

Divine 471

Chapter 471: Abilities

The sudden voice almost caused Gu Chaoyan to upset the things in her hands, but she eventually stabilised her steps.

She looked about. What was talking?

“You dumb-headed girl!” The Phoenix complained. He was definitely leading a terrible life – why was his master so silly? He was the phoenix, and she was treating him like a rooster.

The more he thought, the more annoyed he became.

Gu Chaoyan looked at him with curiosity, she just could not tell that he was furious. He could talk? And the voice was nice too, sounding quite like a phoenix, but was he calling her dumb-headed?

Gu Chaoyan was going to teach him a lesson.

She lifted his wings and asked with a threatening tone. “Who are you calling dumb?”

“You!” The phoenix said without feeling guilty.

“Why am I dumb?” Gu Chaoyan just could not get it – no one had ever called her dumb in both of her lives, except for the Gu Family.

“I am your soul, you should make a blood alliance with me!” The phoenix said with a complaining voice.

Gu Chaoyan was surprised. That was interesting?

Gu Chaoyan looked at her wounded hand. “How are we doing this?”

“Your forehead.” The bird reminded her, looking helpless.

Gu Chaoyan made an attempt and squeezed some drops of blood out of her forehead.

The phoenix that was bearing the blood drop was bathing in a patch of red light, looking rather satisfied.

Gu Chaoyan waited until he finished the bathing.

A quarter hour passed, before the phoenix finally opened his eyes.

The master seemed dumb, but the blood was pure and innocent, very good. That was a great master.

That made the phoenix feel good.

“Okay, you can leave now.” The phoenix said.

Gu Chaoyan was wearing a complicated expression on her face.

Was she the master or was he? However, it was not time to talk about this – she was not even bothered to talk about this with an animal. So she left with her own stuff.

She had just left the space, when Sword One came running in a hurry. “Elder Miss...”

“Huh?” Gu Chaoyan took a sip of tea, and looked at Sword One, wondering what made her so anxious.

“The man from Saint College is here. He is asking for you. You promised to let him be with you when he is cured. He said that he has not seen you back at the school, so he came here instead.” Sword One reminded Elder Miss when she found her confused.

Gu Chaoyan put down the teacup, then she went over something in her head.

That was true... The man had been seriously-injured back then and she needed to go back home as soon as possible, so she approved of his request verbally. However, this man turned out to be so devoted to her that he was even at the doorstep now.

If that was the case... Chaoyan said, “Sword One, bring him in.”

Sword One nodded and left.

Gu Chaoyan was thinking about how to arrange this man.

She already had four guards, but she needed some staff for the clinic, which was still in the planning process.

If it was possible, she would hire him to watch over the house first, so that Qing could come back to her side. Winter was coming and soon she would be holding the Adulthood Ceremony as well as the wedding. That was when Qing would come in handy.

Qing was, after all, the only person that kept her company throughout her life and took care of her.

With ideas in mind, Gu Chaoyan was feeling quite relieved.

Sword One had also come in with that man by this point.

Gu Chaoyan sized this man up. He had been lying in bed during their past meetings, but he turned out to be a tough and tall man, a typical hunter-looking guy.

The man knelt down the moment he walked in. “Greetings, Elder Miss!”

“Please rise first.” Gu Chaoyan waved her hand. “What is your speciality?”

Chapter 472: With Me

Hearing what Lady Chaoyan asked him, the man looked radiantly excited. That meant that Lady Chaoyan had the intention of keeping him.

“My name is Xiu Jie, and I learned some martial arts from my Master. When Master passed away, I settled down at a village by the foot of the mountain and lived on hunting. I am totally alone. As long as you are willing to keep me, I would be willing to die for you on any occasion!” Xiu Jie said with determination.

Gu Chaoyan sipped some tea and looked at him with curiosity.

“Dying for me on any occasion, why?” Gu Chaoyan asked.

“Lady Chaoyan, it was you who cured me, so I got to live. I know that pretty well! Master once told me that I should pay back all the favors I have gotten with much more devotion. You saved my life, so I will sacrifice my life for you,” Xiu Jie said toughly, looking very sincere.

That surprised Gu Chaoyan a little bit. She had thought that Xiu Jie decided to work for her, because it was better to be her employee than being a freelancing hunter.

She had not expected that these were his original intentions.

This was a rare man, in that case.

As Gu Chaoyan was thinking, Xiu Jie assumed that Gu Chaoyan did not believe him or think about hiring him, so he became anxious – he did not know how to socialize well since he was just a tough, martial man, but he was always sincere with what he said.

On the other hand, however, Lady Chaoyan could have some considerations of her own. That was totally understandable for Xiu Jie.

He said directly, “Lady Chaoyan, I don’t have many requests, just some food will do. I can do any work, even small errands, or those that need strength etc. As long as I can pay back the favor!”

Gu Chaoyan waved her hands.

This was indeed an honest man.

“You can just call yourself ‘I’ in front of me.” Gu Chaoyan said, “I do have some errands to run, but not that many minor ones...”

“Lady Chaoyan, does it mean that you are hiring me?” Xiu Jie asked with excitement.

Gu Chaoyan nodded. She had the intention of visiting Yuanxiang, so Gu Chaoyan asked Sword One to get the wagon ready.

Then she turned to Xiu Jie. “I don’t have much work these days yet, but I will drive you to Yellow Crane where you can learn some skills with Manager Song. When you are done, I can get you some work to do.”

Xiu Jie nodded constantly. As long as he could pay back the favor, he could do anything, yes, anything.

Xiu Jie was willing to do that as well.

Gu Chaoyan felt assured.

By this point, Sword One was back, so they all started to go out.

The coachman knew where the Yellow Crane was, so they arrived there without much difficulty.

Gu Chaoyan passed on some messages to Manager Song and then left. Then they went to Saint College together.

On the way there, Sword One asked curiously, “Elder Miss, what do you plan to make Xiu Jie do?”

“He seems like a very reliable person. He can learn some business stuff first. He needs some skills to be with me. I was thinking about bringing Qing home when winter comes, he can take over for Qing in this case,” Gu Chaoyan said peacefully.

Sword One was quite glad as well. After all, Qing was coming home!

They were talking as they came to Saint College. Instead of going anywhere else, they headed directly to where Li Yuanxiang was.

At this moment, Li Yuanxiang was in the middle of making medicine.

Chapter 473: Li Yuanxiang’s Problem

Seeing Gu Chaoyan coming, she still focused upon her own herbs.

Gu Chaoyan took a seat, read some of Li Yuanxiang’s medical books and did not put them down until Li Yuanxiang finished her work and came to her side. She asked, “Finished?”

Li Yuanxiang nodded. Then she showed Gu Chaoyan the medical pills in her hands.

“I used the best medicinal herbs in the college, but the result is still unchanged. The Dean said that it is worse than yours, but I can’t figure out a better way.” Li Yuanxiang looked very bitter.

Gu Chaoyan smelled the pills.

The pills gave out a very strong smell. In the aspect of medicinal making, Li Yuanxiang already did a great job.

Even the best doctor in the capital was not as gifted. Honestly, Li Yuanxiang was indeed a great suitor for being a doctor.

The reason she was better was because of what Gu Chaoyan experienced in her previous life... And the magical water she normally used. The most important element was the magical water, after all.

Li Yuanxiang asked Gu Chaoyan discreetly. “Chaoyan, do you think I can make equally great medicine as you do?”

Gu Chaoyan shook her head and replied truly. “I am afraid not.”

Li Yuanxiang looked so disappointed.

Gu Chaoyan thought for a while and consoled her. “There are many things that can’t be achieved just through effort. So Yuanxiang, don’t feel trapped with it.” Then she passed the medicine she had with her to Li Yuanxiang.

“These are for you,” Gu Chaoyan said peacefully.

She already regarded Li Yuanxiang as a friend, so she was always going to consider her whenever she had something good. Gu Chaoyan was not very skillful in talking. She only used actions rather than talking when she was being nice to others.

Li Yuanxiang accepted the medicine happily. All the medicine Chaoyan gave to her was useful and they led to a wonderful result that was spoken highly of by the Dean.

Li Yuanxiang put away the medicine cheerfully, then she asked curiously. "Chaoyan, what are you doing here, anything I can do for you?"

Gu Chaoyan nodded. She was reminded of what she wanted.

"I am holding my Adulthood Ceremony in winter. Would you like to be my witness?" Gu Chaoyan asked. She believed that Yuanxiang would say yes if she was not busy, but Li Yuanxiang looked very embarrassed.

With her eyes upon Gu Chaoyan, she hesitated and had no idea how to put it.

Gu Chaoyan could tell that she was hesitant, so she asked. "What is it?"

Li Yuanxiang sighed.

"Ever since I was accepted to Saint College, my father heard that me and you as well as Lord Yu are friends, he keeps coming to my mother and wants to get my mother back. My mother asks me not to show a close relationship with you on the surface, otherwise my father will keep pestering my mother. If I attend your ceremony and my father finds out about that, he is going to bother my mother again," Li Yuanxiang said hesitantly.

Hearing what she said, Gu Chaoyan eventually understood what she meant.

The Liu Family found that Yuanxiang was useful now so they were showing regret. That was indeed annoying.

If that was the case, Gu Chaoyan would not bother Yuanxiang any more. "That is fine. If you need any help, do tell me, alright?"

Li Yuanxiang nodded, but she asked worriedly. "Are you able to get anyone else to attend the ceremony with you?"

Chapter 474: Bragging

Gu Chaoyan could tell that Li Yuanxiang was feeling guilty and worried...

She said with a smile, "The assistant is Princess Xunyang, and I had intended to get you as the witness. But if you are not in a good position for that yourself... then I can turn to someone else. There is still time, don't worry."

Princess Xunyang? That was great, thought Li Yuanxiang. Chaoyan was able to get someone else even without her being present.

"Continue with your medicine, that's what I am here for today." Gu Chaoyan said.

Li Yuanxiang answered, then Gu Chaoyan left with Sword One.

After Gu Chaoyan left, Li Yuanxiang felt quite distressed. She had spent the whole time indoors just to study some medicine. She wasn't a greedy person, but as long as she was able to make as good medicine as Chaoyan did, that would be great. She didn't have the intention of exceeding anyone.

Could she really not make it? Chaoyan just told her that she could not, but she still wanted to have a try – maybe that could work!

Determined, Li Yuanxiang devoted herself to making the medicine again.

Gu Chaoyan headed towards the Gu Mansion directly after Saint College.

Time passed by, Gu Chaoyan had been spending most of her time at the Qiong Pavilion. She felt that the country was indeed cold. She had not been so worried about coldness, but now, she was feeling extra cold.

So Gu Chaoyan became laid-back, kept drinking her tea and reading her books just to kill the time.

If not for Chen Fu who reminded her of Gu Ruxue's Adulthood Ceremony, she would never have noticed it.

"I got it, I will be there tomorrow." Gu Chaoyan answered.

Chen Fu sighed out of relief and was about to turn around to pass on the message, but Gu Chaoyan suddenly thought of something and asked. "Are you doing well these days, Housekeeper Chen?"

Chen Fu froze. He was very surprised, but he felt that the whole thing sounded reasonable too.

With some tears in his eyes, he said, "I am doing well. Lady Chaoyan, your medicine works perfectly. You and Madame are both very kind."

"My mother?" Gu Chaoyan was astonished that he would mention her mother Mrs. Lin.

Chen Fu wiped his tears, lowered his head and said, "I have to go."

Then he left in a hurry as if fearing that Gu Chaoyan would have stopped him.

Gu Chaoyan did not stop him either.

The reason why he cared about her was because she was a doctor and that was asked out of instinct. She had not expected to hear anything about Ms. Lin. It seemed that she used to help Chen Fu as well. So Chen Fu sometimes helped her.

That made sense, but Gu Chaoyan felt that something else was going on, which Gu Chaoyan could not understand at that moment. However, she was sure that she could figure it out when the time was right.

"Elder Miss, are you really attending Gu Ruxue's Adulthood Ceremony tomorrow?" Sword One asked angrily.

"Yeah." Gu Chaoyan answered briefly.

She did not have the intention of going there, but Mrs. Gu wanted her to be there. If she turned her down, Mrs. Gu would keep bothering her all the time! So she could just go there, anyway.

That was what Gu Chaoyan was thinking.

Sword One was not aware of this matter, so she went into the room angrily and said, "Elder Miss, I will get you a very pretty dress for tomorrow."

Gu Chaoyan laughed involuntarily. Sword One was indeed lovely.

Why was a beautiful dress so important for the Adulthood Ceremony?

She shook her head. "It is fine, that plain-color one suits me best."

Sword One looked helpless. She mumbled into Gu Chaoyan's ears. "Elder Miss, no way! Mrs. Gu asked you to be there to show off. You have to defend yourself!"

Chapter 475: Princess Consort of Lord Ling?

Seeing Sword One's behavior, Gu Chaoyan knocked on her head. "Sword One, you are getting very nagging."

Sword One was indeed annoyed.

"Elder Miss, I am just considering you!" Sword One said.

"You are getting more and more like Qing." Gu Chaoyan looked at Sword One. "Good that you don't look like each other, otherwise I would have mixed you two up!"

Sword One pursed her lips as she took a seat beside her.

How irritating! Elder Miss did not seem to care!

Gu Chaoyan asked Sword One to drink some tea, but Sword One ignored her.

Gu Chaoyan started to feel helpless. She had to explain. "They have nothing to show off in front of me. Although Gu Ruxue has County Princess Anxi as the assistant, mine is Princess Xunyang! Why is my dress related to showing off?"

Sword One had been annoyed with pursed lips. She thought that Elder Miss just cared about nothing! She did not expect Gu Ruxue to bully Elder Miss. However, it seemed that Elder Miss understood the whole point!

While looking at Gu Chaoyan, Sword understood that she had misunderstood Elder Miss who seemed so cold on the surface. She had thought that Elder Miss did not know a thing, but actually, she was aware of everything.

Sword One instantly became very pleased. So she started to drink tea with Gu Chaoyan and filled up her cup.

The following day, Chen Fu came to get Elder Miss early in the morning.

Gu Chaoyan had been used to sleeping in, so this early rise was not that pleasing. And she looked slightly dumb-headed.

Sword One helped her put on warm drapery, fearing that Elder Miss was exceptionally sensitive towards coldness.

So Chen Fu led the way.

The wagon was ready. Gu Zhenkang and Mrs. Gu were taking the largest wagon whilst the slightly shabby-looking wagon was for Gu Chaoyan, Gu Xiuying and Gu Caiqin.

The wagon was quite small, so the three of them made it look even smaller.

Gu Chaoyan said nothing and just sat there quietly.

Gu Xiuying, however, kept glancing at her. After the Third Concubine told her about the assistant the other day, she had been looking forward to receiving her begging, but none of that had come. And she simply could not demean herself to ask her about it. So she kept waiting for it to happen.

She believed that Gu Chaoyan was too dumb-headed to turn to her for help.

Now when they were all trapped in a wagon, she should have been reminded of it, right? So Gu Xiuying had been waiting for her to start the conversation.

Gu Chaoyan had not been fully awake, and she was feeling quite drowsy, so she was taking a rest with her eyes closed.

Gu Xiuying was feeling so irritated, but she just gave no response! She also did not think Gu Chaoyan was worth her own attention anyway.

As she was thinking about this, they already came to Lord Ling's Mansion.

Gu Xiuying was wearing a terrible expression. This girl should start the conversation on the way home, she thought.

Gu Chaoyan already went off the wagon with Sword One's help.

The Gu Family were heading towards Lord Ling's Mansion...

This time, Lord Ling did pay great attention to Gu Ruxue's Adulthood Ceremony.

Lord Ling immediately spotted the white silhouette as they were waiting for the guests at the gate. He noticed that Gu Chaoyan looked very tired – was she having trouble sleeping?

Gu Chaoyan was indeed sleepy, but she suddenly became sober as she sensed someone's uncomfortable gaze upon her.

She took her steps cautiously.

Gu Chaoyan noticed the Princess Consort of Lord Ling next to Lord Ling as she was getting them.

She was reminded of the Princess Consort of Lord Ling whom she had heard about somewhere.

Chapter 476: Gu Ruxue's Adulthood Ceremony

The idea went inside her head for a long while.

Only now did she think of Princess Xunyang who once mentioned the Princess Consort of Lord Ling. Was Princess Xunyang getting on well with the Princess Consort of Lord Ling?

Gu Chaoyan spared a look at the Princess Consort of Lord Ling. She did not look like any of the other ladies in the capital. She looked quite imposing and serious.

Now she believed that Lord Ling was lucky to have married someone like the Princess Consort.

She could not help but appreciate the Princess Consort a little bit more.

The Princess Consort also gave Gu Chaoyan a nod.

As they walked into the mansion, Gu Chaoyan saw how the mansion was decorated. She thought that thanks to Mrs. Gu's usual behavior, the scene would have been rather spectacular. Yet what was presented in front of her...

There were a few guests on the spot.

Apart from the seats for the Gu Family, the remaining seats were vacant. Some officials were present, yet none of them was familiar to Gu Chaoyan.

She thought for a while, before coming to the conclusion that they were here way too early.

Gu Chaoyan sat and drank tea, yet no more guests arrived even when the Adulthood Ceremony started.

Mrs. Gu left to run other errands.

Gu Xiuying and Gu Caiqin took the front seats just to show their faces. So Gu Chaoyan was surrounded by no one. However, instead of going anywhere, she sat quietly.

"Elder Miss, I can tell that there are too few guests here, why is the ceremony starting now?" Sword One asked in confusion.

Gu Chaoyan suggested that she should not chit chat at Lord Ling's mansion, so Sword One shut her mouth.

However, then came a voice from behind. "The invitations were sent, but no one came."

Gu Chaoyan took a look around...

It was the Princess Consort who was talking and who had taken the seat next to Gu Chaoyan.

She spoke frankly.

Seeing Gu Chaoyan's startled look, she continued instead of commenting on that. "In the Saint Divine Land, there is no such thing as marrying the Equal Princess Consort, but this man broke the rules. What is more, this Adulthood Ceremony is held after the wedding, and that is against the rules again. It is totally against the law of the Saint Divine Land for women that haven't become an adult to get married."

"..."

“And those officials are not stupid. They would not be present even if they stand by Lord Ling’s side. They don’t want to leave any traces in history. He is the Lord so he doesn’t care, but the officers do! That is why no one is here – well, that was not the original plan.”

The Princess Consort was talking in a very modest way as if what she was saying had nothing to do with her at all.

Gu Chaoyan became increasingly curious about the Princess Consort.

What kind of woman was she for her to become so frank and open-minded.

The Princess Consort seemed to trust Gu Chaoyan so she continued. “Only the County Princess and the lady from the Huo Family would be willing to be the assistant and the witness. Normally, ladies from the right family would never be here.”

Gu Chaoyan was about to speak, when another figure took the other seat and asked curiously, “I never expected that the silent and elegant Princess Consort could be so talkative. Are you talking with Lady Chaoyan because she is prettier than I am?”

The Princess Consort frowned. What was the Princess Concubine doing here?

“That is possible.” Gu Chaoyan responded seriously. That was a proper reason to tell them on their first meeting.

The Princess Concubine almost puked blood out of surprise.

She was about to counter, when a loud noise of birds chirping sounded in Lord Ling’s Mansion.

Chapter 477: The Birds

The Princess Concubine, who was about to speak, fell into silence directly at the scene. Her pupils were widened as she stared at what was happening in the sky in extreme surprise. She had never witnessed such a scene before.

The Princess Consort was also looking at the scene.

Gu Chaoyan was slightly confused as well. What was going on? Could it be related to the phoenix?

She had the urge to visit the space at the moment, but she could not when someone was around.

The Princess Consort could not stay any longer as she saw the scene. “Lady Chaoyan, I gotta go, bye.”

Then she took off in a hurry. She also tugged at the Princess Concubine, suggesting that she should leave as well.

The Princess Concubine, who was surprised a while ago, showed a bright smile and left with the Princess Consort.

“Elder Miss, let’s go and check it out too!” Sword One suggested with a serious expression on her face.

“Okay.” Gu Chaoyan responded.

It was a magnificent scene when hundreds of birds flew above Lord Ling’s Mansion and remained.

Zhou Huailing, who had been previously annoyed by the guests who did not show up, became extremely excited at the sight of the scene. He took hold of Gu Ruxue's hands excitedly.

He was right from the beginning! Ruxue was the Phoenix Girl! Only the Phoenix Girl was able to generate such a phenomenon.

It was the Phoenix Girl's Adulthood Ceremony, so the birds were here to pass on congratulations! That must be it!

It was stupid of him to feel distressed about Ruxue's useless blood. That should not have been a worry. This scene was what was supposed to happen!

"Look at that, Ruxue!" Zhou Huailing pointed at the sky. "These birds are here congratulating you on your Adulthood Ceremony! You are a blessed girl!" Zhou Huailing could not tell the story of the Phoenix Girl, so he had to change the way he put it.

Gu Ruxue was also indeed startled. The long-time worrying, now finally settled down. She was none other than the Phoenix Girl!

She could definitely become the only Princess Consort without the use of pills or a child! She was the Phoenix Girl, the future Queen!

"Lord!" Gu Ruxue was excited too, as she gripped Zhou Huailing's hands.

The officials who had been anxious about attending the Adulthood Ceremony, were all looking cheerful and relaxed.

Well... Look at those birds! Only blessed people were able to have them.

They had not expected that the Equal Princess Consort had such a destiny! Their risk of coming here was proved right! They had witnessed the wonderful scene!

Someone kneeled down and shouted loudly, "Long live Equal Princess Consort!"

Then the rest of the people followed suit. They all shouted. "Long live Equal Princess Consort!"

For one moment, the sentence echoed across the entire Lord Ling's Mansion.

The Princess Consort had not been so pleased. She had been here to deal with some errands, but now she went directly towards the backyard, followed by Princess Concubine.

When the birds were all gone, Lord Ling announced the end of the Adulthood Ceremony and asked his men to see the guests off, including County Princess Anxi and the lady from the Huo Family.

The same went for the Gu Family too.

Then Zhou Huailing brought Gu Ruxue back to her room and said excitedly, "Ruxue, I am not wrong to have married you. You are a blessed lady! Now, get your dress changed and I am taking you to the court."

"..."

"I am going to tell Father to make you the only Princess Consort of Lord Ling!"

Chapter 478: The Only Princess Consort!

Due to the excitement, Zhou Huailing stopped behaving as gently as he normally would. Instead, he was in a really hilarious state.

Gu Ruxue did not care. She had once imagined being the only Princess Consort, but she had believed that she needed to make great efforts to make it happen, rather than see it coming so fast. All of this happened so suddenly that she was completely ecstatic.

She would not turn it down, so she just said with a smile, "Is that true, Lord?"

Zhou Huailing nodded and asked Gu Ruxue's maid to help her get changed.

When she had gotten changed, Zhou Huailing took her directly to the court. He had no intention of wasting any more time.

As he came to the court, he thought for a while and said, "Tell my mother about me speaking with father today. She has not seen you for a long time and you can tell her what happened today. When I am done, I will join you."

Gu Ruxue had the intention of tagging along, but since she had no idea what the King was thinking, she decided not to tag along in case the King turned her down and misunderstood her presence.

It was also a good choice to visit Princess Jing instead.

Princess Jing had always treated her nicely, so all she needed to do was to wait for the good news to come.

As she thought through the whole thing, Gu Ruxue nodded and said, "Okay, then I will visit Princess Jing instead."

Zhou Huailing smiled at her with adoration. "Just do it."

Gu Ruxue left.

Zhou Huailing, on the other hand, hurried towards the imperial study.

Seeing Zhou Huailing's arrival, the King was a bit surprised. He put down the petition letters and asked, "Aren't you supposed to be at the Adulthood Ceremony? What are you doing here? Did anything go wrong?"

He took a sip of his tea.

Zhou Huailing shook his head, looking extremely glad. He had been furious about the failure which had happened, but something else proved his theory right! It was fantastic proof, and those who were invited and did not show up would regret their decision sooner or later.

Zhou Huailing recounted the whole scene that happened at the ceremony today.

He told the King about the birds lingering above the mansion. And he confessed about Gu Ruxue's identity as the Phoenix Girl.

The King was very excited too. He put down the teacup and got out of his chair, approaching Zhou Huailing. "Are you sure?"

Zhou Huailing nodded with determination.

"I witnessed it with my own eyes!" Zhou Huailing looked full of happiness. He continued. "I am here for Ruxue's sake. Please, make Ruxue the only Princess Consort!"

As the proposal was mentioned, the King hesitated

He looked at Zhou Huailing seriously. "You are aware that the present Princess Consort of Lord Ling is the lineal daughter of General Liu right? If you are making Gu Ruxue the only Princess Consort, what are you planning to do with the present Princess Consort? General Liu should not be offended. Huailing, don't let impulsiveness dominate you."

The King was very calm after being in the throne for so many years. In his opinion, it would not matter if Gu Ruxue was the Phoenix Girl, because she was married to the mansion after all, and she was now part of the imperial family too!

What mattered was to keep a proper balance. Offending the Liu Family was not the best choice.

Zhou Huailing, on the other hand, seemed quite positive. "Father, listen to me..."

Chapter 479: Her Grudge

"Whether or not General Liu is offended depends on the present Princess Consort. If Ms. Liu doesn't care, what would General Liu do anyway?" Zhou Huailing said full of confidence.

He served some tea to the King and got himself a cup, and took a mouthful too. Then he analysed. "The Princess Consort is traditional and obedient, she would not do anything about it."

"..."

"When I decided to get an Equal Princess Consort, she did not approve of that either, saying that it was against tradition, but now, she is still saying nothing as the Princess Consort."

"..."

"Women only need some nice words to hear, no matter whether they are elegant or traditional. I can make her some promises so that she would understand. Only when I am doing well will she be able to have a better life too." Zhou Huailing said confidently.

It was just a matter of compromise.

Hearing what Zhou Huailing said, the King felt slightly assured.

That made sense. He was in the throne for a long while and was always restrained and cautious. He had been unaware of the minor position Ms. Liu was in.

If that was the case...

The King nodded. "Since you are making the proposal personally, then I will announce the order and you shall deal with the rest properly."

Zhou Huailing nodded directly cheerfully. He could deal with it all properly. Everything was just a minor thing for him.

Since he received the agreement from father, Zhou Huailing waved him goodbye as it became late, and went to fetch Gu Ruxue from Princess Jing's palace.

After they walked out of the palace, Gu Ruxue asked. "Lord, did father say yes?"

Zhou Huailing nodded.

Gu Ruxue became completely excited. She had been feeling rather anxious in Princess Jing's palace, wondering if the news would turn out good. She had to admit that the Princess Consort was, after all, the General's daughter. And she was in an incomparable position with the Gu Family.

Man, the Phoenix Girl was such a useful identity for her.

Since the proposal was approved, Gu Ruxue added. "What should we do with the Princess Consort? Will she hold a grudge against me?"

Zhou Huailing patted the back of her hand.

Ruxue was indeed a kind-hearted girl.

The Princess Consort never showed such concern towards Ruxue who was still thinking about her now. Oh man!

"Don't worry about her, I will handle that personally. What you need to do is to be my Princess Consort. There are a great many banquets for you to attend with me in the future, but Princess Jing might not be able to help you since she is always very busy. You can visit your mother and ask her to teach you some manners," Zhou Huailing said, feeling rather happy. He started to like Gu Ruxue and the whole Gu Family too.

Gu Ruxue nodded sweetly.

That was the life she had been dreaming of – it was now realized so fast, on the day when she became an adult!

Back at the Lord Ling's Mansion...

Zhou Huailing patted Gu Ruxue's arm and said sweetly, "Go and take a bath in the room and wait for me."

Gu Ruxue had no intention of letting him go, but as she thought of becoming the Princess Consort of Lord Ling soon, she stopped caring about this minor thing and could not wait to make Lord Ling know about her state. It was just a matter of waiting for a while.

Gu Ruxue nodded. "Okay!"

Zhou Huailing was even more satisfied than before – Ruxue seemed very docile.

Then he rushed to the Princess Consort's yard, hoping to explain the whole thing to her so that he could spend more time with Ruxue.

Chapter 480: The Princess Consort's Anger

The Princess Consort was living in the front yard of Lord Ling's Mansion. When Lord Ling married her, no other women were found in the mansion apart from the maids. So she was living in the best yard with the most excellent structure.

Even now when Zhou Huailing came to visit the Princess Consort's yard, he found that the yard was extremely well-built. He spent quite a lot of effort gathering General Liu's forces by pleasing the Princess Consort, but...

He became slightly distressed as he walked into the Princess Consort's yard.

Ruxue was going to become the Princess Consort, so she had to live in the best yard. If the Princess Consort remained in the same yard, then he had to build an even better one for Ruxue, but he was running out of money to afford any more expenses. Therefore, if the Princess Consort could be understanding enough during the talk, he could mention this matter too. If she got angry, then he could wait. There was always going to be a way out.

When Zhou Huailing made up his mind, he continued to hurry to the Princess Consort's room.

Shao, who was waiting outside, looked slightly nervous at the sight of Zhou Huailing. "Lord, I will speak with her first."

Zhou Huailing was feeling very happy today, so he was not bothered to speak with a maid. So he threw a look at her and said with displeasure. "No need, I can walk by myself." Then he pushed the door open and walked in.

The Princess Consort was in the middle of reading a book. She found it curious that he was here in her room right now, but she showed a calm expression on her face. "What is it, Lord?"

Zhou Huailing was in a good mood, so he did not care about her coldness. Also, he was here to make the Princess Consort compromise.

He showed a gentle smile, and pointed at the Princess Consort, suggesting that she should take a seat.

Seeing his gesture, the Princess Consort did not move and instead sat where she was, staring at Zhou Huailing. She had no intention of approaching him.

"Well, it is fine if you are there, I am just here to talk with you about something," Zhou Huailing said with a smile as he took a sip of the tea.

The Princess Consort did not say anything. She looked at him, waiting for him to start the speech.

Zhou Huailing took another sip of tea. "You have seen what happened at Ruxue's Adulthood Ceremony today. The birds were gathering, and that was a conspicuous omen!"

"So?" The Princess Consort had no idea what he was aiming at. She did not pester Gu Ruxue even if it was against tradition that she was married to him in this way. She could just ignore her since she did not like her. She had no intention of wasting any more time caring about that. So why was she involved with any of this?

With the Princess Consort's question, Zhou Huailing felt even more assured.

He said with a modest tone, "So I spoke with my father and mother about this, and I believe that a blessed girl like Ruxue should become my Princess Consort. She is lucky, and with her around, I can do anything easily. So I think that you will understand me, right?"

The Princess Consort looked at Zhou Huailing, half unsure about what he was aiming at, but she seemed to have gotten the point as well.

Her hands were shivering slightly. She just could not believe that what she guessed might be right.

She tried hard to stabilize herself and said with a shivering tone. "Please clarify the point."