

Divine 701

Chapter 701: The Imperial Marriage

Gu Chaoyan frowned as well. She did not believe that each monster was tamed, because any monster that was tamed would lose its power of fight. So there must have been other methods to control them.

Gu Chaoyan thought for a while. "Maybe it is a kind of poison or drug, I will only know when I see it."

Zhou Huaijin did not think that it was a simple thing either.

He rubbed Gu Chaoyan's head and said, "Alright, I have already gotten Fu Bao to look into that. I have no other business for today, please go to bed. I will go back to the mansion to deal with something."

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

There had been too many things happening today, but luckily, everything was under control.

After seeing Zhou Huaijin off she went back to her bed.

Mutated monsters? If such a thing existed, chaos would arise!

Gu Chaoyan, who had not been to the space, visited there again tonight. The space had become much larger than before, and mist was everywhere in the extended area.

The herbs inside the space grew very well. The phoenix was growing more beautiful as it filled out with feathers.

He was just drinking the magical water and did not seem to have any interest in Gu Chaoyan as she walked in.

Gu Chaoyan looked at the bird, wondering if he was like those monsters Zhou Huaijin talked about, except that they were just of different categories?

Actually, when she got the egg, she also ran into an enormous wild boar. She was wondering why such a huge wild boar existed. And Xiu Jie was injured by some large apes as well. These animals shared one thing in common – they were simply so huge!

Maybe everything was connected.

Gu Chaoyan let out a sigh of relief.

She was just about to walk out of the space, when the bird shouted. "Dumbass!"

Gu Chaoyan ceased her steps and looked at him with a frown.

However, the phoenix ignored her and continued with his drinking.

Gu Chaoyan was feeling helpless. She walked out of the space then she laid down and fell asleep.

The following day...

In the Golden Hall...

Few things were happening in the morning session these days, except that Honored Princess Jing and Duke North were granted with their titles. Those happy things took place at the Ministry of Rites, and the officers from other ministries were available. Therefore, it seemed to be quite a peaceful morning session.

Everything was the same today as before, but... the King did not announce the closure. Instead, he said, "I still have one more happy thing to announce, read the imperial order."

Hearing that an imperial order was about to be announced, the officers exchanged some whispers among themselves, wondering what was happening for the King to be announcing the imperial order?

The King let out a small cough and the court quieted down.

The Eunuch announced. "According to the King's order and the arrangement of the heaven, the Prince from the North Qi Land is handsome, talented and excellent, so Princess Xunyang will be marrying him."

What?! A marriage alliance?

The officers were so surprised that their eyes were popping out.

That seemed so ridiculous! There were never any marriage alliances among the four countries. The Saint Divine Land was a powerful land and even if there was something like a marriage alliance, it should be the prince of the Saint Divine Land that married the princess of the North Qi Land, instead of the other way around.

Chu Tian, the Prime Minister stepped out and said, "King..."

"The session is over." The King had no interest in discussing the whole thing and left directly.

The confused officers were alone in the court.

Zhou Huailing went to the hotel directly after the morning session and met Xuan Lin, to whom he gave the imperial order.

When Xuan Lin saw the imperial order, he looked proud. "Lord Ling, how is it?"

"Congratulations." Zhou Huailing answered briefly.

Xuan Lin gave the imperial order to his staff and then said emotionally, "Well, I do prefer the lady I met in the court.."

Chapter 702: The Person

"She is not the princess, but she is excellent in air and look, I have never seen anyone like this in your country, nor in mine. How unfortunate," Xuan Lin said pitifully.

He could exchange 10 magical monsters with the King of the Saint Divine Land if he was able to marry that girl, but this princess was his last resort. He had never met the princess before, and did not know

what she was like. If not for the bet with Zhou Huailing, he would not have wanted to marry her. It was so troublesome to marry a princess.

He could do whatever he wanted with any other woman, but a princess was someone he had to take good care of for the sake of the relationship between the two countries.

Therefore Xuan Lin was not very pleased.

Zhou Huailing laughed weakly as he heard him mentioning Gu Chaoyan. He was not going to allow Xuan Lin to marry Gu Chaoyan, because she was an excellent person to be kept for himself. When he took the throne, he could just steal her.

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However, in front of Xuan Lin, Zhou Huailing still said, "Oh, Gu Chaoyan must be whom you are talking about. Well, just drop the thought, you should have been here one year earlier, but now she is engaged with my Eighth Brother and it's not that easy to steal her away."

Xuan Lin was very displeased. He was just expressing his inner thoughts emotionally. After all, he noticed that he really liked her, but he was not that happy to hear how Zhou Huailing reacted to his words.

He was not going to be pushed down in front of Zhou Huailing. He pursed his lips. "That is hard to say."

Zhou Huailing stared at Xuan Lin, though he was feeling indifferent. Xuan Lin gave a very wild laugh.

Zhou Huailing was feeling a little uncomfortable, so he changed the subject and continued with the conversation for a while longer.

When Jian Yuxing learned that the King gave a princess to Xuan Lin, it was already the afternoon.

On his visit to the Saint Divine Land, he just handed in some tributes and participated in the Spring Hunt, since that was what interested him above all, but... He had not expected that the North Qi Land and the Saint Divine Land would decide to establish a marriage alliance!

He was totally shocked. He went to talk about this with the prince of the Feather Mulberry Land.

It was a time when the four countries were under their own sovereign. The four countries were individuals and as long as they stayed that way, the whole world would stay peaceful.

If two countries were combined, then he would choose to reach a mutual understanding with the prince of the Feather Mulberry Land.

Muyi was surprised. He did not expect that Jian Yuxing would come to see him.

He had met Jian Yuxing before. He was always an independent, outstanding man who was not that easy to deal with.

"Brother Yuxing, what is it?" Prince Muyi asked confusedly.

“Well, one thing you may not know. The King has given Princess Xunyang to Xuan Lin. That means that the two countries are conducting a marriage alliance!” Jian Yuxing said seriously.

What?! A marriage alliance?

Prince Muye found the whole thing peculiar. He grabbed Jian Yuxing subconsciously and said, “I will take you to one place.”

Then he hurried off.

He took Jian Yuxing to Gu Chaoyan’s mansion and sat down in front of Gu Chaoyan, but Jian Yuxing had no idea what Prince Muye was about to do.

He looked at Gu Chaoyan and asked Muye next to him. “Who is this lady?”

Chapter 703: The Imperial Banquet

“This is Lady Chaoyan.” Muye replied with a tone of admiration.

Then he introduced Jian Yuxing...

Muye asked concernedly. “Lady Chaoyan, the Saint Divine Land and the North Qi Land have established a marriage alliance... what should we do about it?”

Jian Yuxing looked at Gu Chaoyan curiously, then he looked at Muye.

He just did not understand why a prince of the Feather Mulberry Land would turn to a lady of the Saint Divine Land for the issue of a marriage alliance. Could this lady be someone special?

He took one more look at Gu Chaoyan and suddenly found that she was familiar.

“You are the lady from the imperial pitch!” Jian Yuxing stated curiously. Then he looked at Gu Chaoyan and said even more certainly, “It is you! Lord Ling and the Prince from North Qi wanted to speak with you, but...”

Jian Yuxing did not continue.

Gu Chaoyan suddenly remembered something as well. She seemed to remember that she met Zhou Huailing and the prince from the North Qi Land the other day.

Now Gu Chaoyan suddenly seemed to have understood something. Could she have played a certain role in this game?

Gu Chaoyan was feeling quite confused, but Prince Muye did not care. Instead, he said anxiously, “What should we do? The whole land will turn chaotic if it continues to go on in this way. I think I will skip the Spring Hunt and return to the Feather Mulberry Land for some strategic solutions.”

The Feather Mulberry Land was the weakest land among the four countries, so he was the most worried one of all.

Gu Chaoyan served them tea and said calmly, “Don’t worry, the world will become chaotic sooner or later, but not right now. You can wait until the Spring Hunt.”

“Really?” Prince Muji asked.

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

Well... At least the King would not do anything before Destiny Monk was found. And even if Destiny Monk was found, he had to make sure that the Phoenix Girl would actually be useful.

And Gu Ruxue... Was she the real Phoenix Girl? What could she do? Gu Chaoyan did not think that she could do anything. Therefore, nothing big would happen yet.

“But you have to be cautious as well, because some things will happen these days.” Gu Chaoyan sighed, “You better not visit me too often these days, or people will talk.”

Muji nodded, then Gu Chaoyan added some more suggestions.

Only at this time did Muji and Jian Yuxing leave together.

After they left the mansion, Muji said to Jian Yuxing. “Don’t worry, Brother Yuxing.”

Jian Yuxing had been very confused from the beginning.

“Prince Muji, why do you trust her?” Jian Yuxing asked confusedly.

“I trust her.” Prince Muji had his own reason, but he did not know where to start, so he just put it briefly.

Jian Yuxing left for the hotel quietly.

From that day on... People, including those from the court and civilians were complaining about the marriage alliance. The Saint Divine Land was marrying off their princess, and was staining their own reputation. The Saint Divine Land was a huge land so why should they do anything so stupid.

For a moment, they just did not understand what was going on.

Chu Tian, the Prime Minister, asked about this in the Qianqing Palace before, but he got no answer. The King just kept his mouth sealed regarding this matter.

It was not until it was time for the Imperial Banquet that the topic of the marriage alliance faded away.

As for the Imperial Banquet...

The imperial children, as well as the princes, ambassadors of the four countries and the important ministers were all invited for the banquet.

“Elder Miss, what are you wearing for the Banquet?” Sword One asked worriedly, “You are definitely going to run into Gu Ruxue then!”

Chapter 704: Plan

Gu Chaoyan looked at Sword One and felt a bit confused. She found Sword One very difficult to fathom right now. She was a hidden guard cultivated from the Shadow Door, but why was she like Qing? She cared so much about what to wear every single day.

She poured Sword One tea, telling her not to waste any more time upon looking at the clothes. She might find tasting the tea even sweeter.

"I can wear the clothes for daily life. Those were given by Lord Huai and are of great quality, beautiful and warm. I have not gotten married to Lord Huai, so I am not going to go as a Princess Consort, though I am attending the imperial banquet with him. I can ask Xiu Jie to get a better-quality cloak." Gu Chaoyan replied carefully as she looked at Sword One's pursing lips.

Sword One looked helpless and sat down next to Gu Chaoyan. She knew that Elder Miss was going to answer her in this way, but that would not work!

It was the imperial banquet and Gu Ruxue was the Princess Consort of Lord Ling and Elder Miss was the Princess Consort of Lord Huai, so Elder Miss should not be in the shadow of Gu Ruxue. Besides, they were surely going to run into many people there. She did not want her Elder Miss to lose to anybody, no matter what!

"Elder Miss, we should get better dressed! You should not let your beauty be buried!" Sword One answered angrily.

Gu Chaoyan chuckled.

Sword One was so lovely. She could understand what Sword One was thinking, but it was not the right time for her to stand out. She should stay low-profile, judging from the current situation.

She pinched Sword One's face, and was about to say something, when Zhou Huaijin walked in and removed his own cloak. Then he went to the basin to get rid of the cold. Fu Bao was following behind, with a tray over his hands, not daring to walk in.

Zhou Huaijin said, "Sword One, get the things for your Elder Miss to look at."

Sword One came out with a smile. She presented the tray to Gu Chaoyan and said excitedly, "Look at this Elder Miss!"

"This is the cloak made from the fox fur we hunted a while ago. The cloak is warm and the color looks great too. We have made two, but the Aunt in the mansion says that she is going to make one in red after we get married. The process is going to take a long while, so you will have to wait," Zhou Huaijin said with a warm smile.

Having said these words, he found himself surrounded by warmth. Then he walked straight to Gu Chaoyan and sat down next to her.

He took hold of Gu Chaoyan's hands and placed them into his. "The imperial banquet is around the corner, and we will have many things to deal with this year. My mother will not appear, but I spoke with Madame Min so she will take care of you. Don't worry."

Gu Chaoyan nodded. She knew that he was worried about her, especially when everyone should be careful about surviving.

She would fear nothing being Lord Huai's fiancée, but now that the Queen lost the authority token and Xunyang had been granted to the prince of the North Qi, people who watched were all pretty aware of what was going on. No one was going to respect Lord Huai any more.

That was what Zhou Huaijin was worried about, but Gu Chaoyan was not someone to be bullied.

She patted Zhou Huaijin's hand and said, "Don't worry, I will be careful, but what are you going to do about Xunyang?"

Chapter 705: The Queen

As Xunyang was mentioned, Zhou Huaijin's face sank and he let out a look of sharpness.

His father did not even care about his own daughter just for the sake of his own benefits, but he was the King who had the strongest power above all.

So what? He was not going to let Xunyang get sent away.

It was impossible for Xunyang to be sent to the North Qi Land. He was going to make sure that the imperial order was not going to work out at all!

That was just one moment of emotion, but Zhou Huaijin did not give Gu Chaoyan the pressure. Instead, he said calmly, "I have already arranged it. I will get someone to take Xunyang away on New Year's Eve after the banquet, and I will place her at the safest place. As for how the King will talk with the North Qi Land, it is up to him."

Gu Chaoyan nodded. That was the most straightforward method at the moment.

In the following two days...

It was very peaceful in the capital as snow kept falling down. It was bustling too, because that was the only imperial banquet that took place each year. After that, the New Year's preparation should start very soon. Then spring will be around the corner.

The Eunuch asked the imperial servants to get the King well dressed. The clothes were much grander than those in the past, and more than five people were taking care of him.

The King was in a good mood too. What he was concerned about had been settled and it was a time of peace. He had always expected that the day could be much more peaceful as he was getting older.

After what happened the other day, he had not seen the Queen, but... as long as Jiang Shuang was still the Queen, then that would be good.

As long as he was able to see Jiang Shuang on important occasions, he would be pleased as well. He was already used to having Jiang Shuang next to him.

He was not going to see her every day, but it was already enough if she could be seen every now and then.

Seeing that he was almost dressed, the King frowned and looked outside the window. He did not see anyone from the Weiyang Palace coming to the court.

That was strange. Normally, the Weiyang Palace would come to Qianqing Palace first so that they could go to the location together. So why was she not here yet?

“De Fu, go and check what is happening at the Weiyang Palace. Why is the Queen not here yet? We can’t be late for the banquet,” the King said with displeasure.

De Fu was startled. He found the question strange so a strange expression arose on his face.

No one had informed the Weiyang Palace about the banquet, because De Fu thought that the King was waiting for Honored Princess Jing to arrive. Yet he was waiting for the woman from the Weiyang Palace instead.

De Fu answered and hurried to the Weiyang Palace. De Fu was thinking about what to do on the way there.

He had thought that when the Phoenix Girl was found, the Weiyang Palace would collapse, but the King was thinking about her all the time.

De Fu showed a better attitude as he spoke to Aunt Nan about the banquet, but Aunt Nan said helplessly, “Chief De Fu, we have just arranged someone to tell them that the Queen is not doing well, and she won’t be able to attend the banquet. But now you are already here...”

Then she passed De Fu a money packet.

De Fu took it and sighed. “That is a pity.”

Aunt Nan answered briefly, then De Fu returned.

“The Queen is not doing well, and she won’t be able to attend the banquet, what do you plan to do?”

Chapter 706: Less than Her

What?

The King did not expect that he would receive such a reply.

Not feeling well?

Xunyang’s story took place many days ago and she should have understood it by now. She was still the Queen and the imperial doctors would take good care of her and she would have many people waiting on her, so why was she still like that?

The King felt annoyed and uncomfortable inwardly. He had been in the throne for more than two decades, and during the past two decades, Jiang Shuang had always been by his side at all kinds of banquets, including the yearly imperial banquet. There used to be some time when she felt unwell, but she would always stand up on her feet and keep him company. So why not today? It was just a cold and couldn’t be so serious?

The King felt quite annoyed. He stayed silent for a long while, unable to accept the truth.

And De Fu started to suspect that he might have been wrong – the King kept complaining about the Queen, but now he seemed quite unwilling to leave her.

The banquet time almost arrived.

De Fu had to remind him. “King, should we ask other princesses to join you, or are you heading there alone?”

Only now did the King come back to himself. He was feeling a bit unhappy, but the imperial banquet had to continue.

It was not very proper for him to go there alone. So he thought for a while and said annoyedly, “Bring Honored Princess Jing here. The Queen is not feeling well, and she can fit the position at the moment.”

De Fu nodded, then he went to fetch the Honored Princess Jing.

The King had been in a good mood for the imperial banquet, but now he had become irritated. So he snapped at several servants.

When Honored Princess Jing arrived, she happened to see the King throwing his temper.

She said with a smile, “King, it is a happy day, don’t get mad. Let’s hurry to the site, or we will miss the right moment.”

The King nodded unwillingly. He was still feeling rather displeased, especially when he saw Honored Princess Jing standing in front of him in a set of rose clothes. He suddenly felt very annoyed inwardly.

Honored Princess Jing also noticed that the King was not pleased by how she was dressed.

She asked with a smile. “Don’t you like my dress?”

“Red is a better color.” The King said subconsciously. Having said these words, he suddenly sensed that he might have said something wrong, so he hurried and left.

Honored Princess Jing had a terrible expression on her face.

Red... that was the color for the Queen.

Aunt had got her a set of purple clothes, but she did not think that the clothes in that color would reflect her real identity as the Honored Princess, so she insisted on getting dressed in the rose.

Honestly... red and rose clothes were not allowed to be worn by ordinary princesses, but the King hated this color for some reason.

Honored Princess Jing also felt quite annoyed.

It was time for the imperial banquet to start, so the King headed to the men’s chairs whilst Honored Princess Jing headed to the women’s chairs.

Although Honored Princess Jing was in a bad mood, when she headed to her seat, she still looked arrogant.

In the court, the King was in charge of the court for business whilst she was in charge of the court for life and the princesses. So she had all the right to feel proud.

Honored Princess Jing came to her seat as she was stared at by many jealous women.

As Honored Princess Jing arrived, the Empress Dowager arrived too.

As she saw the Empress Dowager, Honored Princess Jing said with a tone of complaint, "Mom, the King says that my clothes are not as good as the red color, what does he mean?"

Chapter 707: Gu Ruxue Showed off

Honored Princess Jing had been in a very proud and happy mood when she walked out of her palace today. She was, after all, just an Honored Princess, but she had thought that she would be able to walk shoulder to shoulder with the King, but the King did not like her clothes, and that was something she just could not get over.

The Empress Dowager threw a look at Honored Princess Jing.

That was indeed a color for the Honored Princess, but the Honored Princess Jing was not young any more and the color of her clothes made her look too shining. After spending so many years in the court, she should not wear this kind of clothes to make herself look less elegant.

The King was not wrong, but the meaning he had implied... Well, The Empress Dowager snapped directly, "You can just get dressed in red some other day. That person at the Weiyang Palace has nothing other than a title, and she has nothing other than a false name. You will be able to have that position sooner or later, so red clothes will not be offensive at all."

That would make her happy too.

Hearing what The Empress Dowager said, Honored Princess Jing suddenly understood.

She had thought that it was the King who disliked her, but that was not the point. She had been too anxious to understand.

Honored Princess Jing showed a smile, "I understand."

The Empress Dowager nodded calmly and glanced at the people in the lower seats.

Since it was an imperial banquet, there were women from the imperial family as well as princesses from other countries and wives, ladies of some ministers.

Those who were seated here were of official statuses.

There were many princesses arriving here from other countries. Normally there were only two from each country, yet this year, three from the North Qi Land were here.

The princesses were comparing with each other. As for the imperial family...

Lord Huai had not yet gotten engaged and Lord Qi was in the outer territory instead of being asked to come home.

As for the girls... Only Gu Ruxue and Gu Chaoyan were present. Princess Xunyang was absent whilst other princesses were too young to sit away from their mothers.

There were not many people present.

The girls were seated with Madame Min, the wife of the Chu Family as well as the ladies.

The Min Family was a family with a history of over hundreds of years whilst Chu Tian was the Prime Minister. So both sides were qualified to be present.

Gu Ruxue had been attending many banquets these days, so she had made some friends with the wives and ladies. She sat down among them and started to chit chat with them vividly. Lord Ling was quite popular now so everyone was trying to flatter Gu Ruxue.

On the other hand, Gu Chaoyan was alone, drinking tea by herself.

When Gu Ruxue was done with the wives and ladies, she turned to Gu Chaoyan and asked indifferently, "Lady Chaoyan, you are attending the Spring Hunt this year too, right?"

Gu Chaoyan threw a calm look at her and nodded. "Yes."

When she heard this, Gu Ruxue showed a look of pride. She was going to attend the Spring Hunt too, and despite her terrible skills in shooting and riding, Lord Ling told her that she was going to be given a magical monster as a mount, so she was going to shine with the monster under her.

She had been keeping the secret for a long while, so she decided to show it off at the banquet. It was great that Gu Chaoyan was attending too.

Gu Ruxue showed a bright smile, "Then we can have a competition! Has Lord Huai picked a mount for you?"

Chapter 708: Displeasure

Gu Ruxue was confident when she asked the question, because she was sure that no one was going to shine brighter than she did for the Spring Hunt. Lord Ling told her that there were only a few magical monsters available and she could get one, not Gu Chaoyan.

Gu Chaoyan was just a daughter born to a businesswoman and had even been driven out of the Gu Family! Why did Lord Huai still want to marry her?

Well Gu Ruxue had thought about it – she was going to shine at the Spring Hunt and she was going to exceed Gu Chaoyan. She wanted the men of the world to take a good look at her and think that she was much better than someone like Gu Chaoyan!

Hearing that Gu Ruxue was asking Gu Chaoyan about her mount, the Second Lady of the Chu Family knew clearly what Gu Ruxue meant. It was time for her to suck up to Gu Ruxue, so she added bravely, "I don't think Lord Huai has prepared one for her."

“What is your mount, Princess Consort of Lord Ling? I believe that Lord Ling must have picked an excellent one for you! Lord Ling treats you so nicely!” The Second Lady of the Chu Family said with a flattering tone.

Well... It was an imperial banquet where ladies were all out to have some fun.

The Second Lady of the Chu Family was also at the proper age for marriage.

Her purpose was to marry someone from the powerful Gu Family and as long as she was able to marry someone from the Gu Family, she was definitely going to be more powerful than her Elder Sister.

That was why she kept behaving so exaggeratingly when sharing the same table as Princess Consort of Ling.

The Second Lady of the Chu Family even sneered at Gu Chaoyan as she finished saying these words.

Gu Chaoyan frowned at the two ladies, looking quite displeased.

She was about to say something when Madame Min next to them could not stand it but said calmly, “The Spring Hunt is held every year in the Saint Divine Land, and the reason why the Spring Hunt is held is because we got the land on horseback. It is a peaceful time now, but the late King expected that everyone in our country should be aware of the potential danger so the Spring Hunt event is held. In this way, everyone from the Saint Divine Land should remember that even if there is no war, we should stay alert.”

“...”

“Hunting is what is competed at the Spring Hunt each year no matter who the participants are, not the mounts. What is the meaning of the Spring Hunt if mounts are to be compared?”

Madame Min sounded very serious as she was speaking. She was looking at Gu Ruxue as she snapped these words.

Madame Min would not have said anything if she had not heard those words, but those words were spoken in front of her, so she would not pretend as if she had not heard a thing. She did not care if that girl was the Phoenix Girl or some Princess Consort. She could not allow such an air to spread around in the court.

The Saint Divine Land was a powerful land, but stupid people should not be allowed to twist the meaning of the Spring Hunt.

“What do you mean, do you know...” Gu Ruxue had not met someone who dared to counter her for a long while. So she just could not stand what Madame Min said to her today.

Everyone was flattering her, and it was so embarrassing to be humiliated at the imperial banquet.

Gu Ruxue was about to argue with Madame Min, but the Second Lady of the Chu Family stopped her and said, “Princess Consort, please, I need to speak with you, let’s talk there, okay?”

Chapter 709: Xuan Lin and Zhou Huaijin

The Second Lady of the Chu Family pulled her away.

Gu Ruxue was so angry that she slapped the Second Lady of the Chu Family, but the Second Lady of the Chu Family was not mad. Instead, she asked with a flattering tone, “You are not angry any more, are you, Princess Consort?”

“I was not defending Madame Min, I was helping you,” the Second Lady said.

She had no way to get herself out, but she needed to flatter Gu Ruxue so she added some more nice words. However, she had not expected that Madame Min, who never cared about anything, would interfere. If she did not stop them, she would have to be the scapegoat for the upcoming argument between Princess Consort and Madame Min. So she had to pull her away and maybe she could show that she had done Princess Consort a favor.

“You helped me?” Gu Ruxue looked twisted. She was obviously angry.

“Princess Consort, I am not setting you up, my father is the Prime Minister, and he has always warned us that we should never offend Madame Min,” the Second Lady said and then whispered as she looked about. “Even the King has to be polite in front of her. I was worried about you so I dragged you away from Madame Min. If you want to warn Madame Min, you can have a discussion with Lord Ling. You can always take revenge, don’t worry.”

Only now did Gu Ruxue stop being that angry. She was so angry that she forgot about it.

Lord Ling once warned her before – she could do whatever she wanted at Lord Ling’s Mansion, but she needed to stay away from Madame Min and Zhao Yiqiu.

When the Second Lady reminded her, she suddenly remembered the warning she heard before.

She became a bit timid, but whatever, she was still angry, so she did not have a good expression on her face. However, this lady seemed nice, so she added, “You are the Second Lady of the Chu Family, right? I remember you now, come to visit me at Lord Ling’s Mansion when you have time.”

The Second Lady smiled brightly and nodded constantly. “Sure!”

Having said these words, they returned to their seats.

Gu Ruxue did not mention what happened earlier, but she was still wearing a very arrogant look on her face.

The other wives and ladies were still sucking her up. They did not dare to irritate Madame Min, but they still dared to flatter people in front of Madame Min. They knew Madame Min well, she never spoke or cared about anyone else.

Gu Chaoyan poured Madame Min a cup of tea as a way of expressing her gratitude. She knew clearly that Madame Min was not doing it for her, but she still gave her a hand.

Madame Min nodded briefly.

On the other side...

Zhou Huaijin, Zhou Huailing and Zhou Huaiyu were sharing the same table, but none of them were speaking. They had nothing in common with each other.

The only bustling sound was from the guests who were toasting Zhou Huailing.

No one came to toast Zhou Huaijin and Zhou Huaiyu. No one dared to flatter anyone apart from Lord Ling.

When Xuan Lin came with the cup and showed up in front of Zhou Huaijin, he did not raise the cup directly, but looked up at Xuan Lin.

Xuan Lin smiled. "Lord Huai, I have heard a lot about you."

Zhou Huaijin frowned slightly.

This was the man the King wanted Xunyang to marry. He did not greet him happily, but he still raised the cup and drank it.

When he finished the wine... Xuan Lin was still there..

Chapter 710: She in the Weiyang Palace

He looked at Zhou Huaijin with interest, then he left after giving him a smile.

Zhou Huaiyu, who had been drinking the wine by himself, could not help, but look at Zhou Huaijin at the sight of what happened.

Zhou Huailing ignored them directly, but continued to act politely with other people.

The imperial banquet came to an end under this seemingly-bustling atmosphere.

Although the Queen was absent, for most of the guests, there was no difference. However, for the King who kept drinking the wine himself, things did not feel right. Something was missing. He did not seem to show any interest in the imperial banquet either.

The King got up directly the moment the banquet came to an end. Then the other guests left at the sight of what the King did.

The King and Honored Princess Jing started to head towards their chambers, and Zhou Huailing was left to deal with the remaining guests.

Honored Princess Jing had been keeping the King company all this time, and normally, the King would visit the Queen after the banquet was finished, but the Queen failed to show up, and Honored Princess Jing took her place. So Honored Princess Jing thought that normally, the King should visit her chamber instead.

During the past few weeks, she had noticed that Lord Ling had been favored and she had got promoted in title, but Honored Princess Jing was aware that the King had always been spending the night at the Qianqing Palace rather than at her chambers. Honored Princess Jing felt that she was not given enough attention.

Today should have been a great opportunity, so Honored Princess Jing was in a good mood.

The King noticed that Honored Princess Jing had been walking by his side after walking for a while in the court.

He frowned with displeasure. "What are you following me for? Have you arranged the ladies at the banquet? You are in charge of the princesses now, you don't even know what to do!

"Just go back to your own palace after you get everything settled. Normally, I should visit the Weiyang Palace after the banquet. Also, the Queen is sick so I should go and see her too," the King said with a strong tone. He did have the excuse of visiting the Queen now.

Honored Princess Jing had a terrible look on her face.

He was visiting the Weiyang Palace whilst she was going to take care of the affairs? What did this mean! Didn't he say that he hated the woman in the Weiyang Palace?!

Honored Princess Jing was angry, but she did not dare to blame the King for anything. Instead, she just stood on the same spot with an angry, pale-looking face, seeing the King disappearing further into the distance.

She did not take care of the ladies, but visited Cining Palace instead.

The Empress Dowager had just returned to Cining Palace. She had become old so the banquet had tired her out.

She frowned at the sight of Honored Princess Jing. "What are you doing here instead of keeping the King company?"

Hearing what the Empress Dowager said, Honored Princess Jing became even more distressed.

She sat down in the chair and said, "I wanted to, but I am not lucky enough. The King went to the Weiyang Palace! He says that he is following the rules of the imperial banquet!"

Hearing these words... the Empress Dowager sat straight too.

She had a complicated look on her face.

When facing Honored Princess Jing, she said, "It is a rule the King has been following for more than two decades, he will be able to change it gradually. I will speak with him, you can leave now."

She was consoling Honored Princess Jing, but she was not very happy either.

At the Weiyang Palace..