

Divine 461

Chapter 461: Princess Xunyang

She liked the puppy? Gu Chaoyan looked at the dumb-looking puppy which was staring at her with a pair of large eyes. She did not like the puppy!

Zhou Huaijin was definitely going to laugh at her if she held the puppy. So she shook her head slightly and turned down the offer directly. "No... no thanks."

Susu was confused – she just could not fathom what she said. So Lady Chaoyan did not like Seven? Then why was she staring at Seven? And Seven was so cute...

Seven looked at Seven and then at Lady Chaoyan. She said voluntarily, "Lady Chaoyan, you and Seven look alike."

Hearing what Susu said, Zhou Huaijin, who had just drank a mouthful of tea, burst out and kept laughing constantly.

Susu thought for a while and insisted that she was totally right, but Gu Chaoyan truly had no interest in seeing that puppy any more.

If not for the Queen who was present, she would have given Zhou Huaijin a lesson! How annoying!

The Queen could not help but feel like laughing at seeing the scene, but she also got concerned about Chaoyan in this situation. So she said to Susu, "Alright, Susu, bring Seven away. They might look alike, but you guys should not have mentioned it!"

Gu Chaoyan had thought that the Queen was defending her, but hearing what she added at last, she simply felt helpless.

Why? Why did she look like that dumb-looking puppy?

After laughing loudly, Zhou Huaijin gave Gu Chaoyan a flattering smile.

Gu Chaoyan turned around, refusing to look at him.

The Queen, however, smiled brightly. Huaijin had been a very cold man after growing up, and the King barely came visiting Weiyang Palace due to his busy schedule. So most of the time, it was quite dull here at Weiyang Palace. Such a bustling scene was rarely seen.

The Queen wished very much that such a wonderful time would happen more often, so that she could at least feel happier.

Aunt Nan understood exactly what the Queen was thinking, so she said directly, "I will go and check if there is food ready in the kitchen, so that Lord and Lady Chaoyan can eat with us. It is not yet late, is it?"

The Queen selfishly hoped that they could eat with her, but she still looked at Gu Chaoyan, wondering if she was willing to do so. If she wasn't that happy about eating with them, she would simply drop the idea.

Gu Chaoyan smiled and nodded. "Sure."

People were always lonely in the court, so Gu Chaoyan thought that Zhou Huaijin should keep his mother company when he had the chance.

Aunt Nan smiled and went to the kitchen after Gu Chaoyan nodded at the proposal. It was already time for food. There were many chefs in the kitchen, so when Aunt Nan passed the order, they started to get ready instantly. The food was soon ready, and the three of them were chit chatting as they came to the table.

They were just about to eat, when the eunuch with a dry voice said loudly, "Princess Xunyang is here!"

A pink silhouette rushed in as the message was passed on. Seeing the table full of food, she said, "I am right on time!"

The Queen pulled Princess Xunyang down next to her.

"What are you doing here?"

As it was mentioned, Princess Xunyang said excitedly, "God I am here on time, or I will miss Chaoyan! I am not here visiting you, mother, I am talking with Chaoyan! She is barely in the court, so I might miss the chance if I don't say a word now."

Chapter 462: Destiny Monk

Princess Xunyang looked serious, as if it was going to be something really important.

The Queen truly could not figure out what she could possibly come to Chaoyan for. So she was confused.

Both Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan were staring at Princess Xunyang in confusion as well.

Princess Xunyang sat down and said seriously, "I just ran into Father who told me that both of you are here in the court. I asked him what you are here for, so he told me that you are getting married, but only after Chaoyan becomes an adult next year."

Zhou Huaijin nodded.

That was true, but... Zhou Huaijin asked in confusion, "So why is it related to you?"

His sister never seemed to care about a thing as someone that grew up in the court, but suddenly she started to show concern.

Princess Xunyang gave him an expression of "you-know-nothing". Then she turned to Gu Chaoyan and said seriously, "Chaoyan, you are holding the adulthood ceremony in winter and you need an assistant! I have never been to anyone's adulthood ceremony before, and the Princess Consort of Lord Ling said that it is a great deal of fun! I know no one except for you, so you have to get me to become your assistant at your ceremony!"

Princess Xunyang looked very determined as if she were going to wait for Gu Chaoyan to approve her proposal before leaving.

As the assistant position was mentioned, Zhou Huaijin thought that Princess Xunyang had done a great job today, though she was always going about doing mental stuff all the time.

If she had not mentioned it, he would not have thought about this at all.

On the adulthood ceremony, Chaoyan should invite her girlfriends to attend the ceremony. Zhou Huaijin did not want any of the sisters at the Gu Mansion, but Chaoyan did not seem to have any girlfriends in the capital with the same age, so Xunyang was suited perfectly as the assistant in identity and age.

If he remembered that right, Gu Ruxue was a few months older than Chaoyan and her adulthood ceremony was around the corner too. At that time, the ceremony was going to be held at Lord Ling's Mansion.

Chaoyan was the real lineal daughter of the family, so her ceremony should be better than Gu Ruxue's. So Xunyang was definitely going to be the assistant. And apart from that, a host and a witness were needed as well, and both of them should be well-selected. They should be at least proper and influential enough for Chaoyan as the lineal daughter, but not Gu Zhenkang.

He thought it was a great idea, but he still needed to see if Chaoyan liked it.

Zhou Huaijin looked at Gu Chaoyan...

So did Xunyang.

Gu Chaoyan had no idea what an adulthood ceremony was like, but she liked Princess Xunyang, so if she was willing to do so, she would of course approve of the proposal.

She nodded with a smile. "Okay."

Xunyang let out a sigh of relief and said happily, "Then I am looking forward to your adulthood ceremony!"

"Luckily I ran into the King today, otherwise I would never know about your adulthood ceremony and I would have missed it! You barely come to the court, and my position would have been stolen away by someone else!" Xunyang complained.

Xunyang started to eat after she said these words.

Gu Chaoyan smiled. She was feeling slightly helpless. It seemed that apart from Yuanxiang, she had no other friends who might possibly steal the position.

She took up the chopsticks and started to eat. Xunyang had already eaten quite a lot.

Then she suddenly thought of something. "Mother, who is Destiny Monk? Can he really read the destiny? Why are Father and his men looking for him all the time?"

Gu Chaoyan's face sank as she heard the name.

Chapter 463: Not You

She looked at Zhou Huaijin. Zhou Huaijin was frowning as well.

It seemed that Father had heard the news about Destiny Monk and was looking for him the entire time, then Father must have learned about the Phoenix Girl as well.

Zhou Huaijin felt quite weird inwardly.

“Isn’t Destiny Monk supposed to be the monk at Putuo Temple, and isn’t he there now too?” The Queen did not know the real story, so she was not surprised at all. She had met this man before, but she never asked him to do fortune-telling for her.

Well... Destiny Monk sounded like a wild name! Could anyone in this world truly read destiny? The Queen did not believe such a thing, so she barely took him to heart, but now hearing that the King was looking for him... The Queen sighed and shook her head, assuming that the King was getting too old to stay realistic.

“Xunyang, don’t mention such a thing in front of anyone else, or pester your Father about what he is doing, got it? I just hope that you can grow up safely and find a proper family to get married to when the time is right,” the Queen said with a dry voice.

Xunyang said no more. She nodded as she looked at her mother.

Zhou Huaijin threw a look at Gu Chaoyan. They lowered their heads and continued eating the food.

Since The Queen already reminded Xunyang about this, Zhou Huaijin did not need to say anything more.

After the food was finished, the day was getting late as well. They could not stay in the court any more, so Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan waved goodbye to the Queen and left the court.

At the Weiyang Palace.

Seeing the two leaving, the Queen showed a rare smile.

Aunt Nan said as she was standing next to her, “You can be assured now, Queen, Lord and Lady Chaoyan are happy together.”

The Queen nodded, she could tell that too. Only Gu Chaoyan was able to make Huaijin smile genuinely.

“Let’s go in,” the Queen said with relief.

Only Princess Xunyang had no idea what was going on with the two figures that were going away.

However, the two figures were not as compatible with each other as the Queen and Aunt Nan assumed.

Zhou Huaijin tried to take hold of Gu Chaoyan’s hands, but she dodged the move.

Gu Chaoyan did not say a thing since they were talking with the Queen back at the Weiyang Palace, but that did not necessarily mean that she did not care what happened.

She pursed her lips, then she glared at Zhou Huaijin, falling into silence.

Zhou Huaijin smiled and explained. “Seven might be a puppy, but she is cute, even Susu and Mother say that you two look alike. I am not making it up!”

Gu Chaoyan choked on her words. She was about to counter when reality countered her.

Instead of countering, Gu Chaoyan glared at him and ignored him totally.

Zhou Huaijin laughed as they walked to the wagon.

As Zhou Huaijin moved closer to Gu Chaoyan, he was pushed away eventually.

Well... Zhou Huaijin finally had to imitate the puppy's barking and said, "I look like the puppy, not you, okay?"

Gu Chaoyan finally laughed and then she looked at Zhou Huaijin in pleasure.

Zhou Huaijin gave a slight pinch on her face, feeling helpless. Then Fu Bao's voice arose. "Lady Chaoyan, here we are."

Gu Chaoyan got up and so did Zhou Huaijin, but Gu Chaoyan pushed him down. "You can stay here."

Zhou Huaijin nodded.

Gu Chaoyan got off the wagon, and then Gu Zhenkang suddenly appeared from nowhere. "Hey, Chaoyan."

Chapter 464: Proof

Gu Chaoyan got startled when he appeared unexpectedly.

When she saw who it was, she calmed herself down and asked, "What is it?"

Gu Zhenkang looked at the wagon that was leaving. He wanted to snap at her, but did not dare to utter a thing. Instead, he asked, "Why didn't you ask Lord to stay for dinner?"

Lord Ling refused to eat dinner with Ruxue on her trip back home today, but if Lord Huai could stay for dinner, then things would be totally different.

Gu Chaoyan threw a look at him.

The reason why she asked Zhou Huaijin to not get out of the wagon was because she did not want the Gu Mansion to make use of Zhou Huaijin's identity as the Lord all the time.

"Lord is busy with something else." Gu Chaoyan answered briefly.

Gu Zhenkang was very displeased inwardly, but he did not dare to express it.

Gu Chaoyan was exactly like her deceased mother, neither cold nor warm. She sounded so far away, totally unlike Ruxue who was always so caring. He felt extremely distressed as he thought about this.

Neither Mrs. Gu nor Yunhe understood his plan at all. He was sparing no efforts to suck up the daughter of Ms. Lin even though he felt extremely humiliated. He was already very exhausted, but neither of them was showing any support to him.

The Princess Consort of Lord Huai could definitely be made good use of!

Gu Zhenkang stopped thinking about this, as he saw Lord Huai's wagon disappearing far into the distance.

"Dinner is almost ready, go and have some dinner with us in the front yard." Gu Zhenkang said. "The Gu Family is very large, and we normally eat at our own yard, but now Ruxue is married, so we could just have one dinner together."

Gu Zhenkang's words made sense and Gu Chaoyan simply found no excuse to turn it down. As for what he said about eating at their own yards... That was not the case.

As far as she remembered, only Mrs. Gu and Mrs. Gu's children had the right to eat in the front yard. She and the concubine's children were never allowed to do so.

As they were talking, Gu Chaoyan was already pushed to the front yard.

In the front yard, Gu Chaoyan saw Gu Xiuying and Madame Gu, who were rare guests.

Gu Chaoyan found the whole thing becoming complicated, but in the end, she still took her own seats.

Instead of snapping at Gu Chaoyan, Mrs. Gu added. "Chaoyan, peel a apple for Madame Gu, it is just next to you."

Gu Chaoyan frowned and looked at what was next to her.

She seemed to understand what Mrs. Gu was up to. So she did what she said.

She was about to peel the apple when Gu Chaoyan was given a push. She could have dodged it, but she didn't intend to and instead got wounded, so the blood came out.

Lianxiang kneeled down in front of her and said, "Sorry, Elder Miss, it is my fault to have bumped into you."

"It is fine." Gu Chaoyan answered. "I will get myself wrapped."

Mrs. Gu smiled and said directly, "Xiuying, you can go and peel the apple instead."

Gu Xiuying was extremely displeased. She was the lady not the servant, why must she do something like that? But she did not dare to counter Mrs. Gu, otherwise she might get her marriage ruined. So she took it over.

However, Mrs. Gu found an excuse to leave the room, claiming that she forgot to bring something. The moment she walked out of the room, she looked up into the sky.

Chapter 465: Not the Phoenix Girl

The day turned slightly dark, but nothing was happening at all.

Mrs. Gu felt slightly assured – as long as Gu Chaoyan was not the one, then all would be okay.

She was about to walk in when Lianxiang walked out. She nodded at Mrs. Gu, suggesting that she already did the same to Gu Xiuying.

Mrs. Gu waited for a while longer in the front yard.

A while later Gu Zhenkang came to fetch her and said displeased, "What are you doing? Aren't you fetching something? We are all waiting for you."

"Stop it, I am walking in." Mrs. Gu said, but she did not really get that furious.

She was in a good mood now. Neither of the two girls' blood worked, then it basically meant that Gu Ruxue was the Phoenix Girl and the blood did not work that well all the time.

That would make sense. If the blood worked all the time, then the strangeness would not be that rare at all.

Mrs. Gu whispered something in Lianxiang's ears. She nodded and left.

Back in the room.

Gu Chaoyan was already done with wrapping. She was still holding a very calm face as if the wound did not hurt her at all. Gu Xiuying on the other hand, was wearing a very terrible look on her face. No one gave her a push, but she was so terrible at peeling the apple that she hurt herself.

It was a very harmonious dinner time.

Gu Chaoyan stayed silent, but Madame Gu, who had stayed silent too, suddenly asked. "Where is Yunxuan? Why was he not invited to dinner?"

When Gu Yunxuan was mentioned, Gu Yunhe got really displeased. He slammed down his chopsticks and said, "We can still eat without him."

Gu Zhenkang patted Gu Yunhe on the back, but he said nothing.

Instead, he said, "Yunxuan is not obedient at all. Yunhe is now working for Lord Ling, and asked him to stay by his side and work for him, but he doesn't want to. Instead, he turned to the Ministry of Military! He doesn't have any position there, what is the point, right?"

"Yunhe is the elder son and he is smart, but Yunxuan is the opposite. What else can he gain from his job there?"

"If that is the case, then we can just leave him alone. When he gets a setback, he will regret all of these."

"He is just a concubine's son, and his mother passed away early. He is not smart and he won't become successful at all. Being beside Yunhe is the best choice for him!" Gu Zhenkang said with determination.

Gu Chaoyan threw a look at Gu Zhenkang and sneered.

She thought that her Second Brother was going to become successful with his own abilities. As for Gu Yunhe... Well Gu Chaoyan had nothing, but a shake of the head for that man.

Madame Gu let out a sigh too. She had made a great plan by sending both of them to the military, hoping that they could achieve something there, at least they would become emotionally connected, but it seemed that was not the case.

Yunxuan... What a stupid child!

Yunhe was the Elder Brother and the lineal son. What was he thinking by not helping around?

Only Yunhe would be willing to offer him the chance and guarantee him a wonderful life! That was what a concubine's son was supposed to do.

No one would respect him even if he was at the Ministry of Military. He was just a concubine's son!

She sighed heavily. "Zhenkang, don't blame him. He is still very young. I will talk with him and he will definitely think it through."

Gu Zhenkang was about to say something, when Gu Yunhe sprang up furiously.

Chapter 466: For a concubine's son?

He struck hard on the table. "Are you defending a concubine's son so badly?"

"Both father and I approved of him being my assistant, but he turned me down! He went to the Ministry of Military for a small job! It is not our fault! Why must we show him mercy? You can talk with him, then take care of him yourself!" Gu Yunhe snapped angrily.

He had held the grudge for a long time. Since Madame Gu was the elder in the family, he had not yet spilled out the anger earlier.

Seeing Madame Gu, who only cared about a concubine's son rather than him, he got so annoyed that he burst out instantly. It was Madame Gu who sent him to the military before causing him to miss a lot of things, and now this old woman was causing him even more trouble. He was happy that Gu Yunxuan was not with him.

Yes, that boy was working at the Ministry of Military. He was going to wait and see if he was going to become successful after all. If he failed, then it was not Gu Yunhe's fault!

Hearing these words, Madame Gu had a very terrible expression on her face. She had not expected that Yunhe would have snapped at her like this. He was the elder son, the lineal son. What she had been doing was for his sake only!

As for Yunxuan, she was treating him as her grandson for Yunhe's sake as well.

The Gu Mansion was going to pop out in the capital after all. And Yunxuan was a very kind-hearted man who would make her less worried if he was alongside Yunhe.

That was why she hoped that Yunxuan could help Yunhe – she was offering him help, why didn't he get it? What made Yunhe change like this and when did that happen? He was not treating her as the Madame Gu of the family at all!

Madame Gu felt her heart break.

Next to them, Mrs. Gu was displeased as well. "Yes, Gu Yunxuan is just a concubine's son and he turned down Yunhe's help! Why must Yunhe follow him all the time? He doesn't deserve the honor! Madame Gu, you are becoming so dumb in the head!"

As the mother and the son said those things, Gu Zhenkang, who had thought that Yunhe had overreacted, started to think that it was Madame Gu's fault.

It was his fault. When he felt that no one understood what he was working at, he asked Madame Gu to help him, but Madame Gu got so sick that her head turned dumb too.

He sighed. "Mother, what are you talking about?"

"I believe that you don't have to eat here, ask Cai Ming to get you some food in the room" Gu Zhenkang said unhappily and asked Chen Fu to push her away, so that Cai Ming could get some food from the kitchen.

During this period, Madame Gu said nothing more. She closed her eyes and felt her heart completely break.

It was her fault... She had spared no efforts working for this family, and now she was pushed to the bottom of the valley.

Cai Ming was right. She should not have agreed to return to the front yard. In that case, at least Chaoyan would approve of her as Madame Gu.

As she passed by Gu Chaoyan, Madame Gu threw a look at Gu Chaoyan.

Gu Chaoyan did not dodge, but she looked rather cold. She had nothing to say.

Madame Gu sighed as she got pushed away.

Madame Gu was a pitiful woman, but that was because she caused all of these. Gu Chaoyan was pretty aware of this point, so she did not have the intention of making a change for her.

“Don’t get mad about that old woman, let’s talk about something lively – isn’t Ruxue’s adulthood ceremony around the corner?” The Third Concubine said with a flattering tone.

Chapter 467: Ruxue’s Assistant

When Madame Gu was driven away by Gu Zhenkang, both Gu Yunhe and Mrs. Gu became less annoyed. One had already sat down and asked the maid to put away the stuff in front of him, whilst the other was drinking tea.

So when the Third Concubine was asking about Ruxue’s adulthood ceremony, Mrs. Gu threw a pretentiously caring look at her. “Ruxue did mention this on her trip back home the other day. She is becoming an adult soon. She is married to a Lord and now she is the Equal Princess Consort, so the ceremony is going to be tremendous.”

As she was speaking, Mrs. Gu threw a look at the Third Concubine. “Why do you care?”

Ruxue was her daughter, and it should be she who was in charge of this matter, rather than the Third Concubine.

Mrs. Gu threw a disdainful look at the Third Concubine.

Third Concubine, on the other hand, did not show any anger as she saw the exposed look of disdain on Mrs. Gu’s face.

She said with a flattering tone, “Ruxue needs a host, assistant and witness for her ceremony. I am just thinking that maybe Xiuying can be an assistant for Ruxue since they are sisters. They are of the same age and they are good sisters.”

“...”

“What do you think?” Third Concubine asked with a flattering tone.

She did not mind if Mrs. Gu looked down at her, but Xiuying was her only daughter and what she had hoped was that Xiuying could marry someone great.

Only in this way would she be able to have a better life herself and get respected at the mansion.

Gu Ruxue was married to Lord Ling, so there should be many noble people who were present on that day.

She was thinking that Xiuying could marry someone with a proper position, who would be willing to marry Xiuying just to get close to Lord Ling.

If Mrs. Gu needed Xiuying for help, that would work too. Xiuying was going to support Ruxue no matter what.

As she was thinking about this, Third Concubine asked Mrs. Gu, thinking that she would approve of the request. Mrs. Gu was a smart lady after all.

Hearing what she said Mrs. Gu snorted. She threw a disdainful look at the Third Concubine.

This Third Concubine was pretty good at taking opportunities. No wonder she was able to give birth to a child. Luckily, the child was a daughter, not a son, or she would need to make more efforts to deal with potential issues.

Now she was trying to make use of Ruxue so her daughter could get a wonderful marriage, but Mrs. Gu was not going to approve of that.

Mrs. Gu was about to say something when Gu Zhenkang added with a smile. "That sounds nice. Ruxue does need people like this, and Xiuying is her sister, then maybe she can get a great suitor for the ceremony, which will be beneficial for the Gu Mansion as well. Mrs. Gu, speak with Ruxue about this."

Hearing what Gu Zhenkang said, Mrs. Gu was even less pleased. Could she really do that? Gu Xiuying was not at all qualified to become Ruxue's assistant.

Mrs. Gu said proudly, "It is not me, but if you have spoken about it earlier, then it might work. However, right now, Ruxue has mentioned that County Princess Anxi is going to be the assistant, so Xiuying is not at all qualified compared to County Princess Anxi right?"

"Then she can be the witness, that would work too!" The Third Concubine became even more motivated after hearing the name of County Princess Anxi.

Chapter 468: Elder Miss's Assistant

Although County Princess Anxi ran into trouble a while ago, she was still the County Princess whose mother was the Elder Princess!

If only Xiuying could attend the ceremony with County Princess Anxi, then she would create a higher social status for herself in this way!

Seeing the Third Concubine's greedy look Mrs. Gu threw a disdainful look at her. "The witness? Well, she has to be Huo Wei from the Huo Family. Huo Wei and Ruxue have been friends since childhood, so we have to invite her."

Third Concubine's excitement faded. So that woman did not want to use Xiuying at all. What was she going to do?

“Well...” Third Concubine was about to say something more, when Mrs. Gu snorted straightforwardly. “Third Concubine, you are not thinking about making Gu Xiuying the host right? The host is not for a young lady.”

The Third Concubine shook her head quickly.

She might be a concubine, but she knew the rules.

If Xiuying became the host, Xiuying would be completely laughed at.

She found that there was no room for her to fight for anything more.

“If all the roles are occupied, then the ladies and young masters of the Gu Mansion can attend the ceremony to broaden the horizon.” Gu Zhenkang said.

Mrs. Gu did not counter the suggestion. She did not mind showing off how glorious Ruxue was.

However, Gu Xiuying did have some opportunities.

Mrs. Gu said heartfully, “Third Concubine, Ruxue might have got her friends, but Xiuying does have some chance.”

“What?” Third Concubine asked expectantly.

Mrs. Gu threw a look at Gu Chaoyan who was seated not far away.

She said with a sneering smile. “That girl is having the adulthood ceremony in winter. She doesn’t seem to have any friends. I believe that Xiuying can have some room there.”

The Third Concubine threw a look at Gu Chaoyan, and stopped showing a flattering smile.

She knew Gu Chaoyan well. She was some deserted girl who no one cared about and who was left at the Qiong Pavilion.

Friends? She had none. She was not even going to get anyone to be her assistant and witness!

Xiuying could be one of them, but she was not begging. If Gu Chaoyan would like to have an assistant or a witness, she could talk with her nicely. If her words pleased her, she would let Xiuying go.

With eyes upon Gu Chaoyan the Third Concubine said, “You don’t have any assistant or witness right?” She sounded casual, because she knew that she had no one. Who in the capital would want to attend the ceremony with her.

Gu Chaoyan thought for a while.

Princess Xunyang was the assistant, but she lacked a witness. So she nodded.

The Third Concubine laughed. See? She knew that she had no one with her.

“You can ask Xiuying to attend the ceremony, but Xiuying might not approve of your request, unless you speak with her nicely. She doesn’t do work for everyone,” the Third Concubine said proudly.

Gu Chaoyan had no one with her, so it would either be Xiuying or Fourth Concubine’s Caiqin. She needed to offer some benefits for her. Otherwise no one would be there.

Mrs. Gu added. "The adulthood ceremony is very important and it is around the corner. You and Ruxue are different. Everyone wants to be Ruxue's friends, but no one wants to be yours. So you will have to make efforts to find someone, or it will look bad on you!"

Chapter 469: Your Guest

Gu Chaoyan nodded in an understanding way.

The Adulthood Ceremony was indeed an important event, one that only took place once in a girl's life.

She should take the guests into consideration. Now Princess Xunyang was going to be the assistant, and what she needed was a witness and a host. She had very few acquaintances in the capital, so she did need to make some efforts to find some proper suitors, but there was still time, and she did not need to hurry.

She could probably ask Yuanxiang if she was willing to be the witness.

As for the host... she should have asked her aunt, but she did not expect Mrs. Lin to be involved.

Madame Bai was aged, and she did not have any daughter-in-law, so she was out of question.

That did baffle Gu Chaoyan a little bit.

When Mrs. Gu and Third Concubine saw the baffled look on Gu Chaoyan's face, they were quite happy – Mrs. Gu knew that even if Gu Chaoyan was able to marry Lord Huai, she still lacked guests for her Adulthood Ceremony! Her Ruxue was still better.

The Third Concubine, on the other hand, was looking forward to seeing Gu Chaoyan beg for her help.

Although she did not like Gu Chaoyan, she was going to be the Princess Consort in the future anyway, so it would be great if Xiuying could be her assistant after all.

"I got it, thanks for the reminder." Gu Chaoyan said peacefully.

Neither Mrs. Gu nor the Third Concubine spoke any more.

The Third Concubine did not mention anything voluntarily either.

Then the dinner continued. The kitchen must have been well-prepared for the dinner, because it turned out to be quite tasty.

Gu Chaoyan ate something quickly, since she had no appetite in sharing food with those people.

The dinner finished fast, after all, none of the people present were really here for food. They were just gathered to find an excuse for a discussion of different matters.

After dinner Gu Chaoyan left.

On the way to Qiong Pavilion, she ran into Cai Ming. She asked Cai Ming if she had gotten the food. Knowing that the maid did, Gu Chaoyan left for home directly.

In the wing-yard.

The Third Concubine arrived home cheerfully as well.

Gu Xiuying was glad too, seeing her mother's happy look. "She said yes?"

Third Concubine sighed, but smiled again.

"Mrs. Gu is a sneaky woman, she said no! She said that she already asked County Princess Anxi and the Elder Miss of the Huo Family!" Third Concubine said unhappily.

Gu Xiuying was displeased too. She sat down casually and complained. "Then what are you smiling for anyway?"

"Mrs. Gu said no, but Gu Chaoyan needs to hold the Adulthood Ceremony as well. She has no friends here, so she is definitely going to come beg you for help. Even if she is not that outstanding, she is marrying a Lord after all. If she comes to you, you don't have to embarrass her, just nod when it is time. You are not in a disadvantageous status anyway." Third Concubine said to her kindly.

Hearing what the Third Concubine said, Gu Xiuying suddenly had some ideas emerging.

She was done with Gu Ruxue, Gu Chaoyan could work too. Lord Huai was handsome, and if she performed well, she might exceed Gu Chaoyan too.

She showed a very happy expression on her face.

"I got it, mom, don't worry, I know what to do," Gu Xiuying said confidently.

Third Concubine nodded.

Xiuying was a smart person who did not need much of her concern. That made her assured.

"Apart from you, only Gu Caiqin is suitable for the job. Don't get overshadowed by Gu Caiqin when it is time." The Third Concubine reminded her. "Also, you have to be prepared to face Gu Chaoyan. She will be coming to you soon."

Chapter 470: The Phoenix

Gu Xiuying nodded. She found her mother too nagging. She already had the idea of what to do. She always knew what to do.

She waved her off and went back to her room.

And Gu Chaoyan, who they were all talking about, was now at the Qiong Pavilion. Sword One had gone and prepared the water whilst she was holding her chin, thinking.

She was also thinking about who to invite for the Adulthood Ceremony. However, neither Gu Xiuying and Gu Caiqin had ever crossed her mind.

Since Princess Xunyang was the assistant who volunteered to do so, she had to invite someone who would not humiliate Princess Xunyang.

Yuanxiang might work, as for the remaining one...

Gu Chaoyan was just thinking when Sword One asked her to go bath.

Gu Chaoyan stopped thinking about that and went to take a bath instead.

After bath, she went to bed.

The following day, Sword One passed the Dean's letter to her early in the morning.

Gu Chaoyan had just eaten breakfast, so she read the letter as she drank tea.

It was also about how to get a proper arrangement for Gu Chaoyan.

Gu Chaoyan had not expected that she and Zhou Huaijin would get married so fast, so she might not be able to become a female doctor in the court in the future. The Dean was nice to her. He did not ask her to be present at the College all the time.

She was asked to stay at home and would only need to be at school when she was needed.

Gu Chaoyan believed that it was the best arrangement as well. She put the letter back into the envelope and asked Sword One to put it away

She remained seated and started to think again.

Many things had happened yesterday and she had not gotten time to think everything through.

Especially, the wound on her hand.

Mrs. Gu made this wound happen, and she did not use magical water to heal it. She expected to see what on earth her blood could do to her.

Judging from what happened the day before... it did not work at all.

So it meant that blood and the strangeness were not connected.

So... What would that strangeness be connected with? Gu Chaoyan just could not figure out the answer at all.

Suddenly, an idea flashed across her mind.

The phoenix? As far as she remembered, the egg in the space was gone and a phoenix appeared around the time when the strangeness occurred.

If that was the case, then it was the day when the phoenix was born.

The Phoenix was the king of all birds, so it was quite normal that all the birds were gathered for the birth.

So that strangeness had nothing to do with the Phoenix Girl, it had to do with the phoenix.

Gu Chaoyan suddenly felt quite relieved – she felt that all the confusion had been resolved. That cheered her up.

Seeing Sword One distracted, Gu Chaoyan took the opportunity and sneaked into the space to check up on the phoenix. Feathers had grown out of the phoenix after this while and the bird looked much better this way.

Seeing her coming, the phoenix ignored her and focused on himself.

Gu Chaoyan was helpless – but alright, as long as the bird was happy.

She went to check up on the fruits, vegetables and herbs in the space. They had grown well. The herbs growing in the space worked much better than those from outside.

Since she was inside, Gu Chaoyan picked some herbs, fruits and planned to take some for Yuanxiang and Madame Jiang.

She was about to leave the space after she finished her work when the phoenix eventually broke the peace and said, “You dumb girl!”