

Divine 1771

Chapter 1771 Lingyun's Confession 4

Wuxing couldn't forget that fact. His ultimate aspiration was to rise to the top.

However, there was a catch.

Achieving their goals relied heavily on Lingyun's assistance. Without her by his side, Wuxing couldn't see the purpose of obtaining all those accomplishments.

"Wuxing, once our plan succeeds, you will have access to countless women. Why distress yourself over one woman who can't even cultivate? I'm giving you one day to sort things out. I hope you'll come to understand everything by tomorrow," Qianji stated with frustration evident in her voice.

Witnessing Wuxing in such a state of confusion was already distressing, and Qianji didn't want him to be affected any further.

With those words, Qianji abruptly departed, unwilling to witness the aftermath of their conversation.

On the way back to the court.

Lingyun looked much more relaxed than Wuxing. After the confession, Lingyun felt so much relieved. She had no burden any more.

And she felt that her horizon had been broadened.

She felt the road ahead was very wide, as she had nothing on her mind.

Then she thought of what was bothering her Elder Miss.

Suddenly, Lingyun thought of something.

She thought it through in her head and suddenly got really excited. "Sword Two, let's go back to the court. I just think of something about Elder Miss' situation!"

Having said that, she hurried back to the court.

Sword Two followed up as well without delays.

Back in the court, Lingyun headed directly to Fengxian Palace.

Lingyun almost forgot to greet Elder Miss, when she walked in. She said anxiously, "Elder Miss, I have figured it out!"

"...."

"Sword One told me before that you have always been feeling cold in your body, even on summer days, even when you are surrounded by a coal basin. But you feel better this year."

"...."

"But I don't think you are feeling better. You are getting worse!"

"...."

"Cold Drug. Yes, it should be the fundamental, deeply-rooted venom in your body, Elder Miss. When you faiedl to detoxify this venom, the heated Happiness Drug was planted into your body, to keep control of the venom."

"...."

"You felt chilly occasionally last year, because your Cold Drug was dominating. Cold Drug did not work that fiercely at the beginning, so coal basins would have been enough. But now it is working fiercely in you, so the Happiness Drug in your body is brought alive."

"...."

"If you want to get yourself detoxified, I don't think detoxifying a Happiness Drug is right. You should get the Cold Drug detoxified instead. Then every problem is solved."

"...."

"But you got this when you were very little. Or maybe when your mother was pregnant with you."

"...."

"Who would have drugged an infant like this?"

"...."

"Why did he or she do that?" Lingyun was sweating. She realized that the truth was very scary.

She must have been drugged when she was very little. Or even when she was in her mother's womb.

"The Gu Family? Mrs. Gu?"

Chapter 1772 Ideas

Gu Chaoyan's mind raced as she considered the possible identities of the person who held a grudge against her mother. However, she quickly dismissed the idea of Mrs. Gu, as she believed her stepmother lacked the capability and motive. Furthermore, Mrs. Gu would have likely used this information as a bargaining chip during their confrontation, which she did not.

Gu Zhenkang, her father, was also ruled out as a suspect. Gu Chaoyan pondered if the grudge stemmed from an enemy of the Lin Family, but that would have likely put the daughter of the Lin Family in danger as well, especially since she was just a young child at the time.

These were all mere speculations, and Gu Chaoyan knew that a thorough investigation was necessary to uncover the truth.

There were still people alive who were connected to her past—Chen Fu and the Lin Family. They might hold valuable information that could provide her with clues.

Lost in her thoughts, Gu Chaoyan realized that she needed answers and a solid plan to unveil the mysteries surrounding her mother's past.

Sword One asked with a small voice, "Lingyun, are you able to detoxify Elder Miss, when you understand what is going on here?"

Lingyun shook her head directly.

"If it is really Cold Drug, then that is totally out of my ability." Lingyun said straightforwardly. Then she started to get a little distressed herself.

That was Cold Drug!

Not an ordinary sort of venom!

And Elder Miss received a Happiness Drug to press down the Cold Drug, which made the detoxifying process even more difficult.

Lingyun also showed some slight disappointment.

That made Sword One feel even more distressed.

Gu Chaoyan stopped thinking and looked up at Lingyun and Sword One. "Then don't tell anyone about this yet, especially when Lingyun has no idea what to do."

"What about Mr. Head?" Sword One asked.

"Him in particular." Gu Chaoyan said straightforwardly.

Sword One disagreed. But she still nodded.

Sword One had just spoken of it when Mr. Head arrived.

Zhou Huaijin came in at the right moment.

He smiled when he saw that Gu Chaoyan looked better.

Hidden guards from the Shadow Door were out looking for Mr. Zhao. The others were seeking other famous doctors. And a majority of them were seeking well-practiced people beyond the territory of the four countries.

Everything was moving forward. But Zhou Huaijin did not mention this to Gu Chaoyan, because he did not want to stress her.

He sat down and started to talk about what was happening recently.

Shiling Palace was under construction, and the officers were all bowing to him. Everything was well settled.

But there was just one small thing that made him hesitant.

Zhou Huaijin said quietly, "Duke North has some military authorities, but he has not been to the morning sessions for a while. He still has the rank from his father, so we can't do anything about him. But the military authorities can't be in his hands forever. So... that is quite bothering."

He had this bothering thought, because he thought of the past Duke North.

"I will talk to him." Gu Chaoyan said.

Chapter 1773 Duke North 1

"No," Zhou Huaijin disagreed directly.

Chaoyan was not feeling well, and she might get sick anytime. If she went to deal with this for him, it would only make him worried.

"Duke North... well, I used to consider him a good friend, and he was deeply devoted to the people at the border. But his personality has changed due to the injury. There seems to be a connection between these things, and I don't believe he is the same as before."

"..."

"But this is a great opportunity for me to meet him and sort things out, considering what he did for the country in the past."

"..."

"I am so bored here in the court. It would be better if I took a walk outside," Gu Chaoyan presented a solid argument.

Upon hearing this, Zhou Huaijin did not stop her.

However...

She could not just go to Duke North Mansion alone.

"Bring Sword Four and all, Lingyun too. I will give you 20 hidden guards. Anything happens, they will all appear." Zhou Huaijin arranged directly.

"No problem!" Gu Chaoyan said straightforwardly.

She looked out of the window at the sky.

"I will go out later. It is still very early now."

"I will get the wagon prepared." Zhou Huaijin got up, already getting very worried.

Gu Chaoyan went out of the court with them altogether.

Outside the court.

Duke North Mansion also received the order that told them the Queen's arrival. I think you should take a look at

Zheng Chenyi smiled briefly upon receiving the order, as it was exactly what he had expected.

Whenever the affair involved Duke North, she would always come to Duke North's Mansion. Many people considered her cold, but Zheng Chenyi knew she was someone with a heart.

Having done so much for her in the past, Zheng Chenyi knew he occupied a small spot in her heart. That small spot was enough for him. And now, he was determined to make her stay with him using whatever means necessary. He didn't care where her heart wandered; he only desired her presence by his side.

"Prepare everything. She's coming, and I want her to love my place," Zheng Chenyi said with a dark tone.

"Yes," the servants acknowledged and went downstairs to attend to their duties.

Seated in the lobby, Zheng Chenyi personally arranged an array of pastries, eagerly awaiting the girl's arrival.

One hour later...

Gu Chaoyan's carriage came to a halt at the gate of Duke North Mansion.

To her surprise, Duke North himself did not come out to greet her. Instead, a servant approached with a smile. "Welcome, the Queen. Duke North sends his regards and says that as old friends, you needn't worry about formalities. You are here as an esteemed guest. Please make yourself at home."

Gu Chaoyan's brows furrowed slightly, but she nodded and proceeded to enter the mansion.

She had visited Duke North Mansion a few times before. It was a grand estate bestowed upon Duke North in recognition of his achievements on the battlefield. Over the years, the mansion had grown even more splendid.

Past Duke North's wife had poured all her resources into its construction, and her dedication was evident in its magnificent appearance.

But...

When she walked into Duke North Mansion on this visit, she felt that something was wrong.

The air was different. It was no longer lively.

"Where is Mr.Duke?"

Chapter 1774 Duke North 2

"Duke North Mansion is a noble's residence. How can there be so few servants? There are many matters to attend to. Have we neglected taking care of you?" Gu Chaoyan inquired as she walked through the mansion.

The former Lady Duke North had passed away, and Duke North had since remarried. There should have been someone in charge of the household. How could the mansion appear so deserted? It was unheard of in a place like this.

The servant remained composed, as Duke North had already provided them with prepared answers.

"Well, Phoenix Girl..." the servant hesitated.

"..."

"For one, Duke North has been preferring solitude since his last injury. And secondly, the current Lady Duke North is unwell and has been resting in her room, and we are uncertain when..." The servant trailed off, not providing further details. However, they added, "Rest assured, Phoenix Girl, Duke North Mansion is well-equipped. There is no need to worry."

Gu Chaoyan cast a sharp gaze at the servant.

She had arrived at this place incognito, with her true identity concealed from the public, not specifically to visit Duke North Mansion. The people here should be aware of her true title.

Why, then, did the servants persistently address her as Phoenix Girl?

Even her own staff, like Lingyun, who was not considered a formal maid and didn't adhere to court etiquette, would occasionally address her as "Elder Miss."

So, why did the servants from Duke North Mansion, who should have been properly trained, behave so casually?

Gu Chaoyan comprehended the situation after hearing the servant's explanation, but she didn't appreciate being addressed incorrectly.

"Don't call me Phoenix Girl; call me the Queen," Gu Chaoyan corrected firmly before continuing her walk towards the lobby.

As she proceeded, she observed that the plants were meticulously trimmed, indicating attention to detail. However, she noticed a conspicuous absence of servants.

Then, her gaze landed upon Duke North, who was seated in the lobby.

He maintained a posture with a straight back.

At first glance, Gu Chaoyan could discern a frighteningly pale complexion on Duke North, devoid of any color. He had visibly lost weight, with prominent cheekbones. The once sunny demeanor had been replaced by a somber and dark countenance.

Something was amiss. He did not appear to be in good health.

Could the poison still be lingering within his wounds?

But her messenger had assured her that he had been detoxified. So, what had transpired?

Gu Chaoyan approached him directly and stated, "Show me your hand. I will feel your pulse."

"You are still willing to walk into Duke North Mansion, aren't you?" Duke North looked at her, a glimmer of happiness in his eyes.

He was alluding to how she had rejected him when he had been poisoned before. He had intentionally poisoned himself as a means to manipulate her. Gu Chaoyan disliked being coerced, and she would never act under duress, even if she held genuine concern for others.

However, it seemed that he remained unconvinced by her previous actions.

Gu Chaoyan had no intention of engaging in such discussions. She held steadfast to her principles.

"Show me your hand. I will feel your pulse," Gu Chaoyan repeated, her tone conveying a sense of urgency.

Chapter 1775 Duke North 3

"Have some tea. It's a fine blend. During these peaceful times, I find solace in seeking out the best tea. I believe you will enjoy it. And there are pastries in the hall as well. We seldom have guests, so it tends to be rather cold. You are among the few who have graced us with your presence. I dare not treat you poorly, for fear that you may no longer wish to be here," Zheng Chenyi spoke calmly, keeping his hand concealed.

Gu Chaoyan cast a glance towards the hall, where a variety of pastries lay.

Indeed, there was an array of choices.

She then shifted her gaze to Zheng Chenyi, noting the subtle changes in him.

Finding an empty spot, Gu Chaoyan took a seat. She began sipping the tea and picked up a pastry to nibble on, albeit without the same relaxed demeanor she exhibited at Xinlin Mansion and Fengxian Palace. After finishing the pastry, she remarked, "You don't appear to be well."

"I am aware of that. Don't worry," Zheng Chenyi responded calmly. "Why have you come here?"

Gu Chaoyan hesitated momentarily before nodding in acknowledgment.

She was about to speak...

However, Zheng Chenyi interrupted her, rising from his seat. "Let's take a stroll and talk."

Gu Chaoyan also stood, agreeing to his suggestion.

Though she was familiar with Duke North Mansion, she had never truly explored its premises.

The garden of Duke North Mansion mirrored the tranquil atmosphere of the main entrance, devoid of liveliness. Nonetheless, the landscaping was exquisitely arranged.

Duke North Mansion lacked the presence of flowers, with only an abundance of green plants scattered throughout. There was a distinct absence of vibrant blooms.

Jiang Mansion had been similar in the past, devoid of flowers. However, it compensated with numerous green bamboo plants and a staff that exuded warmth, creating a tranquil and pleasant atmosphere.

"After my mother's passing, we have sold off many of the servants, resulting in a quieter and more serene environment. You appreciate tranquility, don't you? But do you find Duke North Mansion to your liking?" Zheng Chenyi inquired as they walked side by side.

Gu Chaoyan felt the situation becoming increasingly complex.

Why was he asking such questions?

"As long as both you and your wife are content with it, that would suffice," Gu Chaoyan responded calmly. She continued, "The Saint Divine Land has been stabilized now. Duke North, you possess an authority token for the military. However, considering your infrequent attendance at the morning sessions, the token holds little practical power. It remains uncertain how we should handle the authority token."

"..."

"The King is pondering whether you wish to return to the court. If you do, you can retain the token, as it rightfully belongs to Duke North. However, if you prefer to distance yourself from political affairs, the token could be passed on to someone else," she explained.

"...."

"What are your thoughts on this matter?" Gu Chaoyan inquired earnestly.

Zheng Chenyi suddenly felt a pang in his heart. It appeared that she was solely interested in discussing anything related to Zhou Huaijin. She seemed indifferent to his question.

"What do you expect me to do then?" Zheng Chenyi asked, his gaze fixed on her.

Gu Chaoyan unconsciously furrowed her brows. "You don't need to provide me with an immediate answer. Take the time to discuss it with your wife or your strategist. You can give us your response by tomorrow morning."

"You no longer wish to assist me?" Zheng Chenyi questioned, his displeasure evident.

She had previously given him countless instructions and guidance, both to his mother and during his trip to the border.

Chapter 1776 Duke North 4

"Consider the token and provide the King with your answer by the morning session. If you're unsure of how to decide, discuss it with your wife. I came here specifically to discuss this matter with you. If you have nothing else to say, I, as the Queen, will take my leave. Save your efforts," Gu Chaoyan spoke softly.

Zheng Chenyi smiled once again.

The Queen?

She emphasized her role as the Queen. She made that point quite clear.

Zheng Chenyi's displeasure grew, his emotions boiling. He took a few steps forward, intending to reach out to her, but his shoulders were restrained by the guards standing beside him. Finally, he managed to rein himself in and stabilize his posture.

Well...

He truly desired to keep her, for he disliked how she emphasized her title. However, upon reflection, he realized that it was not yet the opportune moment.

It wasn't the right time after all.

Even if he were to force her to stay, he would only long for her presence and invite unnecessary trouble upon himself, thus thwarting all his plans.

If he wanted to succeed, he needed to maintain a low profile.

Only through this approach could he achieve his goals.

Zheng Chenyi gritted his teeth and exhaled deeply.

Gu Chaoyan and her guards were already far gone.

Gu Ruxue emerged from a nearby room, gazing in the direction of Gu Chaoyan's departure, and then at Zheng Chenyi. She shook her head, remarking, "I don't understand what's so exceptional about her. So many men are willing to sacrifice so much to win her over!"

She did not come from a prestigious family.

Gu Ruxue believed that she herself was more beautiful because, despite Gu Chaoyan's improved appearance, she still had the frightening red birthmark on her face.

Zheng Chenyi glared at Gu Ruxue fiercely, his expression indicating that he was on the verge of retaliating if she uttered another derogatory comment about Gu Chaoyan. I think you should take a look at

Gu Ruxue shrank back in fear.

Although Zheng Chenyi had approached her willingly, she understood his capabilities and knew that she needed his assistance. Therefore, she couldn't afford to offend him with reckless behavior.

She was not allowed to speak ill of Gu Chaoyan.

That was something she was capable of restraining herself from doing.

Since her arrival at Duke North Mansion, she had been forbidden from criticizing Gu Chaoyan.

Gu Ruxue pursed her lips and left the scene.

Zheng Chenyi's anger subsided, and his gaze shifted.

Gu Chaoyan was currently en route back to the court in her carriage.

That was the extent of what she could do to aid him.

"Elder Miss, do you think Duke North would want to keep the military authority?" Sword One asked, feeling unsure.

Elder Miss did not seem to have witnessed what Duke North really wanted, though she paid a visit to him personally.

Gu Chaoyan also shook her head.

Zheng Chenyi had always been an open and transparent person, incapable of concealing his thoughts. However, he now seemed much more enigmatic, and she couldn't fully understand him.

At this point, Zhou Huaijin should prioritize his concerns about Duke North and his well-being over the matter of military authority.

Gu Chaoyan was lost in thought when she suddenly heard commotion outside the carriage.

Chapter 1777 Lu Jiming's Punishment

There was a gate positioned in front of him, and just beyond it stood the court.

In the vicinity of the gate, people would always maintain an air of tranquility, regardless of how they behaved in the capital. Those who dared to cause a commotion would quickly face the consequences, as the imperial army was swift to respond.

However, the man standing before the gate seemed to be defying this norm by making a significant amount of noise.

Curiosity piqued, Gu Chaoyan turned her gaze toward Sword One and motioned for her to investigate discreetly without revealing her true identity.

Sword One descended from the wagon and carefully surveyed the area.

Before long, the clamor subsided, and Sword One returned, relaying the information, "Elder Miss, a Young Master from Duke Changning's Mansion is causing a disturbance here. He insists on seeing you."

A Young Master from Duke Changning's Mansion? Lu Jiming?

It had been quite some time since Gu Chaoyan last encountered this man. What brought him here, disrupting the peace once again?

What could he possibly want from her?

Determined to find out, Gu Chaoyan stepped down from the wagon.

Immediately, her eyes fell upon Lu Jiming, engaged in a heated argument with the imperial army. If not for her presence in the wagon, the soldiers would have likely apprehended him by now. Clearly, he had no grasp of his own position.

Duke Changning's Mansion had always been haughty, but they had held a healthy fear of the King. Now that Duke Changning had lost his status, his family seemed to have become even more unruly.

"Do you really want to see me?" Gu Chaoyan inquired, casting a downward glance at Lu Jiming.

"Yes!" Lu Jiming ceased his pestering of the imperial army and approached Gu Chaoyan.

Sword One and Lingyun intercepted him. "Pay your respects to the Queen, now!"

Reluctantly, Lu Jiming complied. I think you should take a look at

Afterwards...

In a mysterious tone, Lu Jiming expressed his desire to speak with Gu Chaoyan privately.

Gu Chaoyan didn't entertain the idea but responded straightforwardly, "Say what you have to say now."

Lu Jiming pondered for a moment and acknowledged that he should respect her. Moreover, he realized that those in her presence held the authority to act upon her orders before taking any action against him.

Thus, he spoke candidly, "Our engagement was terminated, and Duke Changning's Mansion has endured significant hardships following your marriage to Lord Huai. My father has lost his

standing, and I am no longer addressed as a young master. It has been destructive for us. We are akin to despised rats, unwanted wherever we go."

"...."

"The Queen," Lu Jiming continued, "I was once engaged to you, and I was the one you favored. You cannot simply allow me to live such a wretched existence, can you?"

"..."

"I have no further requests, except for this, Queen. Could you please grant us some favorable circumstances so that we can lead a decent life? Your history is not entirely tarnished, is it?" Lu Jiming pleaded, taking a significant risk by speaking up despite his wretched present existence. He desperately wished to remain in the capital and regain the life he once had.

Gu Chaoyan used to harbor affection for him, after all!

She shouldn't have been so heartless as to corner him. As the Queen, she should display kindness and compassion.

"And who do you think you are?" Gu Chaoyan narrowed her eyes, her voice laced with sternness. "Do you understand the gravity of the crimes you have committed by spreading rumors about the Queen and trespassing into the court?"

Gu Chaoyan declared, instructing the imperial army to apprehend him.

"Inflict severe punishment upon him! Duke Changning has failed to instill proper values in his son, and he can no longer retain his title. I shall report this to the King immediately."

Chapter 1778 The Lin Family's Visit 1

Upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's words, Lu Jiming was overcome with fear. The consequences of his father losing his rank would be dire for their entire family. Without the rank, they would lose the benefits bestowed by the court, including their servants, and the chance of remaining in the capital would vanish.

No, this couldn't happen. Lu Jiming was consumed by terror. This was not how things were supposed to unfold.

Struggling and shouting in desperation, he pleaded, "Queen, you cannot treat us like this! Yes, we turned our backs on you in the past, but please consider our history together. We were once engaged! Release us. Allow us to live peacefully once more, I implore you."

"...."

"We don't ask for much, just a life in the capital as it was before!" Lu Jiming's voice rang out, resonating through the gate. However, the imperial army swiftly silenced him, preventing any further utterance.

The imperial army had not anticipated such unruly behavior from him, nor the alarming words he spoke.

Gu Chaoyan gestured for the imperial army to remain in place.

She added, "Escort him to Dali Temple, document his crimes, and have him imprisoned."

"...".

"Furthermore, arrange for the director of Dali Temple to personally visit Duke Changning's Mansion, revoke their servants and title. He and his wife shall be exiled to other locations. Should they dare to cause such trouble again, they shall be imprisoned at Dali Temple as well."

"...."

"The Saint Divine Land upholds strict rules of decorum. Those who lack shame or manners, particularly those who spread rumors about the Queen, must face severe consequences. The dignity of the imperial family must never be tarnished."

With these words, Gu Chaoyan dismissed them to attend to their own affairs.

She then retreated to her own wagon, passing through the gate and returning inside.

Lu Jiming had not anticipated the magnitude of the repercussions his reckless actions would bring.

He had not only ruined his own life but also brought calamity upon his family. I think you should take a look at

Inside the wagon, Sword One was bewildered. "Elder Miss, what happened to the Young Master of Duke Changning..."

Before Sword One could finish her question, Gu Chaoyan responded directly. "The plight of Duke Changning's Mansion is not a result of my actions. Lu Jiming ended his engagement with Gu Ruxue, who married Zhou Huailing. It was Zhou Huailing who pushed them into obscurity."

"..."

"However, he keeps bringing up our past engagement. While I may not personally care about such rumors, Huaijin is the King, and any spreading of false information from Duke Changning's Mansion could tarnish his reputation."

"..."

"I don't want him to be burdened by the actions of the past."

"..."

"And the punishment is befitting for those from Duke Changning's Mansion," Gu Chaoyan explained bluntly.

She had indeed imposed a harsh punishment this time.

It was a direct consequence of Duke Changning's Mansion's excessive behavior. Regardless of any potential unfairness stemming from her social status, Gu Chaoyan had no regrets about her actions.

Sword One finally grasped the situation.

Although she didn't necessarily agree with her Elder Miss, she understood her perspective.

Deep down, Elder Miss was a kind-hearted girl.

"Summon the Lin Family to the court later," Gu Chaoyan instructed.

Chapter 1779 The Lin Family's Visit 2

"Understood," Sword One promptly replied.

The Lin Family, Gu Chaoyan's own household, may not have been particularly pleasant, but the Old Master of the Lin Family still sided with her.

As the Queen, it was Gu Chaoyan's duty to meet with the Lin Family and make appropriate arrangements.

Meanwhile, back at Fengxian Palace, Sword One conveyed the message about summoning the Lin Family to the court. Gu Chaoyan took a moment to rest in the court, feeling quite fatigued after her visit to Duke North Mansion. Although the tea from the mansion was fragrant and of excellent quality, Gu Chaoyan hadn't been able to fully savor it. However, she felt revitalized after taking a sip of tea in Fengxian Palace.

At the Lin Mansion.

The court officials were efficient, especially when it came to tasks related to Fengxian Palace. They worked with even greater diligence.

Two hours later, the imperial decree and the carriage arrived at the Lin Mansion simultaneously.

The eunuch who delivered the imperial decree awaited the Lin Family's arrival after completing his task.

The three members of the Lin Family, particularly Mrs. Lin, were filled with surprise and joy. "We're going to the court! We're going to the court! She will make arrangements for us! Ah, I never imagined that we would become relatives of the imperial family! And soon, we will also become a noble family!"

"..."

"When the coronation ceremony took place, we were escorted to attend, but we were not mentioned. I thought she had forgotten everything we did to her, using us only when convenient and abandoning us when she was finished. But she's not like that, is she?"

"..."

"I have never set foot in the court before in my entire life, and now we're going as relatives of the imperial family! It's truly astounding!" Mrs. Lin cheered, feeling as if a life of luxury awaited her in the near future. Despite the hardships they had endured, it all seemed worthwhile now. Marrying

into the Lin Family was the right choice after all! Now they were reaping the rewards. I think you should take a look at

Lin Jiashu and Lin Jiaying were relatively more reserved. They didn't share the same level of excitement as Mrs. Lin.

Chaoyan was not only the Queen but also the Phoenix Girl.

In truth, if she hadn't planned to bestow a significant reward upon the Lin Family, they wouldn't be safe.

While Mrs. Lin may not have noticed, Lin Jiashu and Lin Jiaying did. The Lin Mansion had been provided with numerous guards and hidden protectors.

They must have been arranged by Chaoyan, ensuring their safety.

Chaoyan's actions were likely driven by her desire to honor her mother's memory. However, she had already done enough. She had considered the Lin Family's well-being thoroughly.

If she were to overlook the smaller favors and instead bestow significant rewards, the Lin Family would undoubtedly face a challenging future.

The Lin Family had been a business-oriented family for generations, lacking the firm foundation and influence of the originally noble families.

It was unexpected for them to thrive so remarkably.

But this was sufficient. Just like the Jiang Family, who withdrew from the political sphere, they would benefit from maintaining a low profile.

Mrs. Lin grew frustrated, observing the two men's lack of enthusiasm or plans for the Lin Family. "What are you two staring at?"

"..."

"This is a rare opportunity, and we should consider how to leverage it for the benefit of our family!"

Chapter 1780 - The Lin Family's Visit 3

"We have been a business family for generations, with a low social status. So this time, we request a rank during our visit. With that, we can live a better life, and Chaoyan would take pride in being part of the Lin Family. The Gu Family is no more, and our family should be considered as part of her own, shouldn't it?" Mrs. Lin emphasized.

Acquiring a rank would suffice for now. They could consider other matters later.

However...

There was one more thing besides the rank.

"Jiashu, you are the most important consideration. Given your own circumstances, it may be difficult for you to find a well-suited partner. Mention this to Chaoyan, so she can discuss with the

King the possibility of an imperial marriage for you. You deserve a noble lady! The Elder Miss of the Chu Family would be a great match, even if she's slightly older than you. Or we can explore other options among the noble ladies!"

"..."

"I have already informed the managers of neighboring businesses that you will be marrying someone far superior to their suitors. Just look at the Huang Family, so arrogant just because the father holds a small position in the court. Once your engagement is confirmed, I will proudly display our superiority right in front of them!" Mrs. Lin grew increasingly excited, as if everything was already within her grasp, beckoning her forward.

Jiashu let out a sigh.

The Lin Family had caused Chaoyan a great deal of hardship in the past, without ever standing up for her.

What Chaoyan had done for them was already more than sufficient.

They felt too ashamed to ask for any additional favors or benefits.

Being the Queen was not a secure position for Chaoyan.

"Mother, let's not entertain such thoughts. Are we truly deserving of making requests in front of Chaoyan? I believe not. When Chaoyan was crowned, we were granted a place in the ceremony, which is already a generous gesture. Let's refrain from making unreasonable demands. Instead, let's see what Chaoyan has to offer, and then we can plan accordingly," Lin Jiashu intervened.

Upon hearing Lin Jiashu's words...

Mrs. Lin couldn't help but widen her eyes in surprise.

She appeared displeased. "Jiashu, what are you saying? You're still too young to comprehend the potential benefits of these requests. I'm doing this for your own good."

"..."

"You need to find a suitable marriage partner. A noble lady is always better educated than someone from a business family who is so focused on calculations. Moreover, a rank can be passed down to future generations. Your father and I are growing old, and we're content with what we have. However, it's essential for you to carry on our family name, so that we never regress to being a mere business family in the coming generations."

"Enough!" Lin Jiaying interjected, his voice filled with frustration. "Both of you, stop it. What's wrong with us being a business family? We are leading a peaceful life as a business family, aren't we?"

"..."

"Let's enter the court first and see what they require from us. We shouldn't keep dwelling on this topic. When Jiashu was unwell, none of this mattered. But now that he's healthy, you're becoming excessively greedy!"

“What are you insinuating? I’m not doing this for my own benefit!” Mrs. Lin retorted, her voice laced with anger. “I’m doing this for the sake of our family, the Lin Family! For Jiashu and his future children! As a woman, my name won’t be passed down to future generations. I’m striving for the betterment of our son’s future!”

“...”

“So now I’m the villain, and both of you are the righteous ones?”