “Sorry, Wan’er. I only helped you because you lied to me back then. But now that everything is clear... I can’t help you anymore. You should take responsibility for whatever you did.”

Chu Liuyue found it amazing. *If it weren't because the atmosphere isn't suitable, I would want to applaud Jiang Yucheng's ability to argue! I've finally witnessed what it means by 'distorting the truth!' Seeing that everything is about to fail, he first sacrificed Shangguan Wan to protect himself! However, this harsh and cruel method is indeed his usual style. How could Shangguan Wan be his match?*

As expected, Shangguan Wan completely exploded after she heard this and fell into a temporary shock. "Jiang Yucheng, what exactly are you saying?! Are you trying to push all the blame on me?! Okay! Since you're heartless, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

Shangguan Wan stepped forward, went to the middle, and screamed, "Whatever Xiahou Rong previously said was right! Everything was commanded by Jiang Yucheng! He was the one who attacked Father and deployed the Thirteen Yue Guards away! He was the one who secretly sent people to attack Chong Xu Cabinet! He was the mastermind behind everything!"

The veins on Jiang Yucheng's forehead throbbed, and he coldly said, "Wan'er, you're muddle-headed!"

Shangguan Wan didn't care about him. She was already humiliated today, and her emotions were originally not stable. With Jian Fengchi and the rest's additional blow, she couldn't take it anymore.

Anyway, she already couldn't deny anything. It would be hard for her to make a comeback in the future.

Not mentioning that she had no fate with the throne, but she might not even be able to keep her status as the Third Princess! After today, her life and death were still unknown!

*At this point, Jiang Yucheng actually took the initiative to betray me. Then, there is no reason for me to care about anything else!* She glared straight at Jiang Yucheng with red eyes and laughed coldly. "Hah! What, do you not want to admit it now? Don't forget that you were the one who poisoned Shangguan Yue with the Dispelling Yuan Powder for three years and eventually attacked her on the day before your wedding, trapping her in the royal family's ancestral hall!"

## Chapter 890: I'm—Shangguan Yue!

“She’s such a smart person. Unless it’s someone extremely close to her, why would she fall for the trap and die in the end!?”

Shangguan Wan laughed maniacally. Due to anger and vengeance, her five features distorted in a terrifying manner, and her eyes were so red and sharp that she looked like a vicious ghost. “Don’t forget that you are also part of the reason why she suffered before she died!”

Her sharp voice broke through the air, and it made everyone’s heart turn cold. Once she said this, everyone present looked stunned. *What... did Shangguan Wan just say? She said Jiang Yucheng was the one who personally harmed the Princess back then and that he had even planned it for three years! Also, the Princess didn’t die because of ‘going crazy from cultivation,’ but she was driven to her death and finally chose to commit suicide!*

These few short sentences revealed an alarming secret!

Even if they had already guessed that Jiang Yucheng and the rest had harmed the Princess and the others, they were still shocked when they heard this.

Shangguan You’s heart suffered agina, and he staggered backward.

Yuwen Wei and Jian Fengchi immediately went forward to help him up.

“Your Majesty, y-you must take care!” Yuwen Wei wanted to advise him even more, but he didn’t know what else to say when the words reached his mouth.

The Princess had always been the child His Majesty doted on the most. Ever since she was young, His Majesty had spent a lot of effort cultivating her. Usually, if the Princess suffered even a minor injury, his heart would already ache.

*No matter if it were her coming-of-age ceremony, the grand court meeting, or the later wedding... His Majesty would always want to give the Princess the best of everything related to her. And the child that he doted on so dearly, terrified that she would get any form of grievance, actually died in such a despicable scheme! How could he tolerate it?*

Jian Fengchi looked on from the side, and his smile had already faded away. *Even when His Majesty knew that Shangguan Wan and the others set himself up, he hadn't revealed such an expression. It's clear how much Shangguan Yue's death impacted him.*

"Your Majesty..."

Shangguan You waved his hands and gradually got rid of the two people's help, but his entire person had aged at that moment as his face seemed to be covered by a layer of gray.

He looked at Shangguan Wan and Jiang Yucheng. Suppressing the immense sorrow and anger in his heart, he said carefully, "I just want to ask... Has Yue'er ever done anything wrong to you? Why must you harm her in this way!?"

Once he thought about how Yue'er was harmed by someone in secret and later discovered that the culprits weren't anyone else but the two people she trusted the most... His heart ached even more! *When they talked about it now, it was just an incident that could be summarized in two sentences. However, it contained the immeasurable pain Yue'er had suffered! It buried the torture she had to undergo! Even if these people die 10,000 times, they can't be relieved of their crimes!*



When Shangguan Wan heard this, her sensitive mind was stabbed again! Then, she shrieked. “I knew it! I knew it! After so long, everyone will only say this! It’s as if I did something so terribly wrong to her, but all that she’s done was just her taking pity on me! Who cares for it?! Father, I’m also your daughter, but have you ever properly looked at me since I was young?! When I don’t have enough to eat or wear or when I’m being bullied in the palace, have you ever thought of this daughter of yours?! In your eyes, there’s only that Shangguan Yue!”

Shangguan Wan’s voice trembled as if she wanted to release all her accumulated grievances from all these years!

“She just needs to wave her hands, and she can have everything she wants easily—a magnificent and spacious palace and an imperious status! She can even easily steal the man I’ve liked for so many years! What do I have?! If I don’t flatter her and depend on her, I won’t have anything! I’ll be nothing!”

*I am done with the despicable days of needing to live by her words! Hence, I want to snatch her Huayang Palace, her status, and even Jiang Yucheng!*

Shangguan You looked at the maniacal Shangguan Wan as his expression turned cold and solemn. His gaze was deep and painful. “If I neglected you, you can come and find me! Why must you blame everything on Yue’er?! You said that she took pity on you... If you didn’t want it, you could just say that! But while you enjoyed all the benefits she gave you, you were envious and jealous of her! What wrong did she do?!”

*At the end of the day, she just had too much hatred and jealousy toward Shangguan Yue. Due to this, she didn’t want to see the latter have a good life and thought of all sorts of ways to harm her! After doing so many wrong things, she still eventually blamed everything on Shangguan Yue, who was betrayed and harmed. How ridiculous!*

Shangguan Wan was stumped and couldn’t say a word. Her chest heaved up and down heavily; then, she suddenly laughed. “See! Even at this point, you still miss her the most. It’s a pity—she’s already dead! Completely dead! Hah!”

*No matter how heartbroken these people are, Shangguan Yue will never come back alive! Even if everything has failed today, nothing we did before can be salvaged!*

She looked at Jiang Yucheng, a hint of craziness in her eyes. “Yucheng, I’ve already admitted it. You should too! Anyway, we did all of those things together, right? Look, so many people like her and protect her. Even though she has died for so long, there will still be people who will spend so much effort to get an answer for her. And I—us—we don’t have anything. Only I like you, you know? Only me!”

As she spoke, she stretched out her hand and wanted to pull Jiang Yucheng.

Jiang Yucheng silently moved a step back, avoided her hand, and expressionlessly said, “Shangguan Wan, you’re really crazy. A’Yue treated you like her biological sister, yet you treated her like this! I trusted the wrong person!”

Shangguan Wan was stunned and then realized that he still refused to admit it. After staring at him for quite a while, she laughed mockingly at herself. “...I’m really stupid... I actually believed you... You thought about her for ten years, but you still dealt with her without hesitation in the end. What am I?”

*Jiang Yucheng could even attack the woman he had liked for so many years, let alone the rest. I, Shangguan Wan, am just his chess piece! Thinking back on everything the past few years, it was all just a joke!*

Jiang Yucheng cupped his fists toward Shangguan You and said, “Your Majesty, I know that my explanations are very weak, but I really don’t know—”

“Jiang Yucheng, are you still not going to admit it even at this stage?” asked Chu Liuyue suddenly.

Jiang Yucheng paused for a moment and looked straight at her. "If I didn't do it, why must I admit it? Shangguan Wan isn't sane now, and her words aren't trustable."

"Oh?" Chu Liuyue suddenly laughed. "If her words aren't trustable, then... What about mine?"

Jiang Yucheng was dazed.

Following this, he saw Chu Liuyue take a step forward suddenly, and there seemed to be a strong fire burning in her eyes.

*Shua!*

The Tianling Power Staff was lifted up high, and the dragon eyes glowed straight to the front when it landed. It was very majestic!

"I forgot to introduce myself. I'm—Shangguan Yue!"