

Divine 281

Chapter 281: Home Again

The guards at the doorstep were not behaving as fiercely as before. They said with a shivering voice at the sight of Gu Chaoyan, "Elder Miss, it is the Old Master's order that we should stop you. We have to pass on the message of your return before you are allowed to enter the yard."

They spoke flatteringly as they gazed upon Gu Chaoyan.

Instead of showing much emotion, Gu Chaoyan nodded. "Then just go and pass on the message."

The guards let out a sigh of relief, as one of them walked into the room.

Gu Chaoyan and Sword One were waiting outside at the doorstep.

The two guards did not even dare to look into Gu Chaoyan's eyes. They felt that Elder Miss had changed. She seemed very intimidating even if she was staying silent.

The guards were shivering for a long while. They all let out a sigh of relief, as the message that Gu Chaoyan should enter was delivered and they saw her leave.

After they let out a sigh of relief one of the guards asked in confusion, "What are you fearing Elder Miss for?"

That question startled the guards. Yes, why?

It seemed that after Madame Gu's maid passed away because of showing disrespect to Elder Miss, many people at the mansion subconsciously started to fear her.

Gu Chaoyan had no idea what the guards were thinking. She was about to walk towards her own Qiong Pavilion when Chen Fu stopped her halfway.

Gu Chaoyan had noticed that Chen Fu had lost quite a lot of weight after not seeing him for a while. He also looked tired and exhausted. He said quietly at the sight of Chaoyan, "Elder Miss, Old Master asks you to see him in the front yard."

Gu Chaoyan found that something was wrong with Chen Fu. He did not seem to be in the right mood, but for one moment, she could not figure out what caused this. So she nodded and started to walk towards the front yard.

Apart from Gu Zhenkang who was seated in the hall, Gu Ruxue was also there. She looked quite proud.

Gu Ruxue arrived home earlier than she did, since she was taking the Gu Mansion's wagon. She was in a very good mood, since she was the only one who was picked up by the wagon of the mansion. It had also been she who asked the guards to pass on the message about Chaoyan's return. Honestly, Gu Ruxue had thought that Gu Chaoyan would not dare to come home, but now, it seemed that Chaoyan was so thick skinned that she dared to show up in front of her.

That was not a big deal for her. Gu Chaoyan had always been thick skinned enough to stay at the Gu Mansion no matter what she looked like. Gu Ruxue would have killed herself if she had been humiliated in this way.

Gu Ruxue sneered, saying nothing more.

Gu Zhenkang looked up at her disdainfully. "What are you still doing here?"

"Didn't I stress that you should never offend County Princess Anxi and that you should make sure she stays happy! But look at what you have done?! You humiliated her at Saint College! What if she wants to do something about our mansion? Are you able to get us out of trouble? You should never have offended County Princess Anxi!" Gu Zhenkang looked furious and he snapped at Gu Chaoyan.

Gu Ruxue showed a brief smile as she looked at Gu Chaoyan.

Gu Chaoyan ignored the two figures in front of her and said, "County Princess Anxi stabbed and hurt my horse, so she was driven out of Saint College. How am I related to this?"

Chapter 282: Family Law

"She stabbed your horse accidentally! That was such a minor matter that you should ignore it! You should have told Officer Ming what happened, so Officer Ming would not have punished her! If County Princess Anxi knew that you were begging mercy for her, she might probably not have taken this seriously!" Gu Zhenkang snapped at Gu Chaoyan as if he were talking with a useless person.

This girl born by the business family was so stupid that she had no idea how to play tricks! No wonder she offended County Princess Anxi?!

Gu Chaoyan squinted at Gu Zhenkang. "A minor matter? If I had not taken control of the horse, I would have died at the pitch!"

"So what?!" Gu Zhenkang said nonchalantly.

Even if Gu Chaoyan did not care about Gu Zhenkang at all, she was still furious hearing what he had said. She said nothing but turned around, ready to leave.

Seeing her leaving, Gu Zhenkang got so angry. He was now the master of the whole mansion and he had the say of everything. How dare this b**ch girl throw her temper at him by leaving without telling him? He struck so hard on the table that the tea spilled. "Where are you going?"

"You think you can leave like this?!" Then he pointed at the guards outside. "Someone, come and get her! Punish her with the family law!"

Hearing that Chaoyan was getting punished, Gu Ruxue got so excited and happy.

Gu Chaoyan pushed her when they were at Saint College. Now she was going to see what Gu Chaoyan could do!

As the guards took hold of Chaoyan, Gu Ruxue finally stood up from the chair. Then she looked at Gu Chaoyan who was about to get the family law. "Honestly, sister, you should obey Dad. We are different now. When I marry Lord Ling, more and more people will focus upon our mansion, and we should watch our actions. But now, you have offended County Princess Anxi, and that puts Dad in a very embarrassing situation. Sister, you will never remember what trouble you have caused, unless we punish you now."

Gu Ruxue said with a serious voice.

Gu Zhenkang nodded, thinking that Ruxue was totally right. What a smart girl who had unique opinions. She deserved to be the concubine of a Lord. With Ruxue around, he would be totally assured about his family.

“Just look at your sister! She is so smart and understanding. If you are half as smart as she is, you would not have caused so much trouble.” Gu Zhenkang snapped at Gu Chaoyan furious. “Do it now!”

Scared as the guards were, they still obeyed the order.

Sword One, however, took a step forward and said, “No one touches Elder Miss!”

Gu Zhenkang pointed at Sword One and shouted. “How dare you!”

At this moment, Chen Fu arrived and looked at Gu Zhenkang with a look of fear. He thought for a while and revealed the news. “Old Master, someone from the Jiang Mansion is here.”

The Jiang Mansion?

Gu Zhenkang paused. Then he suddenly remembered that the Jiang Mansion was the Queen’s family.

He looked at Gu Chaoyan with confusion and said to Chen Fu. “Let him in.”

Then he drove away everyone in the hall impatiently. “Just leave now.”

Seeing the scene, Gu Ruxue got anxious. “Dad, are we still punishing her?!”

Gu Zhenkang looked a little bit uncomfortable. He should have done that but now... “Let’s drop it for the time being, Ruxue. We shall see what the Jiang Family needs.”

Chapter 283: The Jiang Mansion

Gu Chaoyan had once treated Madame Jiang, and she succeeded in helping her recover. That was why Madame Jiang had been taking her side all this time. Since he had no idea what the Jiang Family needed of her, he should not be punishing her at this moment.

Gu Ruxue was not very pleased by how Gu Zhenkang behaved after hearing that the Jiang Family was here. She threw herself back into the chair, looking gloomy.

She threw an even more disdainful look at Gu Chaoyan, as she clenched the mug in her hands, glaring at Gu Chaoyan fiercely.

Gu Chaoyan sensed the glare so she showed her a brief smile.

That made Gu Ruxue even more annoyed. Her hands shook, as the tea spilled out of the mug and ran over her hand. She let out a scream, then came a maid who helped her to wipe the water off. Gu Ruxue got even more furious. She smashed the mug on the maid and said, “What do I need you for, when you can’t even do this simple thing well?!”

The maid did not dare to move an inch though she was already burned. She just stood on the spot, shivering from head to toe.

Gu Chaoyan frowned. She truly did not like how Gu Ruxue treated the servants, but she did not dare to point that out. If she did, Gu Ruxue might treat this maid even worse.

Seeing that someone from Jiang Mansion was on the way, Gu Zhenkang waved at the maid impatiently, "Just leave now."

The maid left directly. Then another maid came to serve Gu Ruxue.

Due to what happened to the previous maid, she was shivering even more as she stood next to Gu Ruxue.

The housekeeper of the Jiang Mansion walked in and showed a very nice smile at the sight of Gu Chaoyan. "Greetings, Lady Chaoyan."

Gu Chaoyan nodded with a smile, "Uncle Jiang!"

Then Uncle Jiang greeted Gu Zhenkang and said, "Officer Gu, Madame Jiang heard that Chaoyan has arrived home from the successful examination at Saint College, she asked me to bring Lady Chaoyan home to us for a short stay."

Then he explained after he took a look at Gu Zhenkang. "Don't worry, Officer Gu, there are not so many people at our mansion. General passed away a long while ago, and only one of the Queen's children is living there, as well as Madame Jiang. Sometimes Lord Huai comes and visits us, so nothing serious will happen."

Gu Zhenkang showed a bright smile. Of course he would approve of that proposal. If she could spend some time at the Jiang Mansion, then it meant that the Gu Mansion and the Jiang Mansion would have a relationship with each other, and that would make everything better. Gu Zhenkang approved of the proposal directly and thought that the girl was a little useful in some way.

"I am totally assured about her staying next to Madame Jiang. Just take her, as you want." Gu Zhenkang said with a look of flattery. Then he turned to Gu Chaoyan with a look of seriousness. "While you are at the Jiang Mansion, do remember to take good care of Madame Jiang, understand? Don't make her unhappy!" He had intended to make some threat, when he stopped himself. The housekeeper of the Jiang Mansion was here, so he should not have behaved too obviously.

Gu Chaoyan threw a flat look at Gu Zhenkang, saying nothing more.

Gu Zhenkang had no patience to talk with Gu Chaoyan any more. He waved his hands. "Just leave with Housekeeper Jiang, and bring the luggage you brought to Saint College. There is nothing left at the mansion now."

He was very worried that Housekeeper Jiang would ask someone to help her pack up at the Qiong Pavilion.

Chapter 284: Understood

The Qiong Pavilion where Gu Chaoyan lived was the only place that did not get updated when the whole mansion went through renovation years back. No one from the Gu Mansion was asked to do any cleaning of that place either.

Qing was a capable maid, of course, but she was too young to take care of everything. What she had been doing was to make sure Gu Chaoyan ate, lived, dressed and travelled well.

Even at this moment, Gu Chaoyan was still forced to live at the Qiong Pavilion. If the news was known to others, Gu Zhenkang might be considered to have mistreated his own daughter. The Gu Mansion was no longer as minor as before, and more and more people were focusing upon them now. He was going to become Lord Ling's father-in-law soon, so he should not cause a rumor for Lord Ling.

Uncle Jiang had no idea what Gu Zhenkang meant. So he assumed that it was only because Gu Zhenkang barely offered Elder Miss anything in daily life, so she had so little luggage. So he stepped forward and said, "Elder Miss, you don't have to do too much packing. The Jiang Mansion will buy you whatever you want."

Gu Chaoyan smiled at Uncle Jiang and thanked him.

She did not spend so much time with Uncle Jiang before, they just exchanged some words at the Jiang Mansion when she was treating Madame Jiang. She had not expected that he could defend her on this occasion.

Gu Chaoyan felt warmth arising inside her heart.

She knew what Gu Zhenkang was afraid of at the moment. He was not going to hide whatever he did to her, since he already did those terrible deeds.

Just because no one knew about this now did not necessarily mean that he could hide it forever, but Gu Chaoyan did not have the interest of lingering upon this matter at the moment. She nodded and left with Uncle Jiang. Gu Zhenkang even asked Chen Fu to see them off, just to show how much attention the Gu Mansion was paying to this proposal.

Chen Fu stayed silent as he was following them.

It was not until they came to the doorstep when Chen Fu said with hesitation, "Elder Miss, if you live well at the Jiang Mansion, don't ever come home. I will help you take care of Qing."

Gu Chaoyan looked at Chen Fu with an unexpected look.

Chen Fu had been a housekeeper for the Gu Mansion for decades, probably starting from the time before Gu Chaoyan was born. Gu Chaoyan had asked Sword One to investigate this man before, and it seemed that he was not here because of Mrs. Gu. Although he had never bullied her during the past few years, yet he did not do anything for her either. Nevertheless, if he were Mrs. Gu's staff, she could have dealt with him easily.

However, the investigation showed that Chen Fu was not Mrs. Gu's staff, but the Eldest Master's man. Chen Fu had been the housekeeper all the time, even if the Elder Master was already long gone. So he should have favored Madame Gu, if he ever had any preference.

Gu Chaoyan stopped paying much attention to Chen Fu after hearing the news, but she had not expected that he would have reminded her all of a sudden.

She was not sure what had happened for him to change, nor did she know what had happened recently for him to be asking her not to come home. She glanced cautiously and saw herself surrounded by the staff from Jiang Mansion. Uncle Jiang noticed that Chen Fu was about to say something, so he asked the staff of the Jiang Mansion to back up a little bit, keeping themselves away from their conversation.

Assured, Gu Chaoyan asked. "What happened?"

Chen Fu, who had been hesitant, finally said, "Madame Gu used to be in charge of the mansion, so nothing big would happen. Now Madame Gu is not doing well, and she is no longer in charge. Also, the two young masters are coming home soon, so you are going to have an even harder time here. Luckily, you have got Madame Jiang, otherwise..."

Chen Fu did not continue. He greeted Gu Chaoyan and did not move.

Gu Chaoyan did not force him to say anything more, but said, "I see."

Chen Fu let out a sigh of relief.

Chapter 285: Princess Xunyang

Gu Chaoyan asked Chen Fu to retreat.

After Chen Fu left, Uncle Jiang and his men came to Gu Chaoyan, not asking her anything as if nothing had happened. Then he asked Gu Chaoyan to get on the wagon and headed towards the Jiang Mansion with everything well prepared.

In the wagon, Gu Chaoyan frowned as she thought of the two Young Masters of the Gu Family. She was not going to fear them. However, what Chen Fu did and said was quite confusing. What was going on?

Sword One could not help but ask, "Elder Miss, what is wrong with the two Young Masters that the housekeeper talked about? Are they also going to treat you terribly?"

Gu Yunhe and Gu Yunxuan?

Well, Gu Chaoyan shook her head slightly. "Gu Yunhe is Mrs. Gu's son whilst Gu Yunxuan is another concubine's son. They used to bully me, but now they would not dare to do anything." Gu Chaoyan said calmly, paying no more attention to these two men.

She did have a slight impression of these two men. They used to be arrogant and conceited Young Masters, because both Madame Gu and Mrs. Gu favored boys of the Gu Family in a general way.

However, Madame Gu was smarter than Mrs. Gu. When Princess Gu failed to get the two boys a proper job, Madame Gu sent them into the military. In the army, one of the generals was a friend of the deceased Elder Master, so that in this way, the two boys got to train themselves. If all went well, they did not have to take the frontline because of the old friendship of the family, and if they ever achieved something in the military, they could find themselves a great position in the capital city. However, the two young masters had achieved nothing great at all.

Now Gu Ruxue was marrying Lord Ling and the two young masters were no longer fit for being soldiers. Gu Zhenkang and Mrs. Gu might have thought about getting them back so they could work for Lord Ling.

That was not the right move.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head slightly. "Don't mind them. They are not even as skilled as you."

"Okay," Sword One felt assured hearing the words.

They chit chatted and then arrived at the destination. It was the Jiang Mansion again.

Uncle Jiang called out to her, as Sword One helped Gu Chaoyan off the wagon.

Uncle Jiang was guiding the way whilst every servant at the Jiang Mansion greeted Gu Chaoyan politely. Gu Chaoyan suddenly thought of how Madame Gu kept bragging about the Gu Family being literatis who paid attention to manners, but the fact was that when the servants of the Gu Mansion saw her, they never behaved or greeted her according to proper manners. On the other hand, the way the servants of the Jiang Mansion behaved probably showed how well-educated people should be like.

Uncle Jiang guided Gu Chaoyan all the way to the front yard of the Jiang Mansion, where Madame Jiang was waiting for her, showing an affable smile. Next to her was a young girl whom Gu Chaoyan met before.

“Greetings, Madame Jiang and Princess Xunyang.” Gu Chaoyan greeted them and Madame Jiang greeted her back. “Just get up. We are not that strict with rules and manners.”

Then she beckoned to Gu Chaoyan and asked her to sit next to her, “We have cleaned the room, and you can stay there as long as you want. We don’t have so many residents here or rules, so don’t be so nervous.” Madame Jiang then turned to Uncle Jiang. “Bring her to the room.”

Gu Chaoyan greeted her and followed Uncle Jiang.

She knew that it must have been Zhou Huaijin’s intention of asking her to stay here at the Jiang Mansion, rather than Madame Jiang’s.

Her yard was located not very far from the front yard. She was just about to pass through a small patch of woods when Princess Xunyang rushed out, stopping Gu Chaoyan and staring at her with a pair of widely-opened eyes.

Chapter 286: Restaurant Jixian

Gu Chaoyan almost got shocked by her sudden appearance. After she calmed herself down, Chaoyan was about to greet Princess Xunyang formally when Princess Xunyang pulled her up. “Chaoyan, I knew you were staying here, so I told Queen Mother that I need to be here. Please bring me to have some fun!”

Princess Xunyang spoke carefully as if she were talking with a good friend whom she had not met for ages.

Gu Chaoyan’s face sank. As far as she remembered, she only met this Princess once at the Lord Huai’s Mansion. At that time, she was with County Princess Anxi! She thought that she was a good friend of County Princess Anxi!

Well... Before Gu Chaoyan was able to say anything, Princess Xunyang took hold of her hands and guided her into the yard saying, “You and Brother Lord Huai have opened a restaurant, haven’t you? Bring me to the restaurant to have some fun, please. I have never been out of the imperial court in my whole life.”

She sounded very pitiful. She did have the intention of checking out Yellow Crane, but no one wanted to bring her there!

That made Gu Chaoyan a little confused.

As they walked into the yard, Sword One got them tea and snacks to eat.

Princess Xunyang was still nagging about going to the restaurant. That gave Gu Chaoyan a headache, so she nodded. "Then come with me to the Yellow Crane tomorrow. You can also try our branded dish there."

The moment Gu Chaoyan agreed, Princess Xunyang's eyes widened. She nodded constantly. Then she hurried off, saying that she was going to tell Madame Jiang about this.

Silence descended and Gu Chaoyan let out a sigh of relaxation. Then she took up the cup and sipped the tea. The scent of the tea spread around, making her feel rather fresh. It was Pu'er tea that had been stored for a long time, fragrant with a unique taste. She liked it very much.

As the teacup was emptied, Sword One filled the cup again and said as she put down the kettle. "Elder Miss, do you find Princess Xunyang a little bit noisy? Well, she has been living in the court throughout her entire life, that is why she is a little bit noisy when she is out of home. She regards you as her friend, that is why she behaves like that."

Gu Chaoyan looked at Sword One with confusion. Her friend?

Sword One could not help but burst into laughter at the sight of her Miss. She explained, "The Queen has two children, namely Lord Huai and Princess Xunyang. Lord Huai is three years older than Princess Xunyang, and he has been living outside the court for years. Nevertheless, the brother and the sister have a great relationship. So of course, Princess Xunyang is treating you as her own friend, when you are someone that Lord Huai likes!"

Gu Chaoyan was surprised. She had not expected that Princess Xunyang was actually Lord Huai's sister! Maybe it was because Zhou Huaijin also treated her coldly back at his Mansion, so she did not think about her identity in that way. However, they were brother and sister!

Gu Chaoyan smiled and nodded. "I get it now."

Sword One said no more.

The following day, Princess Xunyang came to Gu Chaoyan. Gu Chaoyan asked Sword One to dress her as a man. Princess Xunyang was not against that at all, but found it rather fun.

As the wagon headed towards Yellow Crane, they passed by Restaurant Jixian which seemed quite bustling. Gu Chaoyan lifted the drapery and took a look at it.

There was a huge crowd gathered at Restaurant Jixian.

Gu Chaoyan asked Manager Song the moment she walked into the Yellow Crane, as she had no idea what was happening. "What is going on with Restaurant Jixian?"

Chapter 287: Bet

Manager Song became even more gloomy, as he heard what Gu Chaoyan said. He showed an empty seat and asked Gu Chaoyan to sit down, as he told her the story. "Restaurant Jixian is running a wine competition. Anyone who is able to exceed the brewer of Restaurant Jixian will be able to get 500,000 yuan and free drinks at Restaurant Jixian."

"The contest has been going on for three days and it is not coming to an end. Yellow Crane has been out of business for almost three days." Manager Song said unhappily.

He did have the intention of getting Yellow Crane to boom, so he could show some achievement for Elder Miss. However, the business had just gone a little bit upwards, when something like this happened.

That was why he got very gloomy.

Princess Xunyang, who was dressed as a boy, said, "It is quite difficult to beat the brewer from Restaurant Jixian. His family have been brewing wine for generations, and he grew up drinking wine and he never gets drunk. During the past few years, no one has been able to exceed him. Restaurant Jixian has been winning a great deal of money through the contest!"

Gu Chaoyan heard about this before.

Manager Song felt quite gloomy, but she said with a way of consolation. "Don't worry about that. It is just a matter of days before guests lose interest in drinking there. When this contest is over, Yellow Crane can get back to our business. If we don't have so many guests these days, the staff can take turns taking a break."

"But..." Manager Song was about to say something when he found that what Elder Miss said made sense. That was what business was always like. So he nodded.

He was about to follow her order when a riot arose at the doorstep. Manager Song and Gu Chaoyan turned around and saw County Princess Anxi, who spotted Gu Chaoyan inside the restaurant. "Gu Chaoyan, let's have a bet, shall we?"

Gu Chaoyan was speechless. This County Princess Anxi was so damn annoying. She wanted one more bet after her loss at Saint College.

Gu Chaoyan threw a look at the waiters who were stopping them, indicating that they could come in. Only then did the waiters release them unwillingly.

"What is the bet?" Gu Chaoyan asked calmly.

"Let's have a bet on wine drinking! If anyone from Yellow Crane can exceed our brewer, then we will never sell wine again! Vice versa, how does that sound?" County Princess Anxi asked with a look of pride.

Oh well...

Everyone from Yellow Crane, including Manager Song, looked helpless.

No one was able to drink as much wine as the one from Restaurant Jixian. So of course, they should never take the bet. Manager Song whispered in Gu Chaoyan's ears. "No, Elder Miss, that would not work."

Gu Chaoyan patted Manager Song's shoulders and suggested that he should be assured.

"Sure, when do you want to have the bet?" Gu Chaoyan asked calmly.

Hearing what Gu Chaoyan said, Manager Song got so frightened that he dropped the teacup in his hands.

County Princess Anxi could not help but laugh at the sight of this.

She knew that Gu Chaoyan was trying to puff herself up at her own cost. She was very glad to see what she was going to do when she lost the bet.

After County Princess Anxi told Gu Chaoyan the time, she left happily.

The staff in the restaurant got anxious, especially Manager Song. "Who should we send to participate in the competition?!"

Chapter 288: Forbidden

None of the waiters was able to take the job, nor could the chefs in the kitchen. Since Elder Miss agreed to do the bet, he had to turn to Lord to find someone equally skilled from Shadow Door.

They could not lose the bet!

Manager Song went through the whole plan and calmed himself down. He looked at Gu Chaoyan and said, "Don't worry, Elder Miss, I will find someone fitting for this job."

Gu Chaoyan blinked at Manager Song. She was not asking Manager Song to find someone fitting!

She shook her head slightly. "No need, I have already got a candidate."

What? Manager Song was surprised.

He let out a sigh of relief. Since Elder Miss was prepared for the bet, then the problem would be solved. No one from Shadow Door was good at drinking. People from Shadow Door were not allowed to drink often so as not to miss work. So if they had to find someone from Shadow Door, it had to be people with relatively better martial art skills and internal energy, at least better than those of ordinary beings.

"Who is it?" Manager Song asked excitedly. Hopefully, that candidate could help them win the bet.

"Me, of course." Gu Chaoyan pointed at herself.

Manager Song was startled. He almost lost his balance. Luckily, he had no teacup in his hands right now, or he would have dropped it again.

He shook his head constantly. "No, no, Elder Miss, you can't do the contest. You are a girl, you are never going to beat the strong men!"

“Elder Miss, we made the bet, but we still have time to come up with a method. We are definitely going to find someone who can do it!” Manager Song kept nagging.

For the first time in her life, Gu Chaoyan found Manager Song extremely noisy.

After Manager Song finished his speech, Gu Chaoyan patted Manager Song’s shoulder. “Don’t worry, I am sure that I can win the contest, that is why I said yes to the bet! I will go and do the contest tomorrow, you don’t have to worry about anything, just focus on Yellow Crane alright? You are getting very busy!”

As she finished saying this she asked Manager Song to arrange some food for Princess Xunyang.

Princess Xunyang had never eaten hot-pot before, so she found the whole thing interesting. She kept speaking highly of the food.

“Chaoyan, how did you come up with this method?” Princess Xunyang asked casually as she was fully devoted herself to the food.

Of course, she borrowed the idea from her experience in the previous life.

Chaoyan made up a false story to counter Princess Xunyang.

When they finished the food it was already evening time.

As they came to the doorstep of the Jiang Mansion, Gu Chaoyan stressed. “Princess, do not tell Madame Jiang about me joining the wine-drinking contest.”

Princess Xunyang nodded and promised with confidence. “Don’t worry, I won’t. I am not going to ruin your image!”

No girls would raise such a bet with anyone, after all!

Gu Chaoyan felt assured. After spending some time with Princess Xunyang, she found her to be an innocent and happy person. So she was worried that she would mention the incident in front of Madame Jiang.

As for wine drinking... She was not at all good at it. A well-trained agent would not possibly have the chance to drink wine! However, she was still confident about this contest!

Chapter 289: Never Say Never

No matter how excellent that person might be, or how much he could drink, her space was always bigger.

She had not minded Restaurant Jixian stealing Yellow Crane’s business, since business was just like this, but County Princess Anxi was so greedy that she intended to eliminate the whole liquor business of Yellow Crane! She was not very pleased with it, so she was not going to spare any efforts to eliminate the whole liquor business of Restaurant Jixian instead! In this way, Yellow Crane would become better and more popular.

Zhou Huaijin had told her something about this before.

Restaurant Jixian was running business depending upon Peach Flower Brew, which was an ancestor wine passed down through the generations. If one day Restaurant Jixian stopped selling liquor, then that would mean the end of its business.

So she was actually in a good mood.

She went back to her own yard and started to read some medical books at home, which made Sword One very worried. "Miss, the contest is coming tomorrow, are you going to practice or not?" She had never seen Miss drinking any alcohol before, so this sudden contest made her very worried.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head with a smile, and continued to read her book.

Seeing that there was no need to get worried, Sword One stopped showing any concern any more.

The following day, Gu Chaoyan understood why Sword One stopped showing any concern, when she saw Zhou Huaijin standing in the yard with his arms crossed. Sword One had found help!

"What are you doing here?" Gu Chaoyan asked.

Before Zhou Huaijin could answer her question, a cheerful voice arose from behind. "Brother, what are you doing here?"

A pretty young man dressed in male clothes greeted his eyes.

Zhou Huaijin recognized who it was. He frowned instantly. "What are you doing here?"

"I am going to Restaurant Jixian with Chaoyan." Princess Xunyang took Chaoyan's hands as she spoke.

Discomfort arose inside Zhou Huaijin. He indifferently took hold of the hand inside Princess Xunyang's hands, and pushed away Princess Xunyang.

Since Zhou Huaijin was here, one more wagon was prepared.

Zhou Huaijin got Princess Xunyang to take the other wagon whilst he shared the same one with Gu Chaoyan.

As they two were seated in the wagon, Zhou Huaijin showed a look of seriousness.

If not for Sword One's information, he would not have known that this girl was going to have such a competition!

The man from Restaurant Jixian was the heir of the brewery. He grew up drinking alcohol! He was a strong man too, so how could Chaoyan beat him! Even if she could beat him, she would have to take in lots of alcohol, and he did not want Chaoyan to take the risk.

Whilst he stayed silent, Chaoyan was also seated there quietly.

After a while, Zhou Huaijin got even more furious. He said with a stiff tone, "I will go and do the contest instead."

Gu Chaoyan had been seated with her eyes closed, so she was startled by his words. With eyes widened, she said, "You? No, you won't be able to. I will do it myself."

Zhou Huaijin knitted his eyebrows. He approached Gu Chaoyan and looked at her with a tight gaze. "You should never say 'you won't be able to' in front of a man, you know."

Gu Chaoyan had not understood what he meant, and was about to counter him when she suddenly realized what happened.

She flushed slightly. Subconsciously, she gave him a slight push. "I don't mean that."

"..."

"What I mean is that you won't be able to beat the man at Restaurant Jixian in wine drinking."

Chapter 290: The Contest

Zhou Huaijin was still staring at Gu Chaoyan motionlessly.

It was a cool day of early spring, and Gu Chaoyan felt heat arising inside her. She felt a little warm. Even though she was in a close relationship with Zhou Huaijin, she was still not feeling that comfortable with him so close.

"I am sorry." Gu Chaoyan gave up. "But don't stay so close to me."

She was so nervous that her eyelashes were shivering.

Seeing the way she behaved, Zhou Huaijin did not continue, but caressed her cheeks gently and withdrew, putting his hands back where they belong.

They had spent quite a lot of time together these days. So he had a pretty clear understanding of what Yan was like. She never made promises that she could not accomplish. She was not like other ordinary girls. She was proud and she wasn't someone who hid behind him. He was just a little bit concerned about her. He did not want to interfere with her private life.

He took hold of her hand that was hanging down, then he said seriously, "I will compete with you."

Gu Chaoyan was still flushing. Hearing that he insisted on competing, she thought for a while and nodded whilst whispering, "Just do as much as you can."

Zhou Huaijin nodded.

The wagon pulled over and they had arrived at Yellow Crane.

Zhou Huaijin got off the wagon, offered her his hand and helped Gu Chaoyan off the wagon. Then Princess Xunyang came to her and saw Gu Chaoyan's strange behavior. "Chaoyan, what happened to you? Are you feeling unwell? Why is your face so red?" She said as she tried to feel Gu Chaoyan's forehead.

Gu Chaoyan took hold of Princess Xunyang's hands and said as she avoided her gaze, "It's fine, just a little hot in the wagon."

Hot? Xunyang checked the thick outfits she was wearing. It was autumn and the weather was getting colder and colder at the Saint Divine Land. Why was it hot in the wagon? She was there too, and she didn't find it very hot.

Xunyan followed them with a confused look on her face.

Zhou Huaijin, on the other hand, was quite pleased. He kept smiling along the way.

At the sight of Manager Song, Zhou Huaijin was still wearing a smile on his face. Manager Song touched his eyes and thought that he had not seen it right. He was only assured when he saw his master showing a bright smile at him, but Elder Miss was standing next to him in silence.

Manager Song seemed to have understood the reason.

If the Lord was here, the bet with Restaurant Jixian would not be a problem any more. He was definitely going to find a solution.

They were just discussing when a proud pageboy from Restaurant Jixian came running, urging them. "What are the Yellow Crane staff doing here? Are you too afraid to do the contest?"

The page boy was blocked outside the restaurant, so he did not know what was inside.

Gu Chaoyan looked at Zhou Huaijin who nodded. Then they started to go out with Sword One and Fu Bao, startling the proud pageboys. They were all startled by Zhou Huaijin's appearance. They never knew that Lord Huai was there as well

"Let's go," Gu Chaoyan said coldly.

They were just shivering when Fu Bao stopped them. "Lead the way."

The pageboys walked forward with their heads lowered.

Restaurant Jixian was not very far away.

County Princess Anxi was very glad at the sight of Gu Chaoyan. She thought that she would be able to do anything to her, as long as she was here. However she had just taken a few steps when she spotted Zhou Huaijin and her expression changed.