

Divine 1671

Chapter 1671 The Golden Rolls 3

They spoke in such a uniform tone that there was no contradiction.

The King, who had been seated in the throne for so long with a dark face, finally smiled. He was very satisfied by the answer.

That was exactly what he had been waiting for.

When the answer was given, the King turned to Gu Chaoyan.

"What do you think, Phoenix Girl? You are the only one who holds the Golden Rolls. The Golden Rolls can be used for the civilians' safety, you won't hold it for your own selfish reason, will you?" The King threatened.

Clearly, if Gu Chaoyan could not present the Golden Rolls, the whole event would not end.

He was threatening her with the civilians' safety as well as the ministers and officers' voices. She would make many enemies with those people if she disapproved.

Gu Chaoyan smiled briefly.

Sure enough... the King was able to do things like this.

Elder Qianji was waiting confidently next to Gu Chaoyan, trying to see what else she could do.

He did not think that there was anything else the Phoenix Girl could do about it.

Elder Qianji said proudly, "Phoenix Girl, if you offer the Golden Rolls, then we will be on the same path from today on. We will do anything to help you. Pills and weapons from Piaomiao Pavilion would be available to share. We will give you military forces so that your country can become more powerful than ever."

Elder Qianji continued to pressure Gu Chaoyan.

He seemed to want to corner Gu Chaoyan in a dead end.

Gu Chaoyan was still standing on the same spot, without frowning. She said quietly, "Civilians are being hurt by monsters, but King, you never sent out any rescue teams, yet you say this horrible thing after a few days. That is not something I can agree with."

"..."

"The monsters in the capital were all killed by the Head of the Snow Territory. Why should I make a deal with Piaomiao Pavilion with the Golden Rolls?" Gu Chaoyan interrogated.

"..."

"King, are you really considering it for the civilians' sake?"

"..."

"You grounded Lord Huai and the Crown Prince without any reason. Monsters have been hurting people but you did not send out forces. You refused to go to the morning sessions, and you have even fired Prime Minister Chu and General Liu."

"..."

"King, have you been possessed?"

"..."

"Piaomiao Pavilion boasts that it is a very capable place, but King, have you ever sent any ambassadors to check on this place? Do you even know where Piaomiao Pavilion is located? How many people are there living at Piaomiao Pavilion?"

"..."

"None of these have been confirmed, but you are offering the most precious thing in the Saint Divine Land. Have you really considered this?"

"..."

"I can't be on your side. So I, the Phoenix Girl, won't present what is asked for."

"..."

Gu Chaoyan turned to the ministers and offices, saying furiously, "You are working for the King, but you do not remind the King of anything strange going on. What is the point of keeping you all here?"

"..."

"Although the King is summoning the ministers and officers for discussions, I believe that you might as well summon all the civilians to talk about it instead. It is the same."

"..."

"I have other things to do. I am leaving."

"..."

"I hope that you can give me a proper reason for Lord Huai's situation!"

"..."

"Also, one more thing that I believe I should tell you."

Chapter 1672 The Golden Rolls 4

The King looked at Gu Chaoyan quietly, waiting for what she was going to say next.

Seeing that the King was not responding to her, Gu Chaoyan continued. "Shadow Door is already guarding the civilians in the capital, whether or not you are going to send out any forces from the court."

Having said that, Gu Chaoyan turned around and left.

The Shadow Door?

The Shadow Door was there!

The news broke out in the court, triggering everyone to talk about it.

The King staggered unsteadily, but when De Fu was about to help him, the King put his hands on the table, supporting himself with complete focus. He coughed constantly, with blood spilling from his mouth. The King wiped it away with a handkerchief, and when he saw the blood, his eyes widened.

De Fu also realized that something wasn't right. He went up to hold the King under his arms, asking, "My King, should you dismiss the session?"

The King nodded, urgently said something, got up and left.

The King was in bad health, but the ministers and officers should not know about it, especially under such an occasion like today.

The Shadow Door had emerged from the darkness into broad daylight. They were involving themselves with what was happening in the capital.

Nothing would matter when the Shadow Door was just a small place, but things were different today. The Shadow Door was an organization that the court was very afraid of. If they got involved with capital affairs, the court would be emptied out from inside.

He had made a mistake. He had really made a mistake.

He should not have left the monsters alone and threatened Gu Chaoyan.

The threat failed, and all that came after seemed to be a great loss.

The King panicked.

"Bring Elder Qianji Elderly Man from Piaomiao Pavilion here. I need to speak with him!" the King said to De Fu.

De Fu was skeptical, but he did as he was told.

The King panted uneasily.

Elder Qianji came in straight from the main hall.

He seemed really unhappy.

He sat down with a dark face.

"Elder, what should we do now? My throne is being threatened!" the King said, sounding very regretful!

"You can't even deal with a young girl! Your throne is obviously going to be threatened, sooner or later!" Elder Qianji said unhappily, "We have come to where we are today. We must force her to give us the Golden Rolls! You must not hide behind the curtains!"

The King felt anxious.

"Let's drop the Golden Rolls for the moment!"

"Then we are done with the pills as well." Elder Qianji said quietly.

"No way!" The King shouted excitedly. He had come to where he was, and was soon going to be immortal. He could not stop taking the pills that could make him live forever. "I will think about the Golden Rolls, but you have to help me. Shadow Door... it is the biggest threat!"

The Shadow Door? What kind of school was it so he was so afraid of it.

"I will help you with Shadow Door, but we must get the Golden Rolls within five days, or we are done!" Elder Qianji said, also giving the King pressure.

The King's head was buzzing, but he was sure about his goal of becoming immortal.

He was going to work on it.

Gu Chaoyan cared about Lord Huai, did she?

Then they would make a deal with her using Lord Huai!

Chapter 1673 Compromise

The King's eyes brightened, as Lord Huai was mentioned. His mind became chaotic, and he seemed really confident. Gu Chaoyan did care about Lord Huai, and she had been asking him about why Lord Huai was grounded. Yes, she wanted to get Lord Huai out.

Even when the Crown Prince tried to marry her, she still insisted on marrying Lord Huai!

Then he was going to satisfy her.

It did not matter if the Crown Prince married the Phoenix Girl, because he was going to live forever and the Crown Prince was no longer needed.

He also needed to think about when to get rid of the Crown Prince.

Then Zhou Huaijin could marry the Phoenix Girl, and it would be fine!

Zhou Huaijin was a useless piece of trash so he would not be able to do anything, even if he married that girl.

The King looked up confidently at Elder Qianji and said smilingly, "I already have a solution for the Golden Rolls. All you need to do is wait for my reply, but you have to help me with Shadow Door."

Elder Qianji, who had been annoyed, suddenly hesitated upon hearing the King's confident voice, but the hesitation only lasted for a short while before Elder Qianji decided to trust him. The King rarely smiled confidently like this in front of him, so when he did, he might have got a very good idea.

He nodded and showed a strict expression on his face. "I will deal with the Shadow Door, but if you fail with the Golden Rolls, then things will not be this easy again."

"Don't worry, Elder." The King was becoming very anxious.

Elder Qianji turned around and left.

Elder Qianji had just left when the King called De Fu, saying to him. "De Fu, you aren't the Phoenix Girl's enemy, so you should go and bring her here. Tell her that I need to speak with her about Lord Huai. She will come here no matter what."

Having said that, the King went back to his own business.

De Fu was confused. The Phoenix Girl had just left the court and they had a big row in the main palace, yet the King was asking for her again?

What was going on?

De Fu sighed and went out to pass on the message.

When he arrived at Xinlin Mansion, Gu Chaoyan was drinking tea in the yard, as if thinking about something. Seeing him here, Gu Chaoyan said politely, "Eunuch De Fu, please have some tea."

"Don't worry about it, I am not here to drink tea. I am here to pass on the King's order asking you to visit him in the court again. He wants to talk about Lord Huai," De Fu said, quite displeased.

About Lord Huai?

Gu Chaoyan sneered.

The King was using whatever method he could for the sake of the Golden Rolls.

He was even going to make a deal with her using his own son?

If that was the case... she would go and take a look.

"Let's go," Gu Chaoyan said directly, before getting up, ready to go into the court again.

De Fu sighed.

Gu Chaoyan walked and looked at DeFu, wanting to speak with him about something, but when she thought of De Fu's devotion to the King, she realized that maybe what she was going to say would not get through.

So she decided to stay silent instead.

In the court...

Chapter 1674 Lord Huai 1

Gu Chaoyan had just walked into the court, when she felt that the whole court seemed to be in a very depressed mood. The servants all kept their heads lowered as they moved about carefully, as if they were afraid of causing trouble.

That was what a court was normally like, but Gu Chaoyan felt that something was wrong.

The servants used to be careful but full of liveliness, but now the liveliness seemed to be gone.

Gu Chaoyan frowned involuntarily, before asking De Fu, "Has anything special happened in the court these days?"

De Fu sighed.

Many special things have happened these days, but only Lady Chaoyan was able to sense it.

Speaking of that, he could not help but miss Prime Minister Chu and General Liu, who were experienced ministers who truly cared about the country. They would not have allowed the court to become like this.

"The King gave the people from Piaomiao Pavilion free access to the court, and they are almost like the King here! They already looked down at us without the permission from the King, but they have become really wild after getting the permission. They regard the court as their own place, killing servants whenever they want to, especially the Elder Miss, who we should never offend."

"..."

"If they run into servants who they don't like, they beat them and kill them. Even the most brutal King in history would not treat his servants like this. So we are extremely careful and alert all the time, fearing that we might run into people from Piaomiao Pavilion and get ourselves killed."

"..."

"It has been like this for a while in the court."

"..."

"The King doesn't stop them, and the ministers all want to hide, refusing to deal with it in case they get in trouble."

"..."

"Could the Saint Divine Land without Prime Minister Chu and General Liu only end up like this?"

De Fu walked as he whispered to Gu Chaoyan about what was happening in the court.

Those things would not affect the King, and could even help the King, so De Fu took a big risk in saying that.

However, De Fu did not have much hope.

The Phoenix Girl had contradicted the King and the ministers by not offering that thing. She might already be in a bad position.

Sigh...

What was going on here?

De Fu had no idea when it started to become like this, The Saint Divine Land and the King had changed to this.

He started to think carefully.

It seemed that all of it started after the Queen passed away and Princess Xunyang went missing. After Lord Huai lost his favor with the King.

That was when it all started.

Sometimes he wished that the Queen had never learned the truth, so that the King would not be suffering so much now.

They walked in silence.

Gu Chaoyan was in deep contemplation.

She suddenly felt that it was the best time for the Shadow Door to come out.

The Saint Divine Land needed a change.

The Saint Divine Land would not last long, if it continued like this.

The King was becoming more and more confused.

Gu Chaoyan did not tell DeFu about what she was thinking at the moment. De Fu would only be devoted throughout his life, respectful but pathetic.

They stepped into Qianqing Palace together.

Seeing Gu Chaoyan appear, the King said straightforwardly, "I do not want to chit chat with you, I want to discuss something with you."

Chapter 1675 Lord Huai 2

Gu Chaoyan sat down on the chair, looking at the King expressionlessly and showed an attentive look at what he was going to say.

The King did not care about how Gu Chaoyan would react. All he needed was to obtain the Golden Rolls so that he could obtain the pills for eternal life. Nothing else mattered.

He said straightforwardly, "The Queen has been gone for almost a year."

"..."

"According to the rules in the Saint Divine Land, the wedding of the descendants of the deceased should not take place until one year later."

"..."

"Now is almost time. I can start to prepare your wedding with Lord Huai, and I can even promise Lord Huai a good job in the court, and ask the Ministry of Architecture to build a new mansion for him."

"..."

"On this condition, I want the Golden Rolls!"

"..."

"Are you willing to make the deal?" The King stared directly at Gu Chaoyan, waiting for her to say yes.

He only had five days, so he had to make the deal as soon as possible, within these five days.

Gu Chaoyan turned to him.

Sure enough, the King had gone insane. He only wanted everything for himself.

Making Lord Huai the bargaining chip for her? That was indeed the best solution he could possibly think of.

Gu Chaoyan sneered.

She shook her head. "No."

"..."

"How you are going to deal with Lord Huai is your problem. I don't want to get involved," Gu Chaoyan said calmly.

The King was shocked.

What? Did she not think that was a good deal?

He already used Lord Huai as a bargaining chip and yet she still turned him down? Didn't she love Lord Huai so much that she only wanted to marry him?

"What on earth do you want?" The King bellowed, exposing his innermost intention in front of her.

"Nothing!" Gu Chaoyan shook her head, got up and was about to go.

"Stop her!" The King bellowed furiously.

The imperial soldiers shielded the door, so that Gu Chaoyan could not go out easily.

De Fu was shocked when this happened so fast. He said quickly, "My King, she is the Phoenix Girl!"

Furious at hearing De Fu's words, the King felt his anger exploding. He slapped De Fu's face. "What are you shouting for, you servant? I am the King!"

After being slapped and pushed down, De Fu rolled away and said, "I am not, I am not..." He kept kowtowing.

Gu Chaoyan threw a side glance at De Fu. The King was treating De Fu so strangely and cruelly. She would not dare help him up. One more word at this moment and De Fu might have a problem.

Despite being displeased, the King heard what he said. He gestured to the imperial soldiers to leave.

She was the Phoenix Girl!

He was the King, but he did not dare touch the Phoenix Girl. He did not want any disaster to come to him.

Nevertheless, the King was furious.

He could not touch the Phoenix Girl, but he could do something to the man she cared about.

She only cared about Lord Huai all this while. She must think that Lord Huai's being grounded did not affect her.

In that case... she was going to lose Lord Huai. Then she would no longer stay calm.

He was sure about that.

"Someone, bring Lord Huai here!"

Chapter 1676 Possible Head 1

"I don't think that Lord Huai's life will not be enough for you!" the King said fiercely, as he said viciously. He could have Lord Huai killed if it was necessary.

De Fu, who had been kowtowing, stopped when he heard what the King said.

With his eyes on the King, he said, "No, my King, that is not possible!"

"..."

"Lord Huai is your son!"

The King had always had a grudge inside his heart, and that had made him treat his sons differently.

Nevertheless, the King, no matter how angry he was, would always give them a safe place and keep them alive.

He hated the Jiang Family, but the most he did was to ignore Lord Huai so that he had no power and let him stay in the capital, but now...

The King was going to have Lord Huai killed?

What would others say about the King and what would the King's reputation be if he did that?

Even the most brutal King in the world never killed his own son!

That was so cold-hearted of him!

Since when did the King become like this?

De Fu was extremely confused.

He was the King's servant. Even if no one else gave him a reminder, he should, at any cost.

Sure enough... the moment he said that, De Fu got a heavy kick. "You damn servant, how dare you have a hand in my order. You are just a low-class servant. Just because you grew up with me, can you teach me what to do?"

"..."

"Someone, take this servant to the dungeon. Set him as an example, so that no one will dare to override me without knowing what position they are in!"

De Fu looked at the King in disbelief.

He was not the King. The King never did things like this. No, this was not him.

After a moment, De Fu was escorted away.

It was quiet again in Qianqing Palace, but the other servants started to panic after seeing this, fearing that they would get killed as well.

Working at Qianqing Palace used to be a great honor, but recently, they were all crying out bitterly from working here. They started to get jealous of those who worked at the side palace, tired from the workload but safe.

The King did not care.

He waited for Lord Huai to be brought to the palace.

Elder Qianji just walked in.

The King looked pleased.

Elder Qianji promised to help him look into the Shadow Door, which was involved with many things in the capital. He was going to look into its background and hopefully get them to work for him. Otherwise he would just have the Shadow Door removed.

"Elder Qianji, have you brought us some good news?" the King asked.

"I think it is good news, but not sure if it is good for you," Elder Qianji said.

The King was confused.

What did that mean?

Why not for him?

"What is it?"

"The guard from Piaomiao Pavilion has found that the Head of Shadow Door most likely is Lord Huai of the Saint Divine Land, who, as far as I know, is your son!"

Chapter 1677 Possible Head 2

He felt that it was good news, because the King's son should be easier to deal with. The man who built the Shadow Door might be powerful and difficult to handle, when it came to bargaining and trading exchange, if he had been someone else.

If it was the King's own son, he would consider his own bloodline. After all, he built the Shadow Door secretly, only because he wanted the throne, didn't he?

If he could be made use of based on his plan, like promising to help him obtain the throne, everything else would not be a problem.

However, whether or not the King would find it good news depended on his own attitude. As far as he could tell, the King was arrogant and spoke highly of himself, but he was not at all talented.

When the King heard that... he denied disdainfully, just as he had predicted that he would. "Lord Huai? That is impossible!"

"..."

"Elder Qianji, you must be wrong."

"..."

"I could have believed you, if it was the Crown Prince. He resembles me, and has talent, but definitely not Lord Huai. I saw him growing up from a little boy. He is used to a life of wealth, and is a piece of useless trash who knows nothing about poetry and literature, let alone being the Head of the Shadow Door!"

"..."

"He has the Jiang Family's bloodline, but the Jiang Family isn't a very noble family. Not everyone from the Jiang Family can be outstanding!"

"..."

"He can't be a genius, can he?"

"..."

"Please look into the Shadow Door again, Elder," the King said resolutely.

He did not want to give this matter another thought.

In the King's eyes, that was the most ridiculous thing he had ever heard.

Zhou Huaijin? Impossible. He personally made sure that he would grow up to become nobody!

Elder Qianji frowned.

Sure enough... it was bad news for the King.

He spoke highly of himself and had biased feelings towards his son. No wonder he tried his best to get those immortal pills.

Well, there was nothing he could do about his disbelief.

Piaomiao Pavilion never got information wrong. Even though the Shadow Door seemed mystic and capable, for Piaomiao Pavilion, they were just a mob.

He had done what he was asked to do, and when the King would acknowledge the truth didn't matter to them.

However...

"How is it going with the Golden Rolls?" Elder Qianji asked with concern.

"Don't worry, it will happen soon. I have already sent my men to escort Lord Huai here to make a deal with Gu Chaoyan. It will definitely work. If she doesn't want to offer the Golden Rolls, I will have Lord Huai killed, forcing her to make the offer. Gu Chaoyan is a cold person. She even got her father and stepmother killed. She has no family, and all she cares about is Lord Huai!" the King said confidently.

Lord Huai again? Escorting Lord Huai to the court?

Elder Qianji did not think that was a good idea or a solution.

Lord Huai was the Head of the Shadow Door, and the Shadow Door was already moving around in the capital, so the Head would not be obediently grounded indoors.

Elder Qianji said confidently, "King, you are going to be disappointed. You better think of other solutions for getting the Golden Rolls!"

Chapter 1678 Intention To Kill 1

"Elder Qianji, you don't believe that it will work?" The King asked with displeasure.

He had made a perfect plan, and yet now he was being questioned about it? He was really annoyed. He had arranged many imperial soldiers to surround Lord Huai, so it would not be difficult to get Lord Huai to the court. What was the point of questioning him about it?

Elder Qianji was not even bothered to speak with someone so arrogant.

All they needed to do was to wait for the result.

Sure enough...

After some cups of tea, Elder Qianji saw the men that the King arranged to do the mission return, looking anxious. After all, just before they went out to do the mission, eunuch De Fu was imprisoned. They were very afraid about their future, since someone like De Fu could be punished like this.

"My King, when we arrived at Lord Huai's Mansion, Lord Huai wasn't there. The imperial army did not know what was going on. They are now all going about looking for him. King, what should we do?" the imperial soldier asked.

What?!

The King sprang up in fury.

Lord Huai wasn't in Lord Huai's Mansion?

He had arranged 500 people to guard Lord Huai's Mansion, and yet they had no idea that that man was gone until he arranged for him to be escorted here.

What was going on?

"Go and find Lord Huai! Look inside Lord Huai's Mansion and outside as well! Close the gate, and no one is allowed to go in and out! Make wanted posters too, now! Anyone who sees Lord Huai and reports it will be given 10,000 liang! Anyone who can escort Lord Huai to the governmental office

will be given 10,000 liang in gold as well as official title and mansions! Go now!" The King bellowed. "De Fu, I will make an imperial order now!"

Hearing that, the imperial soldier nodded and quit.

No one responded to the King about his order. The King furiously bellowed. "De Fu!"

People exchanged a strange look between themselves.

De Fu had been just sent into prison for a while and yet the King seemed to have forgotten about it.

One of De Fu's disciples asked with a shivering voice. "My King, I will serve you instead."

"Who do you think..." The King suddenly thought of something and suppressed his anger. "Come and serve me."

De Fu was no longer mentioned.

De Fu had been serving him for dozens of years and he was used to that.

He should not have done that to De Fu, but he was the King and he could not recall his order.

Anyway... the King was in the middle of writing the imperial order.

Elder Qianji added. "I told you, King, that you are doing everything in vain, and so it is."

"..."

"This solution won't work. King, think of other solutions. You have five days, if you can't get the Golden Rolls, we will no longer give you the pills. We will get the Golden Rolls alone," Elder Qianji said expressionlessly. Then he left.

The King was furious, but he had no choice but to nod.

He did not dare to throw his temper at people from Piaomiao Pavilion.

When the imperial order was given... the King became even more angry. He smashed everything in Qianqing Palace, so that he could feel slightly better.

Then he went to Weiyang Palace.

That was where the Queen lived when she was alive. Weiyang Palace was empty since the new Queen was never set up.

Honored Princess Jing had always wanted to move in, but was turned down by him subconsciously.

The Queen...

Chapter 1679 Intention To Kill 2

The Queen was always a clog in his life.

He still had some feelings for the Queen, but he did not pass those feelings to her son.

If her son was obediently grounded in the mansion, he would say nothing. He would be able to protect him, but her son left against his will, so he was going to make sure that he would disappear from the world.

However, he still felt slightly guilty, so he came to this place and told the soul of Jiang Shuang about it.

It was her son who irritated him first, so he became vicious.

After he recounted the whole thing at the Weiyang Palace, the King felt slightly better.

At Xinlin Mansion.

Gu Chaoyan looked very calm after her trip to the court.

She was about to take a break when Xiu Jie hurried up to her, looking less worried than the previous moment. "Elder Miss, has Qing come back to the mansion?"

"..."

"We have not seen Qing anywhere, and I thought she was out, but she has been missing for hours, and I feel like something weird is going on. Miss... Qing always tells people where she is going. She would never disappear like this, so I wondered if she was at the mansion."

Qing?

Gu Chaoyan asked Sword One to check around and see if she was anywhere in the mansion.

Qing was never rude, and followed her orders obediently. Since she arranged for Qing to work at Xinlin Clinic, she would surely be devotedly working there.

She was not in the clinic and she did not seem to be at the mansion either.

Sure enough...

Sword One asked around and looked around. She panted while coming to her. "Elder Miss, she is gone."

"Go and find her in the capital. Maybe she is stuck with something and is unable to run errands any more," Gu Chaoyan said anxiously.

Piaomiao Pavilion and the Cangyan Door were always trying to force her to offer them the Golden Rolls, so was the King. Someone might have the idea of threatening her with the people working for her.

She was always very nice to the people around her.

Not feeling tired anymore, Gu Chaoyan hurried out and decided to look for her with the others.

Those who were not busy with any tasks were asked to go out and search as well.

There were many mansions in the capital, and only the mistress from Xinlin Mansion would treat the servants this well. So those servants were all very emotional when they were asked to find the missing girl.

Hours later... they all failed to find Qing, but Qing suddenly returned to the clinic. Her appearance startled the people at the clinic, whilst Qing was very confused about their reaction.

Then she was told that everyone was looking for her.

She just thought that before she went out her head was too chaotic to inform anyone about it.

Qing sat still guiltily.

Gu Chaoyan and the others all rushed to the clinic to meet Qing.

Seeing Qing intact, Gu Chaoyan let out a big sigh of relief. As long as she was fine, nothing else mattered. So the enemies had not done anything to her, good.

However, what made Qing react so strangely?

"Qing, where have you been during the past few hours, and what did you do?" Xiu Jie asked before Gu Chaoyan could say anything.

Chapter 1680 Qing's Weird Reaction 1

Xiu Jie was very happy about Qing coming to the clinic and working with him, but he had not expected that Qing would change a great deal after such a short while.

When Qing spent time with him previously, she always wore a smile and no matter what she was dealing with, she would always be passionate and earnest. She always called him Brother Xiu Jie, and she always talked about Elder Miss all the time, telling him some daily affairs involving her.

Xiu Jie felt that Qing like this was so beautiful and nice, but these last two days, Xiu Jie found that Qing was always weird-looking, and she no longer had a smile on her face. Xiu Jie had suspected that it was because they spent too much time together, so she did not smile as brightly as before, but when he talked to her, she seemed very distracted as well.

He felt that something was wrong with her, but he also hesitated if he should tell this to Elder Miss. However, before he could make a decision, something happened to Qing.

Although she was back safe and sound, Xiu Jie still wasn't convinced.

He felt that something had happened to Qing.

So while she was here, with Elder Miss present, he, as either Elder Miss' servant or Qing's so-called brother, believed that he should ask her what was going on.

Gu Chaoyan quieted down upon hearing Xiu Jie's question.

Qing's distracted eyes dodged all of them, as she staggered, wondering what to say and how to say it.

After a long while, Qing said, "I was just... out taking a stroll, I forgot to tell you about this. I am sorry to have worried you. I won't do it again."

"..."

"Please, Elder Miss," Qing said to Gu Chaoyan, sounding guilty after she said that to Xiu Jie.

Hearing Qing's words, Gu Chaoyan felt her heart sinking.

Qing might be her maid, but she treated her as her sister. Qing never estranged herself from her, but now, Qing seemed to have estranged herself from her, for some reason.

Gu Chaoyan thought that maybe she was busy with too many affairs and suddenly became like this.

Gu Chaoyan turned to Xiu Jie and then to Qing, saying, "You must be very tired to have walked for so long, Qing, go back and take a rest."

"..."

"Many things are happening in the capital, Qing. If you want to take a walk outside, tell Xiu Jie so that he could keep you company. Or I can arrange someone else to keep you company." Gu Chaoyan stressed.

Qing didn't feel that was a good idea, but she still answered. "Okay..."

Gu Chaoyan then asked Qing to take a break.

Then she turned to the lobby of Xinlin Clinic, feeling distressed.

She was trying to convince herself that Qing must have forgotten to tell the others about her walk outside, but she could not feel convinced.

Something must have happened to Qing.

What made her like this?

She sat down, looking distracted.

Ziu Jie stood anxiously next to her, asking, "Elder Miss, did I make too big of a deal about what happened to Qing?"

Gu Chaoyan stopped thinking and shook her head at Xiu Jie. "No, you didn't."

"..."

"You did it just right!"

"..."

"Why?"