

## Divine 731

### Chapter 731: Comparison

Sword One had a complicated expression on her face.

Usually, it was the Min Family who received the largest amount of food thanks to Madame Min's existence. Madame Min, who was not living in the mansion, was still an important figure of the Min Family, thus helping the mansion to get the granted food from the King.

So the gossip had always been about which other mansion received the largest amount apart from the Min Mansion. However, the Min Mansion was not on the top of the list this year. And...

"It is the Gu Mansion. Then the Min Mansion followed by the Prime Minister's Mansion. As for the rest, the amount of food is delivered based on the officers' rank, so there is not such a huge difference," Sword One said confusedly.

Gu Chaoyan frowned slightly as well.

Gu Zhenkang was still working at Dali Temple, Gu Yunhe was still an assistant to Lord Ling, no one from the Gu Mansion was in any important station, so the reason why the King granted them the largest amount of the food was for the Phoenix Girl's sake. And the Gu Mansion would become even more popular after today.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head.

"Just forget it, let's eat," Gu Chaoyan said.

Sword One nodded and joined everyone for dinner.

The granted food was just a small thing they talked about. Everyone was in a good mood during the entire dinner time.

After dinner, the Guarding Year's End event started.

Gu Chaoyan was awake for a while before going to bed.

Qing and Sword One took turns in guarding the year's end.

When she got up the following day, it was bustling in the mansion.

Qing and Sword One had gotten the red packets ready, as Gu Chaoyan had told them to.

After breakfast, Gu Chaoyan delivered the red packets to each one of the staff, who received 30 yuan respectively. Gu Chaoyan was generous to everyone working at the mansion and never gave them a hard time. So when she finished delivering the red packets personally one after another, the staff were really startled.

When they worked for other mansions, even those big ones, they would only get no more than 2 yuan for red packets during the New Year's time. So when they worked for this mansion, they had not looked forward to receiving any more than that either, but their lady was extremely generous.

The money was almost the same amount of what they received within a year!

The staff whispered among themselves, saying that they would definitely work hard for Chaoyan.

Sword One looked at the staff in satisfaction.

She said nothing more, but turned to her Elder Miss.

Even she felt that she was lucky enough to serve Elder Miss. She was such a nice person!

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New Year already arrived, but Princess Xunyang was still not found.

The King was in a hurry, but he did not dare to spread the news. He had gained grey hair over the New Year's time just from what happened with Xunyang. He just did not know what to do.

He did not want to make Zhou Huaijin an important person, so he did not want to have any discussion with him.

Although Princess Xunyang was not found, the time for the Spring Hunt was approaching.

Normally it was Zhou Huaijin and the officer of the ministers who made preparations for the Spring Hunt, and mostly it was the ministers who did all the work.

However, the King arranged for Lord Ling to handle the work this year, together with the ministers too. So when the Spring Hunt was around the corner... They had gotten all the preparations ready.

Zhou Huaijin hurried to the mansion and said to Gu Chaoyan. "Chaoyan, are you nervous about the Spring Hunt?"

Gu Chaoyan looked at Zhou Huaijin and did not understand what he meant.

Zhou Huaijin took hold of her hands and said, "You and I are not married, but we are already engaged. Now everyone is comparing me with Lord Ling, and I don't think that you can avoid being compared to Gu Ruxue at the Spring Hunt.."

### **Chapter 732: Trust**

Zhou Huaijin felt very concerned about Chaoyan as he thought about all of this.

She was marrying him, but she had to face those displeasing things with him. That made him feel very uncomfortable, but Shadow Door was not yet powerful enough, so he was unable to do many things at the moment. Therefore, all he could do was to tolerate it.

He took hold of Gu Chaoyan's hands and held them tightly.

Gu Chaoyan smiled briefly.

They all said that Lord Huai was ruthless and cold, yet as a matter of fact, he was a very careful and discreet man. He would be sad if he thought of many small details.

"Don't worry or blame yourself. Gu Ruxue is my sister, and even without you around, she would want to compare with me about everything. I might not be the lineal daughter, yet she knows that she is not the real one, despite how much she wants to be. She is not the real lineal daughter, so she wants to be

better than me in every aspect. With you around, she just makes some comparison and then stops, but without you around, she would probably end up killing me!" Gu Chaoyan said straightforwardly.

Zhou Huaijin touched her face, asking her not to think about this.

Gu Chaoyan smiled. She did not care about this, nor was she scared.

Back at the banquet, she was already aware that Gu Ruxue was going to have a contest with her at the Spring Hunt as she mentioned the mounts. Even if Madame Min helped her at the banquet, Madame Min would not have the right to stop any contest at the Spring Hunt.

Gu Chaoyan was never afraid of contests. So if Gu Ruxue wanted to have a contest with her, she could just do that. She didn't believe that Gu Ruxue would be able to beat her at any contest.

In the previous life or in the present one, Gu Chaoyan had never been afraid of anything.

"Anyway, don't think about this any more, do you trust me?" Gu Chaoyan asked.

"Of course," Zhou Huaijin said straightforwardly without hesitation. He trusted Gu Chaoyan's competence, but he was just a bit concerned.

However, since Chaoyan wanted to drop the topic Zhou Huaijin dropped it too.

"Just practise the bow and you will definitely like the Spring Hunt!" Zhou Huaijin said with a smile.

The Spring Hunt was indeed a very interesting event in the Saint Divine Land.

In the past, when the princes and ambassadors from other countries came to pay the tribute to the Saint Divine Land, they left without participating in the Spring Hunt, but there was one time when a prince insisted on being part of the Spring Hunt, and stayed until spring time. From that time on, all princes wanted to stay for the Spring Hunt each year. So the Spring Hunt became an event for the princes and ambassadors to participate in every year.

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Chaoyan was very good at riding and shooting, so Zhou Huaijin knew that she would like the feeling of riding through the woods.

And Gu Chaoyan did look forward to participating in the event. She had not been with any events for a long while.

It was always very cold in winter, so she could do nothing other than staying indoors, reading and drinking tea. That eventually became boring.

"I am free these two days, so I can practise when the weather is good," Gu Chaoyan said with a smile.

Zhou Huaijin pinched her face subconsciously at the sight of her smile.

Gu Chaoyan protested, so Zhou Huaijin withdrew his pinch, and stopped teasing her any more.

Sword One came with the pastries and Gu Chaoyan asked. "How is everything about Xunyang? What does the King think at the moment?"

When Xunyang was mentioned, Zhou Huaijin shook his head and smiled.. “My father has gotten himself confused.”

### **Chapter 733: Control**

Gu Chaoyan was in the middle of eating a pastry and had just taken a bite of it, when she heard what Zhou Huaijin said.

She found it peculiar, so she looked at Zhou Huaijin in confusion. “What is it?”

Zhou Huaijin gave her another pinch on the face at the sight of her lovely expression. He said, “Before the New Year, the Prince of North Qi seemed to hear some message from somewhere, so he went into the court and asked to meet Xunyang. Xunyang was not in the court back then, so the King gave him a portrait.

“The prince saw Xunyang’s appearance, but a long time had passed and the imperial army as well as the men arranged by the King had not yet found Xunyang. The Spring Hunt was around the corner and after that, the prince was going home.

“If the portrait had not been given, then they could simply get someone else to replace her, but since the prince knew how the Princess looks, such a method will no longer work. The King is very anxious, but he has stopped suspecting us. He is turning his suspicion to someone else.”

Zhou Huaijin had a very strange expression on his face as he was telling the story.

When the King made Xunyang the bargaining chip Zhou Huaijin felt very annoyed. So this result served him right, and Zhou Huaijin took it as a joke.

Gu Chaoyan smiled briefly.

That was right. He got himself confused. The King would not have any idea of what to do at the moment.

“Why are you smiling?” Zhou Huaijin asked with a blaming tone.

Then the two of them started to laugh together.

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Winter was gone and spring had arrived again. Soon everything recovered as the snow melted, and the trees started to bud.

Before the Spring Hunt took place...

A patch of green covered the yard of the mansion. Sunshine shone down every day and made people feel very warm.

At this moment, Zhou Huailing transported one magical monster from the court.

It was just a mount. Zhou Huailing had intended to give it to Gu Ruxue. In this way, she could shine greatly in the Spring Hunt.

Gu Ruxue was the Phoenix Girl, and the more popular she became, the more popular he would become.

When the magical monster arrived at Lord Ling's Mansion... Zhou Huailing asked Gu Ruxue to take a look at it.

Gu Ruxue saw the monster in the stable. It was large and white, just like a lion. It wasn't ugly with the white fur, but it was bigger than she had expected. She thought that it would be something flexible like a pony.

Zhou Huailing did not think that it was bad. He said excitedly, "This is what I asked Xuan Lin to pick for you. Most of the magical monsters are ferocious-looking and ugly, but this one is very beautiful. It has white fur, which suits you best.

"You don't have to worry about a thing with it around you. It will hunt for you and all you need to do is to get the prey," Zhou Huailing said with a smile.

He was very happy, and was very confident that Gu Ruxue would shine on the hunting pitch.

Hearing what Zhou Huailing said, Gu Ruxue stopped thinking about the drawbacks.

"Will it listen to me?" Gu Ruxue asked. The magical monster was already staring at her fiercely. It did not look docile.

Zhou Huailing took something from his sleeves.

It was a black bottle.

He showed a very mysterious smile on his face.

#### **Chapter 734: Mount**

"What is it?" Gu Ruxue asked.

Zhou Huailing gave the bottle to Gu Ruxue and asked her to hold it, then he narrated calmly. "This is the drug that is able to control magical monsters. There are two pills inside. You take one whilst the other is fed to the magical monster. From that moment on, it will only obey your orders."

Gu Ruxue looked at the bottle in her hands.

She was somewhat startled. If she needed to take the drug first just to control the magical monster... what if the drug hurt her physically? Gu Ruxue was very concerned about that.

The magical monster did make her excited. And it seemed great to own something as powerful as this.

Zhou Huailing seemed to have sensed her concern, so he added. "I have taken a pill too, back in the court. As long as you are able to control the magical monster, it will only bend down to you!"

It was a huge temptation and it assured Gu Ruxue. So she nodded, then she swallowed one of the pills. She tossed the other to the magical monster.

When the magical monster took the pill, its eyes gave out sparkling green light, startling Gu Ruxue. She took a few steps backwards. She had thought that the magical monster was just an animal that was bigger than a pony, and she had failed to notice its special characteristics. Now... Gu Ruxue finally realized what was special about the magical monster.

When the magical monster finished taking the pill, he came to Gu Ruxue's feet and sat down.

"Get up," Gu Ruxue said.

The magical monster obeyed her order.

Gu Ruxue looked at Zhou Huailing with a surprised look on her face. "It works!"

Zhou Huailing nodded. He had already experienced the magical characteristics of the magical monster, so he just smiled briefly rather than being surprised.

Gu Ruxue was extremely cheerful about that. At this moment, she already started to create the scene where she was able to shine brightly by riding on the magical monster. She was going to cast a shadow upon one person in particular, namely Gu Chaoyan.

She was going to make sure that Gu Chaoyan was totally humiliated!

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The Spring Hunt soon arrived.

It took place ten days after Gu Ruxue got the mount.

Apart from the imperial children as well as the princes and ambassadors, the young masters and ladies of some important ministers were also allowed to participate in the Spring Hunt.

Normally, it was the children from the Min Family, the Prime Minister's family as well as the sons of some Generals. However, one more person was allowed to be present this year. He turned out to be Gu Yunhe from the Gu Mansion.

Gu Yunhe had spent years in military camps and he was very confident about the Spring Hunt. So he joined the participating crowd at the Spring Hunt.

Gu Ruxue showed up with the magical monster under her. The moment she showed up, everyone turned to her. It was a kind of mount that none of them had ever witnessed before.

Maybe that was the thing only the Phoenix Girl could possess?

So she was the so-called Phoenix Girl?

Everyone's eyes were brightened.

Some people started to whisper about the Phoenix Girl among themselves.

Zhou Huailing was standing in the crowd with a look of pride. Gu Ruxue was shining brightly, and she was his woman.

Gu Ruxue came to the ladies on her magical monster. She then hopped off the magical monster, which behaved so ruly next to her.

Some lady from the crowd asked. "Princess Consort of Lord Ling, is that your special mount? What is it?"

"Oh yes." Gu Ruxue smiled brightly as she caressed the mount's fur.

Some other ladies also wanted to come up to touch it, but the magical monster glared at them, making them take a step backwards instead.

Gu Ruxue indifferently turned to Gu Chaoyan who was in the crowd. "I heard that Lord Huai has also prepared a mount for you, sister, what is it like?"

### **Chapter 735: What Is That?**

Gu Ruxue looked at Gu Chaoyan provocatively.

She was not sure whether Zhou Huaijin prepared anything for Gu Chaoyan, but she was sure about one thing. She had already asked the provocative question and caused a dilemma. If Gu Chaoyan denied the question, then both Gu Chaoyan and Lord Huai would be totally humiliated, but if Gu Chaoyan said yes, then she would still get humiliated when the mount was compared with her magical monster. All in all, they were going to be humiliated no matter what.

That was exactly what Gu Ruxue wanted to see.

When the question was asked, all the ladies participating in the Spring Hunt turned to Gu Chaoyan. Most of them were looking forward to seeing a show.

Gu Ruxue was the Princess Consort of Lord Ling, and the Phoenix Girl. She was definitely going to humiliate someone so that she could stand out. It was just good that she was focusing on Gu Chaoyan instead of the others.

The Second Lady of the Chu Family was especially excited. She said ironically after Gu Ruxue asked the question. "Lord Huai should have gotten a mount ready for you, hasn't he? You are engaged and you are going to be the future Princess Consort of Lord Huai!"

After the banquet, Gu Ruxue had been taking special care of the Second Lady of the Chu Family, who was supporting Gu Ruxue no matter what after getting the attention from Gu Ruxue.

Gu Chaoyan glanced at those people. She smiled briefly, "The Spring Hunt is about getting the largest number of prey, but now it is a peaceful time, and the meaning of Spring Hunt is more about entertainment, one's mount isn't that important, is it?"

The moment Gu Chaoyan finished her words, the Second Lady of the Chu Family laughed wildly, "Honestly, future Princess Consort of Lord Huai, you can just say honestly that you don't have a mount, okay? It is not humiliating that you are not as good as Princess Consort of Lord Ling. You don't have to tell a story just to get yourself out of the situation. The Spring Hunt is entertainment, that's true, but it is still a contest. We have to be careful about riding and shooting, so mounts are of course important."

The Second Lady of the Chu Family was speaking as if the whole thing made sense.

Well, that was only because Gu Chaoyan was the only one here. The other day when Madame Min was present, she did not dare to say a thing at all.

The Second Lady of the Chu Family laughed. Then the other ladies who tried to suck up to Gu Ruxue also laughed.

However, there were still a few who did not follow suit.

Gu Chaoyan smiled briefly. She did not seem to care about what was going on right now.

Gu Ruxue looked at her ironically.

Gu Chaoyan said indifferently, "Whatever you say."

"So Princess Consort, you really want to see my mount so much?" Gu Chaoyan asked casually.

"The Spring Hunt is around the corner, and you have to offer your things. We are in a good mood, and it is the best time to show the mounts." Gu Ruxue was implicitly stressing that she wanted to see that.

Gu Chaoyan smiled. If that was the case... She could show her the mount.

Gu Chaoyan took out a jade flute hung around her waist and started to play the flute.

Gu Ruxue and the Second Lady of the Chu Family as well as the other ladies looked at Gu Chaoyan in confusion. It was just a mount, so why was she playing the flute for it? Could a jade flute work to get that thing?

The sound of the jade flute was very beautiful.

Everyone else at the Spring Hunt turned to her. For one moment, Gu Chaoyan received the most attention, but... The sound went on and on, yet nothing appeared.

Gu Ruxue could not help but laugh. "Honestly, Gu Chaoyan, don't be silly, do you think a horse would show up just for your flute?"

Gu Chaoyan threw a look at her.

Then the Second Lady of the Chu Family shouted loudly. "What is that?"

### **Chapter 736: Confident Gu Ruxue**

The Second Lady of the Chu Family cried out, and everyone turned to the direction she looked at.

Everyone present got transfixed at the sight of the thing. It was a phoenix bathed in a shining red color, and the phoenix let out a catchy sound as it flew. The voice was so beautiful as if it were the most beautiful sound in the whole world.

The phoenix kept soaring above the sky, looking really beautiful.

After it flew a circle, the phoenix seemed to come flying towards the pitch of the Spring Hunt.

Everyone was excited and nervous. A phoenix was something that was rarely seen within hundreds of years' time. Many people got to know about the phoenix through historical books. Also, a phoenix was a very magical thing, and if the phoenix chose a master, that person would have a very high position in the capital city.

Although there was every chance that the phoenix would land upon any of them, everyone present was hoping that it would choose them as the master.



However, Gu Ruxue was different. She was surprised and excited at the sight of the flying phoenix. She was the Phoenix Girl! The Phoenix Girl was able to make hundreds of birds fly about. That was what happened on her birthday!

The phoenix was the head of all birds. Since birds took her as the master, then the phoenix was definitely here for her too!

Gu Ruxue was especially excited. She had not expected that there could be such a surprise at the Spring Hunt. When the phoenix took her as the master, she would be the real Phoenix Girl without any suspicion. She could already imagine how glorious she would be, when such a thing happened later.

Meanwhile, Lord Ling and the King were also very excited.

That was a phoenix! That was something belonging to the Phoenix Girl!

Although they had all witnessed the scene where hundreds of birds were flying through the sky, things were different now. The phoenix was an auspicious omen. Since the Destiny Monk was never found, both Lord Ling and the King were feeling unassured, but now things were different.

The phoenix was here, so the Destiny Monk should show up very soon too.

Lord Ling was very excited. His hands were tightly clenched, and he could not help raising his head. That phoenix was going to Gu Ruxue, and he was the man that owned the Phoenix Girl.

He was going to be the person that everyone was jealous of.

He could already imagine how much honor he would receive later.

The phoenix was flying in a very elegant way and was approaching the ladies little by little.

Everyone's expression was changing.

Only Gu Chaoyan was watching the whole thing calmly. The phoenix would not land upon any of them no matter how much they wished that it could, because she raised the phoenix, which grew from a featherless bird to its present state. Now it looked exactly like a phoenix. It belonged to her only.

The phoenix seemed to find it funny to tease those people. So it kept flying through the sky near and far instead of landing.

Gu Chaoyan was feeling helpless, but she let the bird have fun anyway.

The phoenix had been trapped inside the space for too long and it must have been too bored not to have enough fun out here.

Gu Ruxue just could not wait and said, "The phoenix is so naughty. Just come to me, stop playing around." She looked extremely proud as she said those words.

She was very certain that the phoenix was hers, so she was saying these words confidently.

When the Second Lady of the Chu Family heard that, she asked instantly, "Princess Consort, this phoenix is yours?"

**Chapter 737: What Was Wrong?**

Gu Ruxue nodded seriously.

She took a look at the phoenix and said proudly, "Of course it is mine. You did not come to my Adulthood Ceremony, did you? So you did not get to see the scene when hundreds of birds were flying around.

"The phoenix is the head of hundreds of birds, so since those birds flew for me, the phoenix is definitely here for me," Gu Ruxue said confidently.

The Second Lady of the Chu Family was both surprised and startled. She was aware why she was not present at Princess Consort's Adulthood Ceremony. The Chu Family did not like this Princess Consort, so none of them attended the ceremony, but... The Chu Family was wrong!

Princess Consort was such a wonderful existence and the Chu Family would not be able to suck up to her!

She was a person with a long vision. She grabbed the opportunity at the banquet.

The Second Lady of the Chu Family was very pleased.

She smiled. "Princess Consort, can I touch the phoenix when it lands here?"

Gu Ruxue looked at the girl. She did not think that this girl was good enough to touch the phoenix, but this girl was working very devotedly for her at the moment. So she nodded arrogantly, "Okay."

When the Second Lady of the Chu Family got approval, the other ladies went up and gathered around too.

Although they hoped that the phoenix was here to find them, Gu Ruxue had the biggest opportunity of being the master, so they would not give up the chance.

Gu Chaoyan looked at a lady who stood still. She was the Elder Miss of the Chu Family.

She asked curiously, "Why aren't you up there?"

The lady snorted and laughed ironically, so Gu Chaoyan did not ask anything more. She believed that the phoenix already had enough fun, so she turned to the phoenix, telling it to come down.

The phoenix was a very spoiled bird, but it was obedient, after all. So it landed.

It came to Gu Chaoyan and flew above Gu Chaoyan's head.

On the other side, those ladies were still flattering Gu Ruxue.

One of the ladies noticed that the phoenix was in front of Gu Chaoyan, so she burst out in surprise. "That is Gu Chaoyan's phoenix!"

What? Only then did Gu Ruxue notice that the phoenix was flying in front of Gu Chaoyan.

Her face changed.

That was impossible! How could that be possible!

The Second Lady of the Chu Family and the other ladies looked at Gu Ruxue in confusion. Didn't Princess Consort say that it was hers? What was the phoenix doing in front of Gu Chaoyan?

"Gu Chaoyan!" Gu Ruxue snapped.

Gu Chaoyan was not moved, but said briefly, "Princess Consort, didn't you ask to see my mount, here it is. However, it is a bird, so if I use it today, it would be totally unfair for you guys."

What!

Her mount? That was impossible!

She was the Phoenix Girl, and she made hundreds of birds fly at her Adulthood Ceremony, not Gu Chaoyan!

"Give the phoenix back to me!" Gu Ruxue shouted loudly.

Gu Chaoyan laughed.

"Yours?" Gu Chaoyan said curiously, "The phoenix is not trapped, if you think the phoenix is yours, then ask it to join you, why ask me to give it back to you?"

Gu Ruxue turned to the phoenix, but the phoenix did not give her any response.

Gu Ruxue thought for a while and asked her servant to get her a dagger.

The King was watching from not too far. He also noticed that something was wrong. Things were different from how he imagined.

He turned to Zhou Huailing and asked seriously, "What is going on?"

### **Chapter 738: Untitled**

Zhou Huailing was not pleased at the moment either.

He had always believed that the phoenix was here for Gu Ruxue, yet the phoenix ended up flying next to Gu Chaoyan whilst Gu Ruxue simply had no way to get the phoenix to her side.

He was just thinking about what to do when his father arrived.

Wearing a long face, Zhou Huailing said with displeasure. "Father, I will go and check it out."

The King was quite nervous as well. He had no idea what was going on. So he nodded and said, "Go and check it out!"

Zhou Huailing hurried off.

The King was wearing a very helpless expression. He had not expected that such a terrible mistake would appear at this critical moment.

When Zhou Huailing came to the ladies, the air among the ladies was quite awkward. Most of the ladies had been sucking up Gu Ruxue, yet the phoenix turned out to be Gu Chaoyan's. However, they could not possibly turn to Gu Chaoyan at this moment. So they were all stuck in the dilemma.

Gu Ruxue let out a sigh of relief at the sight of Zhou Huailing.

“What is wrong?” Zhou Huailing asked with a small voice.

“I don’t know, the phoenix should be mine, what is it doing with Gu Chaoyan?” Gu Ruxue was very unconvinced, thinking that something must have gone wrong.

At this moment, her maid came with a dagger.

Gu Ruxue took it... At this moment, she was not at all scared of pain. She stabbed right in her hands and said, “My mother says that my blood is different from the commoners. Maybe the blood can help the phoenix to understand who its real master should be!”

Zhou Huailing nodded. That was what the Destiny Monk said as well. So it should not be wrong.

He had been furious, yet when he heard what Gu Ruxue said, he became assured. He was waiting to see the phoenix come to her side.

Gu Ruxue’s blood was dripping constantly, yet the phoenix did not make a move. Zhou Huailing was so anxious that he gave Gu Ruxue another cut, drawing out even more blood, yet the phoenix remained still whilst hopping happily around Gu Chaoyan instead.

Zhou Huailing’s face sank.

At this moment, Gu Chaoyan was inviting the Elder Miss of the Chu Family to touch the phoenix’s feather.

The Elder Miss caressed the feather lightly, finding it quite magical.

The Second Lady of the Chu Family went up and said, “Lady Chaoyan, can I touch it?”

Before Gu Chaoyan gave her a response, she stretched out her hand. She believed that she could touch it since her sister had touched it. She should not be behind her.

However, the phoenix did not care, and flew away directly.

The Second Lady of the Chu Family was very unconvinced.

At this moment, Zhou Huaijin came with a white pony whilst showing a gentle smile. “Alright, you are not really taking the phoenix as your mount, are you? It may be willing to do that, but it is unfair for the others. Come, just ride Phantom later,” Zhou Huaijin said as he pointed at the white pony.

Gu Chaoyan shrugged and said helplessly, “Alright then, I had no intention of letting it out, but Princess Consort insisted that I should compare mine to hers.”

As she spoke, Gu Chaoyan pointed at the weighty and ugly magical monster close by.

Gu Ruxue’s face had turned totally red with anger.

Gu Chaoyan asked the phoenix to fly away.

Gu Ruxue had absolutely no idea what to do.

De Fu asked Zhou Huailing to join the King, and Zhou Huailing did with a terrible look on his face.

The King was a bit serious-looking now. He was extremely angry, so he asked Zhou Huailing directly, "What is going on, why does the phoenix belong to Chaoyan?"

### **Chapter 739: Just Lucky**

Zhou Huailing was also confused. How could he have expected that the phoenix wasn't Ruxue's, but Gu Chaoyan's. He had a terrible expression on his face, but Zhou Huailing simply could not tell the truth in front of the King. He needed to defend Gu Ruxue.

After thinking for a while he said, "Who knows where Gu Chaoyan got such a thing. She is trying to show off at the Spring Hunt. I believe that she just couldn't stand it when she saw hundreds of birds flying above Ruxue's head at her Adulthood Ceremony. That is why she got such a thing today to try to exceed her.

"Gu Chaoyan is the future Princess Consort of Lord Huai rather than the unknown Elder Miss of the Gu Family. So it is much easier for her to get something special to show off.

"Father, don't be baffled about this. After the Spring Hunt, I will look into this," Zhou Huailing said confidently.

When the King heard what he said he nodded seriously. That seemed to make sense.

If Zhou Huaijin had helped her during the process, it would make everything easy. He could drop this matter at the moment for later investigation. He turned to De Fu and said with a small voice, "Go and don't let the news spread before the conclusion is drawn."

De Fu nodded and went to carry out the order.

The King asked the eunuch next to him to get Zhou Huaijin.

Zhou Huailing was extremely annoyed. He was blaming Gu Ruxue within his heart. When he was among the ladies, he also heard Gu Chaoyan saying that she had not intended to bring the phoenix out if not for Gu Ruxue who insisted on having a competition.

Back at the mansion, Gu Ruxue also mentioned about bringing down Gu Chaoyan. She was already the Phoenix Girl, why did she bother to do such a thing?

Zhou Huailing was extremely annoyed as he thought of what happened.

If she had not been this wild, nothing like this would have happened today, and the whole thing would not have been so difficult to deal with.

The King might not accept the words at the moment, but maybe he would someday.

Zhou Huailing was wearing a displeased expression on his face.

He was planning to scold Gu Ruxue when he returned and make her understand the current situation.

Damn Gu Ruxue. She did not focus on the affairs within the mansion and kept on bringing trouble on such important occasions.

As Zhou Huailing was thinking about this, Zhou Huaijin came to the King's side as well. He was still wearing a cold expression on his face as he stood before the King. "What do you need, father?"

The King nodded and asked, "What was going on just now? What happened to the phoenix?"

Zhou Huaijin had suspected that the King must be curious about this.

He replied quietly. "Nothing big, it is just that Chaoyan once cured the phoenix so it became close to her. It obeys Chaoyan's order obediently. It seems that Sister-in-law forced Chaoyan to bring the phoenix out so Chaoyan had to do so. It is not a big deal anyway, the phoenix is just a bird, rare yet it was saved by her before."

Zhou Huaijin recounted the whole thing composedly, but the King and Zhou Huailing had a terrible look on their faces.

The King waved his hands. "Alright then, you can leave now, the Spring Hunt starts very soon."

Zhou Huaijin nodded, then he headed towards the pitch.

Xuan Lin came rushing to him at that moment.. "Lord Huai, can Lady Chaoyan make the phoenix obey her order?!"

#### **Chapter 740: Competition**

Xuan Lin was totally shocked.

He had just come back to himself after seeing the whole process of the phoenix's behavior with Gu Chaoyan.

He had to use some special drugs to control the magical monsters, and those drugs were made after careful research by the Imperial Master of the North Qi Land. According to the Imperial Master, only he was able to make such drugs. So Xuan Lin had always admired the Imperial Master for being able to control magical monsters, but...

Lady Chaoyan was capable of doing that too, and that was a phoenix!

No wonder he was driven out of Lord Huai's Mansion when he was there for some business talk. He would have wanted to take revenge upon that, but after seeing the phoenix, he lost the thought of taking revenge totally. He would very much like to know the cause! Or maybe... They could cooperate together! It was going to be a very excellent cooperation too!

Xuan Lin was very excited, but Zhou Huaijin was still wearing a very cold expression as he turned to Xuan Lin. "No comments."

Having said this, he left.

Xuan Lin clenched the fists. He was furious, but he could not be angry at all. After all, he had once offended Lord Huai, so it was totally normal if he refused to tell him anything. However, he was going to come up with a solution!

Xuan Lin hurried up.

The chaos caused by the appearance of a phoenix had already been quieted down by the King. The Spring Hunt was going to start very soon.

The King was the host and the other participants would be divided into different groups for a contest.

Normally, it would be some princes and some other groups who had the contest whilst the ladies were competing with each other among themselves. However, Zhou Huailing took a step forward confidently before the groups were divided. "Eighth Brother, let's have a contest between us this year, we shall see who gets the most prey?"

He had been humiliated because of the phoenix. So he was going to win the round on the pitch of the Spring Hunt.

Normally, Zhou Huaijin's team always came last, so Zhou Huailing was confident enough to beat Zhou Huaijin on this occasion. Therefore, he put forward the proposal.

Zhou Huaijin threw a look at Zhou Huailing and nodded. "Okay."

Zhou Huailing smiled proudly seeing Zhou Huaijin nodded in agreement, then he looked at the other team members.

He said, "Since I am going to have a solo contest with Eighth Brother, the division does not have to be so difficult. Just get three teams among yourselves. Young Master Min and Young Master Chu as well as Young Master Gu, you three can lead three teams respectively, pick whomever you want."

Having said this, Zhou Huailing heard a sound of cursing among the crowd.

It was really reasonable that Young Master Min and Young Master Chu could be the team leader, but how could this unknown Young Master Gu have the qualification of doing so?

Well... none of them said a word about that. They just waited on the spot to be picked.

Zhou Huailing went to fetch his own magical monster. He was not bad at riding and shooting, so with such a mount with him, he was confident that he would win the contest.

Thanks to the magical monster everyone turned to him with a jealous look of surprise.

Zhou Huaijin was still on a date-colored pony, which was nothing special.

Most of the participants started to bet that Lord Ling would win the contest.

When everything was settled the horn was blown and everyone started to head into the woods.

The moment Zhou Huaijin rode into the woods, he caught sight of a white silhouette and followed it.

Next to Gu Chaoyan was Sword One.

The Spring Hunt was not a fierce contest for ladies, so every participant was allowed to bring one maid with her for protection.

"Chaoyan!" Zhou Huaijin approached on his horse.