

Divine 451

Chapter 451: Me

"Mom, it is me!" Gu Yunhe's voice arose.

He had opened the door, but he had no idea that he had just startled Mrs. Gu, so he just walked in with a look of indifference. He did not close the door either.

Mrs. Gu truly found her son annoying at that moment, but she did not snap at him since he was her son, after all. Her suspended heart was finally unloaded.

"Close the door, Lianxiang!" Mrs. Gu shouted.

Lianxiang instantly closed the door.

Quiet dominated the whole room.

Gu Yunhe poured himself a cup of tea and saw that his mother was too anxious. He said nonchalantly, "Mom, what are you doing? You are the owner of the yard and they would never dare to spill out your secret if they want to keep their family alive. You are not cruel enough to threaten them!"

He poured himself a cup of tea in satisfaction. Though the fact that he had to serve himself was very annoying.

Mrs. Gu frowned. She sighed.

Before she was able to figure out what she should do with Ruxue, Yunhe was here messing things up. Now he was a man with a job, and he should not be so straightforward. He would face setbacks if he kept doing this!

She did not like it when Madame Gu asked him to join the army at Jiayu Pass, but she was unable to fight against Madame Gu back then.

However, now this son of hers had wasted years at the army – he had learned nothing from the experience. What was he going to do working in the capital?!

Even if Mrs. Gu did not want to blame her son for anything, she had to warn him at the moment.

"Yunhe, nothing is as simple as you assume."

"You are cruel, but the cruelty only makes our men devoted. Yunhe, there are more than our men in the mansion. You are a straightforward man, but not everyone is as straightforward as you."

"Especially when we are in a different position now. People have their eyes upon us. Also, we have offended other people before, and they may have sent moles into our place. We are not even sure which ones are the mole." Mrs. Gu reminded him.

She had no idea that Yunhe would have been so simple-minded.

The Gu Mansion would be done for, if he became the master!

She started to blame Madame Gu again.

“It is Madame Gu’s fault. She made you waste so much time in the army! If a strategist could have taught you when you were little, everything would go much easier.” Mrs. Gu said. “I have found you a strategist. He is a wonderful man, you have to make use of him.”

Hearing what Mrs. Gu said, Gu Yunhe had a look of realization.

He had never thought about this before – he was so careless. No wonder he never succeeded in his work! His devoted men might have not been that devoted to him after all.

“Madame Gu was causing me trouble! I would have been hurt by her again, if she were not paralyzed now,” Gu Yunhe said with a fortunate tone. It was his mother who was in charge now, luckily.

Now when Gu Yunhe understood the point, Mrs. Gu would not say anything more.

With eyes upon Gu Yunhe, she asked in confusion. “What are you doing here, rather than keeping the Lord company in the front yard?”

Chapter 452: What?

Reminded by Mrs. Gu, Gu Yunhe finally understood that someone might be eavesdropping by the wall and that he should not talk as he would so that secrets didn’t get revealed from his own mouth.

He suddenly became more cautious, so he lowered his voice. He said with displeasure, “I found an excuse to sneak out just to speak with Ruxue.”

Mrs. Gu was surprised.

Gu Ruxue, who was not paying attention to Mrs. Gu and Gu Yunhe, came back to herself and asked Gu Yunhe in astonishment. “What is it, Elder Brother? Anything you want to say?”

Could it be related to the job? She already asked Lord Ling to arrange the best job for him. What was he unsatisfied about?

Gu Ruxue showed a displeased look on her face. She was so stuck with her own business, and now she had to help her annoying brother, but Gu Yunhe never cared about her changing expression.

Hearing what Gu Ruxue asked, he said straightforwardly, “Nothing special, it is about Lord Ling. Ruxue, Lord Ling likes you so much, and offered you the position as the Equal Princess Consort, you have to try your best to suck up to him.”

“...”

“Even the concubine’s son Gu Yunxuan was addressed as Second Brother by Lord Huai! You have to speak with Lord Ling, he has to address me as the Elder Brother! Or how would I go about in the world? I am worse than Gu Yunxuan, the concubine’s son! How would I be able to run the family with such a reputation?”

That displeased Gu Yunhe most.

He was expecting Lord Ling to address him in that way on this trip back to the bride’s home, but Lord Ling showed no sign of doing that at all. How could he feel assured by this? So he came to talk with Ruxue about this.

She was offered the position of Equal Princess Consort, how could he not be addressed as the Elder Brother?

Hearing the words, Mrs. Gu was surprised as she patted Gu Yunhe. "Yunhe, don't trouble your sister. He is the Lord, and he has his own way of making decisions. Lord Ling would get very displeased if your sister asked him to do so."

"That is not a major thing! She has been given the position as the Equal Princess Consort!" Gu Yunhe said, unable to fathom a thing.

Mrs. Gu sighed. If only Gu Ruxue could make the strangeness happen at any time she wanted, she would not have stopped Gu Yunhe, but the truth was that she just could not.

Without any idea of what to do, Mrs. Gu spoke with Gu Yunhe about the whole thing. After that, Mrs. Gu stressed. "You have to keep this matter a secret!"

Gu Yunhe gasped. He looked at Gu Ruxue in disbelief. He had not expected that something like this had happened.

If that was true, then the day when Ruxue could make strangeness appear in the sky, he could get whatever he desired?

Gu Yunhe rubbed his hands. "I got it, mom."

"Don't worry, I will not ask Lord Ling to address me as Elder Brother now. I will keep the secret of her identity as the Phoenix Girl. We will wait until the time is right," Gu Yunhe said excitedly as if he had foreseen how he would shine at the peak of his lifetime.

"I will go back to keep the Lord company." Gu Yunhe said.

Mrs. Gu nodded, then she asked Gu Yunhe to leave the room first.

After he left, Mrs. Gu asked Lianxiang to get the stuff she had been preparing for two days.

She had been so worried these days, so she got something for Ruxue so that she could at least have a back-up choice.

When Lianxiang got it for them, Gu Ruxue asked in confusion while looking at the bottle, "What is it?"

Chapter 453: A Narrow Path

"This thing keeps Lord Ling in your room." Mrs. Gu said.

She had this prepared, because she was worried that Lord Ling would care about what happened at the study and developed some disgusted feelings towards Ruxue. She should have given this to Ruxue on her wedding day, but the medicine maker said that it took time for this thing to be ready. So she had to wait. A couple of days ago, when Mrs. Gu urged that medicine maker again, he gave her one bottle for the time being. So Ruxue could be given this on her trip back home.

Gu Ruxue had been confused. A while later, she understood it all.

Mrs. Gu stressed. "Let's leave the identity behind for the time being. Before everything is settled, what matters most of all is to keep Lord Ling in your room. The best thing is to get pregnant and have a baby. With a baby around, you will definitely flourish no matter what happens in the future. Got it?"

Gu Ruxue took the bottle and nodded.

Her mother was right. What mattered most right now was to keep her status at the mansion.

Especially when there was no prince born at the mansion, so if she gave birth to a baby first, then her child would definitely get ranked according to what Lord Ling had promised her earlier.

"Mom, you are so nice!" Gu Ruxue said with a moved tone.

She had been so anxious during the past few days at Lord Ling's Mansion, but now she was back home and her mom got everything ready for her. In this case, she did not need to worry about anything.

Mrs. Gu gave a gratified smile.

When she was young, she had been thinking about bringing down Ms. Lin who died very fast. From that day on, Mrs. Gu had no other wish than to put all her hope upon her two children. As long as they could do well, her life would become fulfilled.

Now, it seemed that her life's wish could be fulfilled.

Mrs. Gu asked Gu Ruxue to put away the thing, when the sound of door knocking arose again.

It was Chen Fu who said politely, "Madame, Princess Consort, the lunch is ready, the Lord is asking me to tell you to go to the front yard."

Mrs. Gu answered briefly.

She was done with speaking with her daughter. It was time to visit the front yard. So she went with Gu Ruxue to the front yard.

Chen Fu followed behind with his head lowered.

After being kicked by the Young Master, he had not been feeling well these days. He was wobbling. If not for the cream Elder Miss gave to him, he was afraid that he would not make it through.

Chen Fu followed behind with a bitter look on his face.

As they came to the front yard, Lord Ling was already standing in the yard.

Seeing Gu Ruxue coming, he said gently, "Let's leave."

Gu Ruxue was surprised. Weren't they supposed to eat lunch now?

"Lord, aren't we having lunch now?"

"No, I am busy, so we won't be staying," Lord Ling said gently, yet he gave no space for an argument.

Gu Ruxue was surprised. She threw a look at Gu Zhenkang who kept giving her blinks.

Gu Ruxue was helpless too. She had not had a smooth time these days, so she did not dare to counter Lord Ling. So she had to pretend that she had not seen Gu Zhenkang's suggestion.

Instead, she followed Lord Ling out of the mansion.

Gu Zhenkang was very displeased, but he was still following them and seeing them off at the mansion.

What was the point of the trip back home, when they were not eating anything here. They did not even finish the tradition!

Gu Zhenkang thought inwardly.

They had just walked out of the mansion, when Zhou Huaijin was about to walk in. Dressed in a purple robe, he looked radiant.

Zhou Huailing suddenly got distressed. He asked, "What are you doing here?"

Chapter 454: Mrs. Gu's Displeasure

Zhou Huaijin never showed any emotion on his face when facing other people, as if he were out to kill people at any time, but seeing his brother not so happy today, he knew that he was displeased by his appearance, so he became even happier.

He showed a bright smile and said cheerfully, "King Father is asking for Chaoyan, so I am coming to pick her up for the visit to the court."

Zhou Huailing showed an even worse expression on his face.

King Father was asking for her? Were they getting married?

Zhou Huailing clenched his fists, looking very unconvinced.

He was the best man in the whole land, and Lady Chaoyan should be his. Why was she marrying his brother?!

"Are you leaving? Alright then, have a nice trip." Zhou Huaijin showed a bright smile, adjusted his blouse and started to head towards the Gu Mansion.

Zhou Huailing clenched his teeth, saying nothing more.

Now that Lord Huai was at the doorstep, Gu Zhenkang was out there receiving him too.

He gave a push to Gu Yunhe, suggesting that he should stabilize Lord Ling whilst he himself was out there receiving Lord Huai.

He had just taken a few more steps, when Zhou Huaijin threw a look at Gu Zhenkang. "Don't worry, Officer Gu, I will do it myself."

Then he hurried off directly.

As Gu Zhenkang came to Lord Ling, Zhou Huailing was showing a very terrible expression on his face too – did this old man choose to help his brother instead of himself, because he thought that he was worse than his brother?

Furious though he was, he just could not utter a word at the moment.

Zhou Huailing left directly with the wagon instead of sparing one more look at the Gu Family.

Dust covered the sky.

Gu Zhenkang coughed and waved the dust away. Then he walked in to see if Lord Huai needed anything.

Zhou Huaijin was walking out with Gu Chaoyan.

With no expression on his face, Zhou Huaijin said, "Officer, King Father doesn't like waiting, so I am taking Chaoyan away."

Then he helped Gu Chaoyan up into the wagon and asked Fu Bao to leave directly.

The wagon took off, causing dust that covered the sky.

Gu Zhenkang waved his hands and coughed, mumbling, "What is going on?"

He did have two son-in-laws who were lords now, and they were both lords with backgrounds, but neither of them had the intention of staying for lunch. What a minor father-in-law he was!

Gu Zhenkang mumbled as Mrs. Gu glanced at him. "Serve you right!"

"What are you talking about?" Gu Zhenkang was displeased. He had worked so hard these days just for the sake of the Gu Mansion! How could Mrs. Gu speak like this?

Gu Zhenkang was displeased.

"Of course it serves you right! Lord Ling was still here and you already sucked up to Lord Huai! Lord Ling of course would get mad! If not for Ruxue Lord Ling would have snapped at you!" Mrs. Gu was displeased too. Ruxue had not yet stabilized her position at Lord Ling's Mansion and now her father was messing things up!

She saw what Lord Ling looked like a while ago.

Now Lord Ling did not snap at Gu Zhenkang, but he might push the blame to Gu Ruxue!

She was very annoyed.

Gu Zhenkang said with back straight, "So what? Lord Huai is here, and someone needs to receive him! You and Yunhe can receive Lord Ling! Lord Huai needs attention too."

"Also..."

Chapter 455: Here You Come

"Also, Lord Huai is marrying Gu Chaoyan as the Princess Consort whilst Lord Ling is marrying Ruxue as the Equal Princess Consort who is under the real Princess Consort, so of course Lord Huai is more important when compared." Gu Zhenkang analysed with a reasonable tone.

That was why he was sucking up to Gu Chaoyan despite her mother who was born in a business family and why he behaved so politely in front of Lord Huai.

Hearing these words, Mrs. Gu burst into an angry laughter. She thought that after spending so much effort, Gu Zhenkang would at least favor Ruxue instead.

Unexpectedly, he was only out for his own interests.

Ms. Lin's daughter used to be a disdained daughter born to a business family, but when she became useful, he ignored that fact completely.

At the beginning, it had been Mrs. Gu's father who helped him gain a job position where he was now, but now...

Mrs. Gu looked angry. "Since you prefer Gu Chaoyan, then go and stand by her side!" Then she left directly.

When Ruxue's real identity was revealed and everyone knew that Ruxue was the Phoenix Girl, she was going to make everyone, including Gu Zhenkang, regret it!

Gu Zhenkang had no idea what Mrs. Gu was angry about. He was the master of the Gu Mansion, and both Ruxue and Gu Chaoyan were ladies of the mansion. Even if Gu Chaoyan was born by a daughter from a business family, she was marrying Lord Huai as the Princess Consort after all, which would be very beneficial for the Gu Mansion. Wasn't it wonderful if he could get both sides balanced? Only in this way would he be able to get the biggest benefits for the Gu Mansion.

When the Gu Mansion gained the biggest benefits, it would boost and Yunhe would do well too. She, who was the madame of the Gu Mansion and who was born in an official family, seemed to be ignorant of the whole principle!

"Yunhe!" Gu Zhenkang called Gu Yunhe next to him, hoping that he would understand the principle and console Mrs. Gu.

Gu Yunhe left directly after snorting. He simply had no idea why father would behave like that in front of Lord Ling!

Gu Chaoyan might be the Princess Consort, but so what? Ruxue was the Phoenix Girl, who was going to have an extremely bright future! Father had simply dropped the major for the minor.

Gu Yunhe shook his head, thinking that his father was indeed dumb!

Standing on the spot, Gu Zhenkang sighed seeing that no one fathomed his intention.

In the wagon.

Gu Chaoyan asked Zhou Huaijin in confusion, as she was drinking the hot tea. "Why was I asked to visit the court all of a sudden?"

It was a deep autumn day, and the air was getting cold. Especially in the past two days...

Gu Chaoyan felt that she was more sensitive to coldness than normal people. It was only autumn now, but she felt that the air was rather cold. Only the hot tea in her hands made her feel better.

Zhou Huaijin noticed that too. He sensed her hand and asked, "Feeling cold?"

"A little." Gu Chaoyan answered. "It is fine."

Zhou Huaijin believed that it was the changing weather that made her feel cold. Also, Sword One had dressed her too lightly, so he put on a cloak for her, then he said, "I'm not sure what it is about. Don't worry, I am always here for you."

Gu Chaoyan nodded. She was never worried, even in the court... She believed that Zhou Huaijin would be able to handle everything for her.

As the wagon was driven into the court, no one stopped it since it belonged to Zhou Huaijin.

Soon they came to the court.

Led by the Eunuch-in-Chief, they started to head towards the imperial study.

It was not the first time for her to be at the imperial study, because when the Empress Dowager asked to see her for the first time, she came to the imperial study through the King.

"Here you are." The King sounded very old.

Chapter 456: The Wedding

"Greetings, King Father, Greetings King." Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan bowed.

The King waved his hands, suggesting that they did not have to behave so strictly.

There were piles of documents lying on the desk in front of him. With only the Eunuch-in-Chief around, he looked quite exhausted. He pointed at the lower seats and asked, "Just take a seat."

He turned to the Eunuch-in-Chief and suggested that he should pour the tea.

Gu Chaoyan took the teacup and sipped the tea.

It was raw Pu'er tea being served, which made Gu Chaoyan frown. Raw Pu'er tea was a good sort of tea, but it was normally served in summer rather than in deep autumn, when tea tasted totally different.

Gu Chaoyan disliked the tea, so she used the teacup to warm herself up instead rather than drink it.

"You don't like tea, Lady Chaoyan?" The King put down the document as he was speaking with her, as he looked at Gu Chaoyan with a look of searching.

Gu Chaoyan, the Elder Miss of the Gu Family, was born by a mother who was the daughter of a business family and who passed away ages ago. And from that day on, she had not been liked at the mansion.

However, a disgraced lady seemed to have some knowledge of tea! That was interesting.

Gu Chaoyan did not like to get by when it came to tea, so she said straightforwardly, "Well, raw Pu'er tea is more suitable for summer, not for deep autumn, when Tieguanyin can taste much better."

The King laughed. He seemed to be in a very good mood.

"The Eunuch has been careless." The King said casually.

Gu Chaoyan frowned as she looked at the King, who was laughing. She suddenly realized that something was wrong.

The King was trying to embarrass her.

Instead of showing any emotion, she threw a look at Zhou Huaijin and started to go through several thoughts.

“Son, Lady Chaoyan is a very fun girl, and you should marry her as soon as possible.” The King said with an affable expression, “I asked you to come today, because I wonder when you are getting married. Your brother has hosted the banquet, and it should be your turn. Set the date as soon as possible, or if you are too busy, I can ask the Ministry of Etiquettes to help you with the arrangement.”

Hearing what the King said, both Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan could not smile at all.

Especially Zhou Huaijin who said straightforwardly without much hesitation. “Father, since we are already engaged, the wedding doesn’t have to be hosted so soon. Chaoyan is still young. She doesn’t become an adult until winter. We can set the date after the ceremony is held, so I believe the earliest time should be in spring next year.”

Hearing these words, the King was still smiling yet the smile was not heartfelt any more.

He had thought that his son would not talk against him, but he seemed to attach great importance to this Elder Miss of the Gu Family.

Gu Chaoyan was silent as she watched the whole thing.

Zhou Huailing was in too much of a hurry when marrying Gu Ruxue, and Gu Ruxue became an adult earlier than her, which would just be one or two more months. Nevertheless, Zhou Huailing held the wedding against etiquette. That did not mean that Zhou Huaijin would ignore etiquette as well.

It would cause a lot of rumors if he married his Princess Consort before she even became an adult. And the adult ceremony after the wedding would become quite embarrassing as well.

Like should the ceremony be held at the mansion or at her own home.

The King seemed to be careless about these, and instead urged Zhou Huaijin to marry her as soon as possible. Why?

Chapter 457: Gossips

Could it be because of Zhou Huailing?

As everyone knew, Zhou Huailing’s birthmother Princess Jing was not a Princess that was liked by the King, otherwise she would have been upgraded in her position. However, during the past few years, she had given birth to a son who was granted the rank of a king, and she still remained as the Princess. Zhou Huailing himself did not even believe that he was the adorable son his father claimed him to be. So why did the King try to ask Jin to get married just to not embarrass Zhou Huailing?

Gu Chaoyan fell into deep contemplation.

Quietness dominated the whole imperial study for one moment.

Soon the King smiled as well. "That is my fault, I haven't noticed that Lady Chaoyan is not yet an adult. I am just thinking about gathering up all the happy things together in one year. If that is the case, we can wait until spring for the wedding."

"Yes, Father." Zhou Huaijin replied politely.

"Since you are in the court, go and visit your mother, I am done here," the King said in exhaustion.

Zhou Huaijin replied, then they bowed and left the study.

As they walked out of the imperial study, neither of them spoke. They had to behave very discreetly in the court, so no matter how much they had in mind, they could not say a thing. Therefore, Zhou Huaijin led Gu Chaoyan to head for the Weiyang Palace where the Queen was residing.

Gu Chaoyan remembered the way to Weiyang Palace, but as they came halfway, Zhou Huaijin suddenly thought of something. "Hang on here, I need to fetch something."

Gu Chaoyan was confused. What was he trying to fetch now?

She nodded, thinking that it might be something important. So she stood there on the same spot.

As she had just been waiting there for a few seconds, a crowd came walking along the long corridor.

Gu Chaoyan had no idea who they were, so she took a few steps backwards, lowered her head and greeted them.

It was a noble lady leading the crowd. She threw a look at Gu Chaoyan and continued to walk forward without pausing.

She said as she walked, "I just don't get it. Why does Lord Huai insist on marrying someone like the Elder Miss of the Gu Family? She is so terribly-behaved, and rumor says that she even steals stuff from the servants, and she has neither the looks nor the talent. I just saw her, and she looks so dull."

The lady was speaking loudly. She did not care if Gu Chaoyan heard her or not.

Gu Chaoyan did not move.

Zhou Huaijin had just returned with flowers when he heard what the woman said. He looked so furious and was about to go to her when Gu Chaoyan stopped him directly, shaking her head. She could not tolerate the rumor about her, but she was not scared of her social status either.

However, as she heard the words, she knew that her past rumors were something that could not be removed.

What she needed to solve was the root cause, rather than someone who talked about the rumor.

She did not care what others said to her in the past, but now things are different. She was marrying Zhou Huaijin sooner or later.

She must not have any rumors around her, especially the rumors which Mrs. Gu pushed upon her. She needed a better solution.

Zhou Huaijin understood what she meant, but he was still quite concerned about her.

He passed the flowers to her and said, "Here you are."

He noticed the flowers on his way to the court the day before. They looked very nice.

Gu Chaoyan did not expect that, so she smiled sweetly.

"Here is the Weiyang Palace." Zhou Huaijin reminded her.

Chapter 458: In the Court

Gu Chaoyan nodded. She had met the Queen before, so she was not at all nervous. The Queen had been living in the court for decades, yet she was a very easygoing person who held no grudge towards Gu Chaoyan.

Weiyang Palace was the Queen's bedroom, it was magnificent and imposing.

The servants were busy with different stuff, with their heads lowered and back half-bent, since noble ladies were seen everywhere here.

Gu Chaoyan did not like the concept of different classes, but there was nothing she could do about it. So they just walked into Weiyang Palace.

When Aunt Nan saw Lord Huai and Gu Chaoyan, she smiled brightly. "Greetings, Lord Huai and Lady Chaoyan!"

After she greeted them, Aunt Nan smiled friendly, "She is in the room resting, I will go and tell her about your visit."

Zhou Huaijin nodded, defaultly approving of Aunt Nan's proposal.

He and Gu Chaoyan took a seat down in the outer chamber.

He visited Weiyang Palace often, so he knew Weiyang Palace well. He asked the servants to bring some tea for Gu Chaoyan and then said gently, "Queen Mother is getting old, and she is often tired in deep autumn. I believe that she is taking a nap now, so we might have to wait for a while."

Gu Chaoyan smiled. She did not mind waiting at all.

They were just talking, when a voice with a scolding tone arose. "Huaijin, you are making me a lazy person in Chaoyan's eyes."

The Queen had arrived.

Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan both got up and bowed.

The Queen waved them off, came to Gu Chaoyan and helped her up as she said, "You don't have to conduct so many greetings here at Weiyang Palace."

She pointed at the seats close by. "Take a seat."

The Queen was an easygoing person, but Gu Chaoyan still needed to obey the rules in front of her. She did not take the seats directly as the Queen asked her to. Instead, she waited until the Queen took her own seat. This was a small detail that made the Queen rather pleased.

Although she thought that as long as Zhou Huaijin could marry someone he liked, she would not interfere with him at all, she was the mother after all... She would be even happier if Huaijin picked someone who was a great match for him.

There were many noble ladies in the capital, the Queen had met many as well.

The Elder Miss of the Gu Family might be born in a very ordinary family, but the way she behaved, talked and dealt with affairs stood out above all, making the Queen feel very assured.

“What brought you here?” the Queen asked in surprise.

Zhou Huaijin had been granted the title of lord and had his own mansion, so his visits to her were limited. That was why the Queen was surprised.

Zhou Huaijin looked at his mother concernedly – there were many things he did not want to tell her, in case she got worried, but he had to be honest, because the court was a deep valley that swallowed anyone who accidentally fell. Only by being careful would someone reach the end safely.

He was very concerned about the Queen, but he had to be honest with her at the same time. He took a sip of tea.

“Father asked me to bring Chaoyan to the court and asked us about our wedding day. I am thinking about waiting until Chaoyan becomes an adult to host the wedding, which will be next spring. I can wait for the remaining half a year. Chaoyan is my Princess Consort and I should offer her the best and perfect wedding!”

Chapter 459: The Changed King

Zhou Huaijin confessed the whole story to the Queen. He knew clearly that the Queen agreed to join the court, only because she loved the King, otherwise the Queen would never have enjoyed life in the court at all.

During the past few years, he was aware of how true the Queen was being to the King, but in the past decades, the King had way too many women and a world to control, so many things had changed. Yet one thing that was certain was that the Queen was still in love with the King. Whether or not he was showing the same feelings was unknown to Zhou Huaijin.

He told the Queen the truth, because he hoped that the Queen would make a clearer consideration about that. She should be aware of the situation she was in.

Hearing his words, the Queen did not even manage to hold her teacup, so the hot tea spilled. Seeing the scene, Aunt Nan helped the Queen to take away the teacup and looked at the Queen’s hand concernedly, “You are so careless, I will go and fetch the cream.”

“I am fine,” the Queen said.

Seeing the scene, Gu Chaoyan took out cream and passed it to Aunt Nan. “Aunt Nan, use this please.”

Aunt Nan was startled, then she thought of how excellent Lady Chaoyan was in medicine, so the cream she offered should be useful.

So she took it and dabbed it on for the Queen.

The cream was made with magical water, which made up the majority of it. It felt very cold upon her hands, and soon the redness on the Queen's hands was gone.

The Queen, as well as Aunt Nan, was surprised. "Chaoyan, your cream works so well."

Even when she was using the best cream in the court, the wound would still take at least two days to heal, but Chaoyan's medical cream did it within seconds.

The Queen was suddenly reminded of how she told her about being excellent at medicine despite the prescriptions, and that the prescriptions were not that useful after all for any doctors. She had thought that the words made sense, but she had never experienced it. Now she finally understood that Chaoyan was truly good at medical skills, not only using the prescriptions.

"I made it when I was free, if you think it is great, I will pass some to you." Gu Chaoyan said with a smile.

The Queen finally had a slightly better mood. She had fallen into a bad mood when she heard Huaijin's words.

She had thought that the King had been standing in line with her regarding Huaijin's wedding – he could marry whomever he liked. Also, a rough man like him should not have been that careful about too many things. So when she heard the story today, she could not find any excuses.

Even if he was a rough man, he should not have asked Huaijin to get married so fast, going against the rules.

It was Zhou Huailing's own matter if he went against etiquette, but her Huaijin was not going to betray Chaoyan.

What made the King do so? That was what distracted the Queen till she upset the tea a moment ago.

She sighed inwardly. The Queen said to Gu Chaoyan, "It is quiet now in Cining Palace, the prescriptions you offered them have kept them busy. The imperial doctors all studied the prescriptions to see if they were fabricated, but they said that the prescriptions were truly excellent, something they can't do. That is why you are free now."

"I have been worried that you would be affected by the revealed prescriptions, but it seems that..."

Chapter 460: A Puppy?

"I am not worried at all. Even the imperial doctors are not as excellent as you are!" the Queen said with a smile. She was worried, but now she was happy. Huaijin had found a really outstanding Princess Consort.

"Thank you, Queen." Gu Chaoyan did not know what to do when she was praised, so her ears turned slightly red. She was not a girl who was good at speaking nice words, but she could put things into practice.

After staying in the court for decades, the Queen could tell people's personalities apart. She was aware of what Chaoyan was like, so she did not mention anything about that. Instead, she just said a few other things and chatted with Zhou Huaijin.

That made Gu Chaoyan relax slightly.

They were just speaking, when Susu's voice arose. "Seven, don't run about."

Seven?

Gu Chaoyan was pretty aware of this name. Zhou Huaijin once mentioned that she resembled Seven a great deal.

She had thought that it was a Princess in the court whose mother was in a close relationship with the Queen so she appeared often in Weiyang Palace. That was why Zhou Huaijin knew her well.

She was not very good at dealing with children, so she got slightly nervous when she heard the name. She wondered what she was about to say later.

As Gu Chaoyan was distracted, a white silhouette ran towards her. Gu Chaoyan took a closer look at it and found that it was a white puppy.

Her face twisted. Where did this puppy come from?

She was about to see who else was coming, when Susu came running and mumbling, "Seven, stop running about." Then she took it and looked at Gu Chaoyan in embarrassment. "Lady Chaoyan, I am sorry, Seven is a bit restless these days, it is almost impossible to catch it. You were not startled, were you?" Susu asked concernedly.

After she knew that Lady Chaoyan was reminding the Queen for her safety, she started to like Gu Chaoyan truly, though she did not used to like her that much.

She asked her because she worried that Gu Chaoyan might have been startled.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head subconsciously, "I am... fine."

However, complications hovered over her face.

So... Zhou Huaijin was telling her that she looked like a puppy?

Gu Chaoyan observed the puppy carefully. The puppy had wide, black eyes and its fur was white and fluffy. It was very cute, but what did Zhou Huaijin think of her when he said that she looked like a puppy.

She threw a glare at Zhou Huaijin. She had thought that it was a princess! Instead it was a puppy!

She would have not known the truth if not for the visit here at Weiyang Palace.

Zhou Huaijin was feeling rather happy seeing Gu Chaoyan's complicated expression. He could not help but laugh – it was the first time for him to see such an expression on Gu Chaoyan's face.

Seven did resemble her. Their eyes were so large. Especially when the two pairs of large eyes were staring at him – they looked so much alike.

Susu had not noticed that something weird was going on, but seeing the reactions of the people in the room, she suddenly felt that she had made some mistakes.

Especially Lord Huai – that was the first time for her to see Lord smiling so brightly.

Lady Chaoyan was looking at Seven.

“Do you like Seven, Lady Chaoyan? You want to hug her?” Susu asked, assuming that Lady Chaoyan must like Seven a great deal for her to look at Seven for so long.

Gu Chaoyan’s face, which had just returned to normal, twisted again.