

Divine 1781

Chapter 1781 - The Lin Family's Visit 4

Hearing his words, Lin Jiaying silently agreed.

She, as a woman, had not led an easy life.

When they got married, his father was still alive, and the Lin Family was flourishing. However, after his father's passing, he, an incapable man, had been unable to maintain the family's previous strength. Additionally, half of their properties had been given as dowry to his sister. She had complained, but she had never held it against them.

In general, she was a kind-hearted woman.

Her current practicality and anxiety about their declining wealth were borne out of her concern for Jiashu's future. In that regard, she was not wrong.

However, both he and his son's complaints had hurt her. Considering the difficult times she had endured over the years, it was understandable.

Lin Jiaying gave Lin Jiashu a meaningful look, silently signaling him to drop the matter.

He continued, "You're right, but we have different perspectives. I understand that you're doing this for the sake of our family. Let's wait and see what Chaoyan has in mind when we meet her at court. I trust that Chaoyan knows best how to make suitable arrangements. If she doesn't provide us with any, we shouldn't blame her; we'll simply carry on with our lives."

Softening his tone, Lin Jiaxing acknowledged and supported her intentions, causing Mrs. Lin to relent.

She nodded in agreement.

If she persisted, she would be seen as unreasonable. Realizing this, Mrs. Lin decided to let the matter go for now and proceed step by step. If there was an opportunity to obtain something better, she was determined to seize it.

With the Lin Family reaching an agreement, they made their way to the court together.

Everyone in the court recognized the Lin Family and treated them with utmost politeness and consideration. Mrs. Lin's mood was uplifted as they made their way to the palace. The respectful treatment she received from the courtiers alleviated her worries. With Gu Chaoyan being part of the Lin Family, she was confident that they would receive assistance.

Deep in her heart, Mrs. Lin vowed to make it happen.

However...

She refrained from voicing her thoughts further, knowing that her husband and son would not appreciate it.

After a long journey, they finally arrived at the court. Rather than stopping at the gate, the wagon continued on. This was an unprecedented treatment for the Lin Family. Mrs. Lin raised the curtain and peered outside, overwhelmed with happiness.

Lin Jiaxing was on the verge of reprimanding her...

But then he reconsidered her perspective and realized that their visits to the court were infrequent, allowing her to indulge in the experience. He decided to address the matter later, once they returned home.

Finally, they arrived at the back palace.

They disembarked from the wagon.

Mrs. Lin had been eagerly observing her surroundings throughout the journey. It was her first time in the back court, as women from a business family were never granted such privileges.

The imperial court was a stark contrast to her own modest mansion and the Lin Family's residence.

Their own mansion had a simple backyard, as they prioritized establishing a well-maintained front yard. Similarly, the Lin Family's mansion was relatively unadorned.

But within the imperial court...

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The atmosphere inside Fengxian Palace was resplendent and dazzling with gold, exuding an aura of utmost luxury. It gave off a sense of refined cultivation and exquisite beauty.

One could only find such an exquisitely designed garden within the walls of an imperial palace...

If only they could spend the rest of their lives here...

Mrs. Lin let out a regretful sigh, knowing that she might never have the opportunity to reside in such a place.

Polite servants could be seen everywhere, warmly greeting her. It was an incredible feeling.

Mrs. Lin found herself unwilling to leave this place.

"Welcome to Fengxian Palace," the eunuch said in a hoarse voice.

Mrs. Lin reluctantly tore her gaze away from the magnificent surroundings and entered Fengxian Palace quietly.

Fengxian Palace was situated in the most prestigious location within the palace, adorned with the finest decorations, reflecting unparalleled elegance.

There was an important piece of news awaiting her there.

Both the King and the Queen resided in Fengxian Palace.

Mrs. Lin couldn't help but let out a sigh.

It was truly remarkable how everything had unfolded.

When she first encountered Gu Chaoyan, the girl was sun-kissed and plump, and Mrs. Lin had no interest in associating with her, especially since her birth mother had already claimed half of the Lin Family's assets.

But then Gu Chaoyan saved Jiashu's life.

She became engaged to Lord Huai.

She was hailed as the Phoenix Girl.

And now... she was the revered Queen!

Mrs. Lin couldn't help but think that Gu Chaoyan was the most extraordinary woman she had ever encountered.

With a sigh, Mrs. Lin acknowledged that they had arrived at Fengxian Palace.

This was the first time Gu Chaoyan wore the Queen's robe as she took her seat in Fengxian Palace.

The three members of the Lin Family respectfully greeted her.

"Please," Gu Chaoyan said straightforwardly upon seeing their greetings.

"We've just received some new garments and jewelry in the palace storeroom, Aunt and cousin. I'm sure you'll find something you like. Sword One, accompany them to choose whatever they desire. Uncle, I would like to have a word with you," Gu Chaoyan said candidly.

She still addressed them in a familial manner.

She still chose to address Mrs. Lin as Aunt and Lin Jiashu as cousin, out of respect for her own mother and Lin Jiaying.

Mrs. Lin appeared disappointed and left, searching for an excuse to procure something nice for Jiashu. However, they were now asked to leave the area.

What could be going on?

Perhaps she was not meant to be involved in the Queen's affairs.

Despite her disappointment, Mrs. Lin had no choice but to depart.

Lin Jiaxing remained alone with Gu Chaoyan and Lingyun in Fengxian Palace.

Observing the situation, Lin Jiaxing asked earnestly, “What’s happening? Are you facing any difficulties? Share it with me, and I’ll do my best to help. I may just be a businessman with limited influence, but I’ll give it my all!”

Gu Chaoyan felt her heart warm at Lin Jiaxing’s words.

In this world, where she had no family of her own, Lin Jiaxing, her uncle, displayed genuine affection and concern for her.

Her uncle had misunderstood her due to her refined demeanor, but his love for her was evident.

Gu Chaoyan smiled and said, “It is fine. I am just trying to ask you about something that happened in the past.”

” “ ... ”

“Did the Lin Family have any enemies with anyone, like did mother have anyone who disliked her? Or, did the Lin Family get in touch with any powerful people?”

Lin Jiaxing started to think carefully in head.

Maybe...

The Lin Family used to be an imperial business family, rich for some time.

His father had a great personality.

So as for enemies...

Lin Jiaying thought for a while...

Then he turned to Gu Chaoyan.

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"No," Lin Jiaying responded firmly. "Your grandfather was a kind-hearted man who never held grudges against anyone. The Lin Family enjoyed its glory as an imperial family, and when your grandfather sensed something amiss, he chose to withdraw. Your mother was also known for her kindness and never harbored enmity towards anyone..."

"..."

"How come?" Lin Jiaying asked, sounding very concerned.

Her uncle gave the answer within such a short while, only because her grandpa and mother might be least likely to have become enemies with anyone...

Then her venom could not have been related to the Lin Family.

So...

Could the origin of the venom have something to do with Golden Rolls?

The door to enchantment was opened and Golden Rolls should have been there apart from the sword. But the Golden Rolls were gone. She was drugged and could the person who took away Golden Rolls also drugged her?

That seemed very likely.

Golden Rolls were very important... just look at how desperate Piaomiao Pavilion was.

And they came to Phoenix Girl directly for Golden Rolls, which meant that Golden Rolls were supposed to be in the hands of Phoenix Girl after all.

Then it might be a little difficult to find the solution.

"Chaoyan?" Lin Jiaying felt even more worried seeing her absent-minded behavior. He called her by the name.

Gu Chaoyan instantly brought herself back, smiling. "Uncle, sorry. It is just some minor thing that I believe might have been related to our family. Don't worry."

"..."

"I am now the Queen and the Gu Family is not my own home, but the Lin Family is. You have now become the imperial family's relative!" I think you should take a look at

"....."

"What do you want for the Lin Family? The rank? Jiashu's marriage? And the Lin Family's stores and business..."

"....."

"If the Lin Family had a rank, Jiashu would have a better future."

"....."

"The King has expressed his willingness to grant the Lin Family a rank," Gu Chaoyan revealed, her smile growing wider. "Jiashu has successfully passed the examination, which opens the path for him to serve the court. Uncle, you can continue managing the stores and enjoy a comfortable life at the mansion. Once the rank is finalized, Jiashu's marriage can be arranged by the Ministry of Rites. Alternatively, he can choose a girl he likes, and the King will bestow his blessing upon their union."

"....."

"They have finished selecting the gifts, and it's getting late. Uncle, please take them back home. We will arrange for the items Aunt has chosen to be delivered from the court tomorrow."

As Lin Jiaxing was about to say something, he noticed Gu Chaoyan rubbing her temples, a sign of fatigue. He decided against voicing his concerns at that moment.

Being the Queen came with many responsibilities and challenges. Lin Jiaxing understood the weight on her shoulders and chose not to burden her further.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Lin returned from her distraction and hurried back upon hearing that they were leaving. However, to her disappointment, she only found Lin Jiaxing waiting outside the palace, and the absence of the Queen made her smile fade.

Why was the Queen avoiding her?

With a solemn expression, Mrs. Lin boarded the wagon without uttering a word. Once settled, she couldn't contain her curiosity any longer. "What did she talk to you about?" she asked, her voice filled with apprehension.

"..."

"She was dodging me! She just did not want to give us anything. But her mother took half of the Lin Family's properties.!"

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Lin Jiaxing's disappointment was evident as he observed Mrs. Lin's reaction. He believed that Gu Chaoyan and his sister owed the Lin Family nothing. On the contrary, they had been instrumental in helping the family. Gu Chaoyan had saved Jiashu's life when he was on the brink of death, allowing him to live a normal life as a man.

Lin Jiaxing recognized that their father had been responsible for arranging the dowries, and the amount was at his discretion. He acknowledged that his wife had faced hardships and understood why she might display a certain level of fierceness. However, he felt that it was unfair for her to blame Gu Chaoyan for avoiding her when Gu Chaoyan had done so much for the Lin Family.

Feeling frustrated, Lin Jiaxing confronted Mrs. Lin. "Chaoyan has offered us everything!" he exclaimed.

"...."

Lin Jiaxing continued, his tone stern. "She has secured a rank for us, arranged tasks for Jiashu, and even discussed Jiashu's marriage with the King. She is treating us with utmost kindness and consideration, where is your conscience?"

"...."

Conscience? What did he mean?

She did not need to have any conscience. She was her aunt and that was all she deserved to get.

Good. Now they had everything and she did not need to spend effort to get them.

Rank, Jiashu's job and marriage... good, her niece had the heart after all. I think you should take a look at

Mrs. Lin was in a good mood.

So she changed into a nice smile.

"That is good. We are almost her family and that is what we should get after all. Or it would have been cruel of her! You helped her a lot before, didn't you?" Mrs. Lin said cheerfully. She was going to gather a few friends after they came home. She was going to show off to them!

Lin Jiaying shook her head in disappointment.

He felt an overwhelming sense of despair and concern.

Mrs. Lin's lack of gratitude and her materialistic nature deeply troubled him. It seemed that with the recent turn of events, where things were going well for the Lin Family, she had become even more extravagant and immodest in her behavior. Lin Jiaying couldn't help but draw a parallel between her and Mrs. Gu, seeing the resemblance in their behavior.

The thought of the Lin Family's future being jeopardized by her actions weighed heavily on Lin Jiaying's heart. He had initially considered discussing his concerns with her once they returned to the mansion, but now he felt compelled to address the issue directly.

The Lin Family should not pursue the rank at this moment. They should focus on developing our abilities and achieving something substantial, particularly Jiashu. Only then can we consider pursuing the rank.

"We are a business family and not yet deserving of such a title like those noble families, not at the moment. I will talk about this with her."

Chapter 1785 - Change 1

"As for Jiashu's task, I believe that you can start by working in the court for the civilians. You passed the imperial examination, you know. And I am not going to tell you what to do. You should make the decision yourself. As for your marriage, you can make the decision yourself as well. What do you think?" Lin Jiaying asked.

That was the decision he had just made.

Men were always in charge of the mansion and made decisions, since ancient times.

He respected Ms. Lin's suggestions, usually. But not today. He was going to talk with Jiashu about it. That was all.

Upon hearing this decision, Lin Jiashu nodded without hesitation, expressing his full agreement.

Suddenly, honors and awards were not necessarily the best course of action.

Furthermore, his mother's behavior seemed excessively unconventional. If they continued down this path, the Lin Family might end up like the Gu Family.

They should adopt a low-profile approach and maintain a good reputation.

Chaoyan had been kind to them, and they shouldn't hinder her progress.

“What are you talking about? You don't even want a rank? Without a rank, we are merely business people! That is utterly useless! People will look down on Jiashu if he works as someone from a business family!” Mrs. Lin sounded agitated, raising her voice.

The two men exchanged a glance with each other, silently conveying their decision.

They resolved to no longer adhere to her wishes.

Lin Jiaying gently pulled her aside. “That is the decision I have made. No more objections or refusals. Women have never been meant to hold authority over the affairs of the mansion, as per ancient traditions. Focus on managing your own household matters. No more interference in public matters.”

Despite her protests...

He guided them into the wagon, instructing Lin Jiashu to leave first.

He returned to the court.

The eunuchs in the court treated Lin Jiaying with respect. They guided him to Fengxian Palace upon hearing his request. Subsequently, the eunuchs relayed the message to the Queen.

Gu Chaoyan was preparing to take a break when she learned about her uncle's return. She stepped outside, dressed in casual attire, to meet him.

"What else can I assist you with, Uncle?" Gu Chaoyan inquired, feeling perplexed. She had been almost certain that her past experiences had nothing to do with the Lin Family. However, now her uncle had arrived, and she was unsure of the reason for this change.

Lin Jiaying nodded solemnly and spoke in a serious tone, "Chaoyan, I have pondered over your words. I believe it is best for us not to accept the rank and Jiashu's assigned tasks. You can assign him tasks that align with his abilities, but do not promote him solely because of me. I lack competence, and my wife's behavior is unreasonable. If I were to accept your offer, it could potentially create difficulties for Jiashu and for you."

"..."

"I am here to inform you of this. I will be returning now. If you require anything, relay the message to Jiashu, and I will do my utmost to assist you."

"..."

"It's getting late. Get some rest. I'm taking my leave," Lin Jiaying said wearily.

And so, he departed.

Gu Chaoyan made no attempt to stop him.

After pondering for a while, she comprehended her uncle's intentions.

If her uncle could remain grounded like this, perhaps he would achieve greater things in the future. At present, she felt no sympathy for him.

Once again, silence enveloped Fengxian Palace.

Gu Chaoyan retired to rest and fell asleep.

The following day, as dawn broke, Sword One roused Gu Chaoyan from her slumber, informing her of a matter that required her attention in the rear court.

Gu Chaoyan had just awakened, and her head throbbed. She shivered slightly as she inquired, "Has the weather changed?"

Chapter 1786 - Change 2

Feeling disoriented from her sleep, Gu Chaoyan experienced a wave of dizziness. As she regained full consciousness, she suddenly felt a piercing chill in the air. Hastily wrapping herself in a blanket while still in bed, she spoke with a serious tone, "Prepare thick blankets for the inner chamber, and coal basins as well. Why is the weather changing so rapidly? It's getting much colder!"

Sword One displayed genuine concern and worry upon hearing Gu Chaoyan's shivering words.

What was the Queen talking about?

The weather hadn't changed. It was cool, but not cold. They were still dressed in lightweight attire.

Only the Queen, for some inexplicable reason, felt as if they had suddenly entered winter.

A sudden realization struck Sword One, recalling what Lingyun had mentioned—the Queen had the cold drug within her body, inherently. The Happiness Drug was attempting to suppress that sensation.

In that case...

Was the Queen being overwhelmed by the effects of the cold drug?

Worry etched across Sword One's face.

Gu Chaoyan cast a brief glance at Sword One and noticed that she, too, was dressed as lightly as she had been the day before.

Then, her gaze shifted to the sunlight streaming in through the window.

And then, she understood.

The weather hadn't changed.

She had.

Wearing an expression of unease, Sword One spoke anxiously, "I will fetch Ms. Lingyun and arrange for thick blankets and a coal basin for you, Your Majesty. Please wait a moment."

Gu Chaoyan maintained a composed demeanor, feigning ignorance of Sword One's desperation.

Ever since Lingyun had provided her with detailed information about her condition, she had known that this day would inevitably arrive.

Well...

Gu Chaoyan let out a slight sigh.

In the imperial study,

Zhou Huaijin had spent the entire night sorting through matters concerning Shiling Palace and the court. He had even secured a position for Lin Jiashu. Everything was settled.

He believed that Chaoyan must have awakened and that they could enjoy breakfast together.

Despite his fatigue, Zhou Huaijin wore a contented smile.

Just as he was about to rise from his seat, Sword One burst into the room. “Head, please go to Fengxian Palace immediately.”

“What has happened?” Zhou Huaijin asked, his concern evident.

“The Queen complained about feeling cold. If Lingyun is right and the cold drug is spiraling out of control, then...” Zhou Huaijin abruptly left the study without allowing Sword One to finish relaying the message. He hastened towards Fengxian Palace with great urgency.

What could be happening?

Hadn’t she mentioned that she was improving? Why was this happening again?

Zhou Huaijin felt deeply concerned.

He arrived swiftly at Fengxian Palace.

Numerous servants were busy preparing coal basins and blankets. Some were closing the windows, even though it was a pleasant day with fresh air flowing through the open windows. However, considering the condition of the Queen, it was necessary to shut them.

Zhou Huaijin dashed inside, paying no heed to the greetings.

He enveloped Chaoyan in his embrace. “How are you feeling? Are you still feeling extremely cold? Any discomfort?”

He held her tightly, unwilling to let any hint of chill reach her.

Chapter 1787 - Change 3

“Just a slight chill, an old problem. You’re already aware of it. Nothing to worry about,” Gu Chaoyan calmly reassured him.

The warmth from the lit coal basins provided her with some comfort, easing her discomfort.

However, Zhou Huaijin couldn’t shake off his unease upon hearing Gu Chaoyan’s words.

Yes, she had experienced similar issues in the past, but it hadn’t been as severe as it was now.

He had already exerted considerable effort in searching for Mr. Zhao and other potential talents, but there had been no progress. No one seemed to know where Mr. Zhao had taken his mother. They had previously discussed living in the southern region and having Mr. Zhao regularly report their situation to the capital. However, to this day, they hadn’t received any reports, nor had they been able to locate them in the southern area. Had they changed their location? Or had they purposely secluded themselves from the world?

Zhou Huaijin’s anxiety grew more intense.

“I feel extremely cold. Please lie down with me,” Gu Chaoyan requested, gently massaging his temples and urging him not to become overly anxious.

—

At the hostel,

Ouyang Mingjing received the news about the situation at Fengxian Palace shortly after the commotion had begun.

“What? The Queen was fine yesterday, and now she’s feeling extremely cold?” Ouyang Mingjing furrowed his brow, his expression concerned.

“Yes, City Lord. She was in good health the day before, but now they’re delivering coal basins and blankets to Fengxian Palace,” the guard from Snow Territory replied.

Ouyang Mingjing’s face darkened.

“Who is responsible for this?” Ouyang Mingjing inquired, displeased.

He would rather exercise patience than resort to methods that could potentially trigger the poison within her body. It was far too risky. Dealing with the poison was no easy task.

“Not us, but she did visit Duke North Mansion yesterday, so…” Longqing suggested.

“Go and investigate that matter!” Ouyang Mingjing, who had previously been calm and composed, suddenly displayed a different countenance. He was infuriated by this turn of events.

Longqing nodded.

Ouyang Mingjing stood up. “I’m heading to the court.”

Even the Elder Men didn’t attempt to stop him.

He entered the court alone.

Although nobody from Snow Territory was responsible for the current situation, the Elder Men secretly rejoiced at this unexpected turn of events. It was a stroke of luck. They were preparing to return to Snow Territory soon, as there was currently no leader in place, and the situation there had spiraled out of control. If City Lord could return promptly, it would undoubtedly help improve the situation.

Ouyang Mingjing proceeded into the court alone, requesting a meeting.

News of his arrival reached Fengxian Palace as well.

“What is he doing here? I don’t have time to see him. I’ll see him when I have the opportunity,” Zhou Huaijin snapped, displaying his displeasure. He truly disliked the man, and hearing this news only added to his irritation.

“Mr. Head, it concerns the Queen’s poison,” Fu Bao reminded him. He was present at the moment, seeking permission for a particular matter.

“He knows about the poison?”

Zhou Huaijin’s expression grew serious.

He did believe that Ouyang Mingjing had knowledge of the poison. In fact, Zhou Huaijin couldn’t help but suspect that Ouyang Mingjing had deliberately appeared on their wedding night precisely because of his awareness of the poison. Although he had a strong aversion to the man, for the sake of Gu Chaoyan, he couldn’t simply dismiss him.

“Let him come in,” Zhou Huaijin reluctantly instructed, his displeasure evident.

Chapter 1788 - Change 4

Zhou Huaijin sat in Fengxian Palace, his expressionless face betraying his constant thoughts about the poison coursing through Chaoyan’s body.

The City Lord of Snow Territory had claimed knowledge of the poison, leaving Zhou Huaijin almost certain of his understanding. However, he remained unsure whether this knowledge would benefit Chaoyan or not.

Snow Territory and Pavilion had their own ulterior motives for approving their actions. Their intentions were solely self-serving.

Zhou Huaijin didn't want Chaoyan to suffer from any poison, nor did he anticipate her harm at the hands of these people. He was determined to shield her from any harm, without a single flaw.

Suddenly, Ouyang Mingjing hurriedly walked into the room.

He spotted an empty seat and promptly took it, without greeting anyone, not even the King of the Saint Divine Land. His demeanor was always a mix of mildness and arrogance.

In Ouyang Mingjing's eyes, he considered himself superior to everyone else.

Zhou Huaijin admired this aspect of Ouyang Mingjing, but he remained cautious towards him, as he knew Ouyang Mingjing had approached them with a hidden agenda, devoid of any personal attachment.

"Speak your mind now," Zhou Huaijin said coldly. He might not be a seasoned manipulator, but his presence commanded respect—an attribute even Ouyang Mingjing had to acknowledge.

Ouyang Mingjing observed Zhou Huaijin carefully, aware of Phoenix Girl's exceptional discernment.

In the Saint Divine Land, he was undoubtedly the most outstanding man.

It was a pity, though.

Phoenix Girl had her own predetermined destiny, and he couldn't be her husband forever.

“Where is she? Release her so that I may speak with her. I have something to discuss with her, not with you. I won’t utter a word until she is present,” Ouyang Mingjing stated bluntly.

Zhou Huaijin appraised him, contemplating a response. Fu Bao grew visibly displeased and was ready to counter him...

However, Zhou Huaijin halted him, instructing him to convey the message instead.

Zhou Huaijin was certain that if Ouyang Mingjing had made this demand, he would follow through with it. There were numerous hidden guards present, yet he remained unchallenged.

Zhou Huaijin could choose to listen to what he had to say.

A gentle expression crossed Ouyang Mingjing’s face. He didn’t appear arrogant due to Zhou Huaijin’s compromise, nor did he push for more.

Yet, this only deepened Zhou Huaijin’s concern.

Ouyang Mingjing possessed a composed state of mind. He didn’t even need to resort to threats, indicating his indifference toward the King.

Dealing with Ouyang Mingjing proved to be an exceptionally challenging task.

Zhou Huaijin's expression darkened.

Gu Chaoyan entered, her figure draped in flowing garments. She didn't exchange pleasantries but instead took the seat beside Zhou Huaijin. He poured her a cup of tea, offering it to her to ward off the chill.

Ouyang Mingjing's gaze lingered on Gu Chaoyan.

She appeared frail, her frame hidden beneath the layers of clothing, and a hint of pallor graced her complexion.

Gradually, warmth enveloped the hall. Ouyang Mingjing observed Zhou Huaijin's preparations upon his request to meet her.

This couple...

Chapter 1789 Change 5

They appeared to be a couple perfectly attuned to one another, with one showing care and the other exuding gentleness in their presence. It was an ideal pairing...

Impressive, truly impressive.

However...

Fate had decreed that they couldn't be together.

It was the Head of Snow Territory who was destined to marry Phoenix Girl, not Ouyang Mingjing.

"Get to the point," Gu Chaoyan spoke icily, her gaze fixed on Ouyang Mingjing.

She had a keen ability to see through people and grasp the bigger picture.

After all, she now stood on the opposite side of the equation.

Ouyang Mingjing felt a tinge of bitterness, though he managed to conceal it.

"Cold poison is the most severe type of poison. Those afflicted with it eventually succumb when they can no longer bear its effects. The person who previously helped suppress the poison within you was astute. They utilized a Happiness Drug to balance out the cold poison. In theory, you shouldn't have to suffer any further. Your physical condition may be different, but it isn't as dire as before."

"..."

"You find yourself in this state today because of one reason..." Ouyang Mingjing paused, his words laden with irony as he turned to Zhou Huaijin. "Because of him!"

"..."

"He evokes love within you. As you begin to love, the Happiness Drug within your body diminishes. But it's fortunate that your wedding night wasn't consummated, or else... you would have perished!"

"..."

"You don't have much time left, anyway," Ouyang Mingjing stated, his gaze fixed on Gu Chaoyan as if she were a woman on her deathbed.

Gu Chaoyan furrowed her brow.

She had to concede that there might be some truth to his words. Her current state was indeed a result of her experiencing love.

However, she wasn't pleased with how Ouyang Mingjing framed it.

Why did he portray Huaijin as the culprit? I think you should take a look at

Ultimately, it had been her own doing.

She was a woman.

A woman was a human being entitled to feelings and emotions.

She couldn't control that, and it so happened that Huaijin was the person she had fallen in love with.

Why was Huaijin being blamed in this scenario?

Gently, Gu Chaoyan caressed Zhou Huaijin's hands, silently assuring him not to take Ouyang Mingjing's words to heart. They couldn't control his speech, but they could make their own judgments and decisions.

"Do you have a solution?" Zhou Huaijin inquired, his mind consumed by the realization that Chaoyan's time was running out.

Chaoyan's life held utmost importance.

If only she could survive... he would go to any lengths.

"Yes," Ouyang Mingjing replied. "Within Snow Territory, in my hall, there exists a Fire Lotus that has aged over hundreds of years. It possesses the ability to detoxify the cold poison."

"..."

"But the Fire Lotus solely belongs to the Head... It is both practical and invaluable," Ouyang Mingjing added.

"..."

"With it, your poison will be eradicated," Ouyang Mingjing whispered.

"What do you desire in return?" Gu Chaoyan questioned Ouyang Mingjing, her gaze fixed on him.

She knew he must have a purpose in mentioning the Fire Lotus. Nevertheless, Gu Chaoyan remained steadfast in her principles.

Ouyang Mingjing smiled.

She understood everything.

"The City Lord of Snow Territory can only be accepted by the people if he marries Phoenix Girl," Ouyang Mingjing began.

Chapter 1790 - Collaboration 1

"Fire Lotus is an incredibly precious entity, and I cannot simply part with it without receiving something in return," Ouyang Mingjing stated solemnly.

He was well aware of what he desired in exchange.

Gu Chaoyan understood his intentions clearly.

She immediately rejected the proposition. “It’s impossible. I am the Queen of the Saint Divine Land, Huaijin’s wife. Our union is set, and nothing can alter that.”

She would rather face death than compromise her position for the sake of the Fire Lotus.

Gu Chaoyan expressed her resolute stance, unwilling to entertain any further discussion on the matter.

Her words came forth spontaneously, without consideration. She declared that she would rather die than become someone else’s wife.

In that moment, Ouyang Mingjing felt a wave of sadness and grief engulf him.

Half of his heart had already been seized by Acacia beans, and he was no longer as fixated on Phoenix Girl. However, the idea of marrying Phoenix Girl had become deeply ingrained in his heart, and Gu Chaoyan had become like a snow lotus within Snow Territory, taking root within his heart.

Although his devotion towards her had waned, the pain he felt upon hearing Gu Chaoyan’s words still gnawed at his heart.

It was a kind of anguish that couldn’t be assuaged by any form of training or medicine. It pierced his heart like a tiny blade.

Gu Chaoyan remained resolute in her decision.

However, Zhou Huaijin found himself wavering.

It seemed to be the only viable solution to save Chaoyan in the present circumstances.

He deeply desired for Chaoyan to be his alone, but above all, he wished for her to live a pain-free life. If she could survive, he could protect her in secret. That would be sufficient.

“Chaoyan, you must live. Don’t concern yourself with my feelings,” Zhou Huaijin urged.

“Impossible,” Gu Chaoyan replied firmly, her gaze locked with Zhou Huaijin’s. She prevented him from continuing. He had treated her too well for her to betray him simply to pursue a life of her own. She had her own principles to uphold.

Ouyang Mingjing observed the couple, one willing to make sacrifices while the other vehemently opposed. Yet, they were acting for each other’s sake.

He smiled wryly...

“But I haven’t finished yet. Don’t be so hasty. Snow Territory needs Phoenix Girl because some elder figures within Snow Territory are on the verge of rebellion, inciting the populace to overthrow me. I lack the power to counter them alone,” Ouyang Mingjing explained.

“...”

“I require Phoenix Girl’s assistance. Once she appears, the civilians will rally to my side. All I ask is for Phoenix Girl to support me temporarily,” he continued.

“...”

“You can accompany me to Snow Territory to retrieve the Fire Lotus and stage a performance together. Once I have achieved my goal, our act will come to an end,” Ouyang Mingjing proposed, his gaze fixed on Gu Chaoyan.

He was well aware that if he insisted on marrying Phoenix Girl, he would still be unable to take her away under the current circumstances. However, by framing the marriage as a mere performance, he could create an opportunity to bring her along.