

Having children earns benefit, start competing for dominance in the world by marrying a wife

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Chapter 91: Letter from Homei

After reading the intelligence brought by the Brocade Guard, Lu Chen's face turned utterly dark. In a fit of rage, he tore up the report in his hands.

"It was bad enough being targeted for assassination three times, but now to collude with the Barbarian Tribe, absurdly thinking of leveraging their power to contend for inheritance!"

"This guy really is a beast; he has absolutely no bottom line."

Seeing how angry Lu Chen was, Qin Yushan carefully said, "Prince, what do we do now?"

"Should we release the information about Prince Lu Shuyun's collusion with the Barbarian Tribe?"

Upon hearing Qin Yushan's words, Lu Chen calmed down and fell into deep thought. He didn't immediately answer.

If he let out the news of Lu Shuyun's collusion with the Barbarian Tribe, it would certainly deal a blow to Lu Shuyun, but without decisive evidence, there was no way to convict Lu Shuyun of his crime.

Moreover, the crime of betraying the nation could not be determined by a Seignior alone.

It would depend on the court, primarily on his imperial father's opinion.

If his imperial father said Lu Shuyun betrayed the nation, then Lu Shuyun would be a traitor. If his imperial father declared Lu Shuyun innocent, then Lu Shuyun would probably get away with it.

However, looking at it from another angle, Lu Shuyun's maternal family was the Wang Family, and what his imperial father was about to do next was to purge the Aristocratic Families. If his imperial father learned that Lu Shuyun and the Aristocratic Families from the South colluded with the Barbarian Tribe, perhaps he would use this as an excuse to make a move against them, wouldn't he?

Thinking of this, Lu Chen asked, "Commander Qin, if my imperial father knew that Prince Lu Shuyun and the Aristocratic Families were colluding with the Barbarian Tribe to come down from the South, what do you think my imperial father would do?"

Qin Yushan was stunned by the question.

After all, it involved the Emperor, and Qin Yushan did not want to speculate rashly.

At that moment, Lu Chen added, "Speak your mind."

Since Lu Chen said so, Qin Yushan spoke up, "Prince, in your subordinate's opinion, his majesty would probably be very angry upon hearing this news but would not immediately move against Prince Lu Shuyun and the Aristocratic Families from the South. Considering the Barbarian Army of three hundred thousand is about to move South, cleaning up the Aristocratic Families at this time would likely be very disadvantageous for Great Sum."

Lu Chen thought about it and felt there was some truth to what Qin Yushan said. If they released news now that Prince Lu Shuyun was colluding with the Barbarian Army, it might instead publicize the conflict between the Sum Emperor and the Aristocratic Families.

If that happened, others might simply not act, and the whole of Great Sum would become chaotic, which was not what Lu Chen wanted to see.

However, it wouldn't do to just let it go.

He had been unhappy with Lu Shuyun for a long time; he had sent Blood Moon Tower to assassinate him three times, and now he had committed treason.

He couldn't let such a traitor live so freely and easily; he must make him pay some price.

With this in mind, Lu Chen said, "Convey my orders to Commander Liang to try to assassinate Prince Lu Shuyun. It doesn't have to succeed, but make sure to eliminate all the important people around Prince Lu Shuyun as much as possible."

By doing this, Lu Chen wanted to give Prince Lu Shuyun a warning and also get back at him.

Of course, if they could directly eliminate the traitorous Lu Shuyun, that would be even better.

However, Lu Chen did not believe that Liang Zong and the Brocade Guard in the Capital city could eliminate a Prince in the Capital city, especially since Lu Shuyun had the backing of the powerful Aristocratic Family, the Wang Family.

The Wang Family would surely send many experts to protect Lu Shuyun, so whether Liang Zong and his men could even injure Lu Shuyun was in question.

But regardless of whether they could succeed, it was absolutely unacceptable for Lu Shuyun to act so recklessly and rampantly in the Capital city, as if he were lawless.

For the sake of contending for the heirship, he actually colluded proactively with an external enemy, completely disregarding the lives and safety of the common people of North City.

Although North City had already become his territory as the North Prince, in name it was still Great Sum's North City.

If Lu Shuyun were to succeed in seizing the position of heir, North City would also fall under his rule. Yet, this fellow was willing to sell North City off just to win the struggle for succession.

Lu Chen also knew that his decision to assassinate Lu Shuyun was somewhat emotional and could even expose the movements of the Brocade Guard.

But if he didn't do something, he simply couldn't swallow this grievance.

Qin Yushan also saw what was in Lu Chen's heart and knew that the Prince was very angry, so he suggested, "Prince, although the news of the eighth Prince colluding with the Barbarian Tribe should not be spread for now, you could hint at it to His Majesty."

"When His Majesty finds out, he will definitely send the Shadow Guard to investigate. If it turns out the eighth Prince is colluding with the Barbarian Tribe, even if he doesn't punish the eighth Prince now, once the matter of the Barbarian Tribe's move south is over, he will certainly use the evidence to deal with the eighth Prince and the Aristocratic Families of the South."

The Sum Emperor had already been looking for an excuse to crack down on the Aristocratic Families. And now, the Aristocratic Families of the South had conspired with the Barbarian Tribe, which was akin to handing the Emperor a knife voluntarily.

As for the sacrifice of an eighth Prince, it was of no concern to the Sum Emperor; the eighth Prince was a spokesman for the Aristocratic Families of the South, and the Emperor had no intention of choosing him as the Crown Prince.

The Imperial Family is heartless. The Sum Emperor hadn't even bothered about the eighth Prince's attempt to assassinate the North Prince; how could he care about sacrificing an eighth Prince?

He had many sons; the death of one or two meant no loss to him.

And being a Grandmaster, the young and robust Sum Emperor could produce children at an impressive speed.

After hearing Qin Yushan's suggestion, Lu Chen pondered for a moment and then said, "I will write a memorial to Father Emperor at once."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Qin Yushan hurriedly said, "Prince, you mustn't do that."

Lu Chen was taken aback and then asked, "Didn't you suggest I reveal something to my Father Emperor? If I don't write a memorial, then how will I reveal the news about the Barbarian Tribe and the eighth Prince's collusion to my Father?"

Qin Yushan explained, "Prince, what your subordinate means is that this matter cannot be passed to His Majesty through a memorial. If the Prince writes a memorial, it becomes a matter of state; after knowing, His Majesty might consult with the ministers. Additionally, the memorial might be intercepted by others before it even reaches His Majesty's hands."

"If the Prince wishes for this matter to be known to His Majesty, it should be communicated through a personal letter, for only a personal letter can be delivered directly to His Majesty."

In Great Sum, memorials sent from the provinces needed to be reviewed by those below, and some memorials would never reach the Emperor's hands.

If Lu Chen were to write a memorial, it would undoubtedly be intercepted by those aligned with the eighth Prince without any question.

But if it was a personal letter instead, that would be different. Written in the name of the ninth Prince, it meant it should be delivered directly into the Sum Emperor's hands.

Hearing Qin Yushan's words, Lu Chen was momentarily stunned.

A personal letter?

A Prince enfeoffed with a fief writing a personal letter to the Emperor?

Had there ever been such a precedent in Great Sum?

It seemed he had never heard of any Prince enfeoffed with a fief writing personal letters to the Emperor. Being enfeoffed with a fief meant one had become a subject, and the father-son relationship was diluted. At such a time, to write a personal letter, wouldn't that be too...

After pondering for a while, Lu Chen felt that what Qin Yushan said made some sense.

If he were to submit a memorial, it was very likely that it would never make it to the Emperor's hands.

But it was different with a personal letter. He didn't believe anyone would dare intercept his own personal letter.

Although it seemed abstract for an enfeoffed Prince to write a personal letter to the Emperor, it didn't mean he was unqualified to do so—after all, even as a Seignior, he was still the Sum Emperor's son..

Chapter 92: Why not let Bai stay to take care of me?_i

Lu Chen eventually accepted Qin Yushan's suggestion and directly wrote a family letter to the Sum Emperor.

First, he complained in the letter about how terribly harsh the environment in North City was, and then he pretended to ask for aid, hoping the Sum Emperor could dispatch a large army as soon as possible to help him resist the Barbarian Tribe.

It was near the end of the letter that Lu Chen mentioned his recent discovery of many iron tools unique to Great Sum on the grasslands.

Lastly, he affected a very aggrieved demeanor in the letter to complain about how Prince Lu Shuyun's trading caravans often appeared in North City, and, flaunting Prince Lu Shuyun's backing, frequently avoided paying the transit tax. He hoped the Sum Emperor would punish Prince Lu Shuyun, tone down his arrogance and, ideally, make him pay all the transit taxes his caravans owed.

The image Lu Chen presented in his letter was that of a coward, appearing as much a wimp as his usual image of someone who sought pleasure and was ignorant.

Moreover, in this family letter, he did not directly say that the salt and iron of the Barbarian Tribe came from Prince Lu Shuyun, but he believed the Sum Emperor would surely see what he implied.

After all, his father, proficient in the ways of the world, would not miss such a hint.

Having finished the family letter, Lu Chen planned to have Qin Yushan send it to the Capital city posthaste.

But at that moment, Qin Yushan said, "Prince, it's not enough to only send a family letter, you also need to write an urgent military report about the movements of the Barbarian Tribe and send it to the Capital city."

"It just so happens that our men have discovered that the North Fre King's soldiers have gathered at the Sky Wolf King's court. Using the Red Ribbon Messenger for this intelligence is completely unproblematic."

Lu Chen was startled, then asked, "Is it really that troublesome?"

"If it's only a family letter being sent, the letter may not reach His Majesty immediately, but if it is sent with an urgent military report via the Red Ribbon Messenger, the messenger can deliver both the family letter and the report directly to His Majesty," Qin Yushan explained.

Although what Lu Chen wrote was a family letter, delivering it to the Emperor's hands would still require certain procedures.

It was not an easy matter for anything to get into the Imperial Palace.

However, an urgent military report was different. In Great Sum, a report by a Red Ribbon Messenger must reach the Emperor's hands immediately, and no one was permitted to block it, even if the Emperor was still sleeping, it was necessary to wake him up.

Lu Chen also understood Qin Yushan's intention. He then wrote a military report and hoped the court could dispatch troops as soon as possible.

Once both items were ready, Qin Yushan immediately arranged for a Red Ribbon Messenger to deliver Lu Chen's family letter and military report to the Capital city.

At this time, Lu Chen was sitting in the study, silently looking at the map on the table.

After the letter reached the Capital city, his father, the Emperor, would likely have Bai Qingqing, the Deputy Commander of the Shadow Guards, investigate the issue with the Barbarian Tribe in North City. By then, he could use it to his advantage, allowing Bai Qingqing to deliver some evidence of Prince Lu Shuyun's collusion with the Barbarian Tribe.

Of course, gathering evidence of Prince Lu Shuyun and the Aristocratic Families colluding with the Barbarian Tribe was not easy.

After all, the evidence was with the Barbarian Tribe itself.

Therefore, the most important thing they had to do now was to defeat the Barbarian Tribe. Only then could they obtain evidence of Lu Shuyun's collusion with the Barbarian Tribe from them.

Only then could such evidence serve as an excuse for the Sum Emperor to take action against the Aristocratic Families.

As for what would ultimately happen to Prince Lu Shuyun and the Aristocratic Families, Lu Chen didn't care one bit.

These guys were unkind and unjust first, so they couldn't blame him.

Just as Lu Chen was staring at the map and deep in thought, there was a knock on the door.

Lu Chen came back to his senses. "The door is unlocked, come in."

The next moment, Chu Yuqin pushed the door and entered the study.

Seeing Chu Yuqin's graceful figure, Lu Chen's serious expression vanished, and he asked with a smile, "Madam Chu, do you need something from me?"

Chu Yuqin said, "Chen'er, are you planning to let the people from the Prince's Mansion go south to Anping City this time?"

"You must keep some people around to take care of you, right?"

Hearing this, Lu Chen thought for a while, then said, "How about we let Bai stay behind to take care of me?"

Hearing Lu Chen mention Bai Qingqing, Chu Yuqin cast a deep glance at him, knowing that Lu Chen would choose Bai Qingqing.

Firstly, Bai Qingqing possessed a certain degree of strength, and though she had just arrived at the Prince's Mansion and Lu Chen had known her since childhood, they had been separated for many years, which gave Lu Chen a sense of novelty.

Moreover, Bai Qingqing had grown even more cold and stunningly beautiful, and Lu Chen definitely liked her body.

Chu Yuqin immediately asked, "Just her alone?"

"Aren't you planning to keep that bitch from the Hundred Flowers Tower by your side?"

Hearing this, Lu Chen fell silent for a moment.

Chu Yuqin continued, "The third assassination attempt from Blood Moon Tower has already failed. I fear even the unusual Prince Lu Shuyun has noticed it. In my opinion, there's no need for her to stay at the Hundred Flowers Tower anymore."

"Why not just arrange for her to be your female slave, serving you daily in the Prince's Mansion?"

"Besides, her strength is not bad; she might be able to protect you at a critical moment."

Chu Yuqin thought to herself, Wang Qingci, after all, was a Ninth Grade Martial Artist; if she were by Lu Chen's side, she could serve as a shield should any danger befall him.

After pondering for a moment, Lu Chen said, "No need, let her follow you all to Anping City too."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chu Yuqin confirmed, "So you'll really only keep Bai alone?"

Lu Chen nodded and said with a smile, "Bai alone is enough."

"Besides, I'm concerned about not being in Anping City. If that beast from the Capital City sends someone to trouble you, having Wang Qingci around, a Half-step Grandmaster, would provide an extra layer of security for Zixuan and the others."

Chu Yuqin was somewhat surprised at Lu Chen's words.

Wang Qingci had already become a Half-step Grandmaster?

Wasn't that the same level as her own realm?

Thinking of this, Chu Yuqin felt somewhat annoyed; she had always been uncomfortable with that bitch.

All of Lu Chen's wives and concubines showed her respect, but only that bitch would always come before her and make remarks like "The Prince is so mighty," or "The Prince can make people fly."

It seemed to the bitch that she and Chu Yuqin were the same, both Lu Chen's women, which is why she spoke so uninhibitedly in her presence.

If it weren't for Lu Chen's sake, she would have acted against Wang Qingci long ago.

After coming back to her senses, Chu Yuqin sighed and said, "Chen'er, Madam won't ask too much about what you're going to do, but I still want to remind you that if you really face danger and cannot hold back the Barbarian Tribe's onslaught, you should flee south."

“The situation in the Capital City is also quite unstable now. The Emperor will probably not dispatch many soldiers northward. You can only rely on yourself. Even if you fail to hold North City, the people of Great Sum won’t laugh at you, at least you took the initiative to fight the Barbarian Tribe.”

Lu Chen had become an object of ridicule in the hearts of the common people. Even if he did abandon North City and flee, the people of Great Sum would not find it surprising.

On the contrary, Lu Chen’s decision to fight a decisive battle with the Barbarian Tribe in Yan County might actually make the common people think that the North Prince still had some backbone, allowing his image to rebound from rock bottom.

Listening to Chu Yuqin’s reminder, Lu Chen smiled faintly, then said, “Don’t worry, Madam Chu, I value my life quite a bit. If I truly cannot defeat the Barbarian Tribe, I know what to do.”

Seeing Lu Chen respond in such a manner, Chu Yuqin didn’t say anything more. She turned around and said, “Alright then, I’m going to patrol. You’re busy, so I’ll leave you to it.”

After she spoke, Chu Yuqin turned and left the study.

Two days later.

At the entrance of the Prince’s Mansion.

The convoy heading south from the Prince’s Mansion was ready. Lu Chen stood at the entrance of the mansion, bidding farewell to his wives and concubines one by one..

Chapter 93: 93 Departure I

Zhou Youyou and Zhou Xiaoxiao lay in Lu Chen’s embrace, incessantly sobbing, with Youyou’s eyes red from crying.

Wiping away her tears, Xiaoxiao said, “Prince, if we can’t hold back the Barbarian Tribe, you must head south.”

Youyou hugged Lu Chen around the waist, her head resting on his chest, “Wuwuwu... Prince, your concubine will wait in Anping City for your good news.”

At that moment, Mu Zixuan, who stood to one side, also gazed into Lu Chen’s eyes and said, “Prince, when your concubine leaves, you must take good care of yourself.”

Hearing their words, Lu Chen spoke with a smile, "Don't worry, the war will be over soon, in no more than half a year."

At the mention of half a year before they could see Lu Chen again, Zhou Xiaoxiao and Zhou Youyou cried even harder, and even Mu Zixuan's eyes reddened slightly, as if she was about to cry.

Lu Chen comforted them and said, "Alright, my darlings, no more crying. As soon as the war ends, I'll immediately send for you to return."

While Lu Chen comforted his wives and concubines, Chu Yuqin didn't stand by him to say much; she had already spoken earlier what needed to be said to Lu Chen.

She believed Lu Chen knew what he had to do; Yuqin approached Bai Qingqing and said, "Little Bai, for the coming months, you'll be the only one by Chen'er's side. I entrust Chen'er's safety to you."

Yuqin spoke only of Bai Qingqing being by Lu Chen's side, which naturally referred to Lu Chen's women. The Prince's Mansion couldn't possibly be left empty; a substantial number of servants and maids were left behind.

After all, Lu Chen would still reside in the Prince's Mansion; it wasn't feasible for all the maids and servants to leave—if they did, who would take care of Lu Chen?

After hearing Yuqin's words, Bai Qingqing softly "Mhm," without saying much else.

Truth be told, Bai Qingqing hadn't expected Lu Chen to leave only her by his side, which added worry to her heart.

Just thinking about the scenes of her and Lu Chen doing those intimate acts made Bai Qingqing feel a little agitated.

Once Lu Chen's wives and concubines had left, she'd be the only woman left. Wouldn't she have to cultivate a relationship with Lu Chen every day?

Even though she was a Grandmaster, the mere thought of Lu Chen's fierceness made Bai Qingqing's slender legs tremble slightly.

At this time, Wang Qingci approached Lu Chen. She was about to leave him and, as the one who had been most tormented by Lu Chen on a daily basis, she too felt extremely reluctant.

Looking into Lu Chen's eyes, she asked, "Prince, are you really not considering letting your servant stay with you?"

Lu Chen said, "No need. Although you are my female slave, you are also my woman, and I don't wish to see any harm come to you."

Hearing this, warmth surged through Qingci's heart. She had always thought that Lu Chen only saw her as a tool for release, but it turned out he genuinely cared for her.

Just then, something occurred to Lu Chen, and he said, "Right, starting today, you are to leave the Misty Pavilion; no need to continue hiding there."

Hearing this, Qingci momentarily stiffened. She had always wanted to prove her value through her espionage in the Misty Pavilion.

As long as Prince Lu Shuyun remained a threat to Lu Chen, she could obtain early intelligence, proving her worth.

Lu Chen went on, "After arriving in North City, I've been the target of two assassination attempts by the Blood Moon Tower, and both times you were unharmed. Even Lu Shuyun, foolish as he is, would realize you've turned against him."

Considering Lu Chen's words, Qingci found some logic in them.

However, if she no longer acted undercover, how could she prove her worth? Was she really expected to stay by Lu Chen's side every day as his sheath?

Seeing Qingci's disappointed expression, Lu Chen continued, "After the war with the Barbarian Tribe is over, I will arrange a suitable job for you."

At this, Qingci's eyes brightened, and she immediately asked, "Prince, are you serious?"

Although unsure what job Lu Chen had in mind for her, she knew it was better than being idle.

Lu Chen nodded and said, "Yes."

Although he hadn't yet thought of what work to assign to Wang Qingci, he didn't intend to let her idle away either. With such an enchanting and seductive woman like Wang Qingci around him, he found it very difficult to control himself.

Even though the women by his side were all extremely beautiful, it was Wang Qingci alone who could drive him insane. After all, she was his female slave, and every time Lu Chen thought of that, he desired to push her to her limits.

Such a woman wasn't suited to stay by his side forever. If Wang Qingci managed to deceive all his feelings, how could his other concubines bear him children?

Meanwhile.

From a distance, Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun stood still, quietly watching Lu Chen say his farewells to his wives and concubines.

This scene surprised them both, as Lu Chen was said to be a licentious prince, but his wives and concubines seemed to share a deep affection with him.

Indeed, all the intelligence about the North Prince collected by their Mysterious Moon Palace was false; not a single piece matched the actual North Prince.

Of course, Chen Wanrong didn't believe there was a problem with their palace's intelligence; she thought instead that the North Prince was incredibly cunning, not an ordinary man.

Otherwise, the world wouldn't be filled with rumors that the North Prince was useless.

At this moment, Lin Wanyun, beside Chen Wanrong, sighed and said, "I hope the North Prince can successfully resist the southward invasion of the Barbarian Tribe and survive."

After all, Lu Chen was the son of her good friend, and Lin Wanyun genuinely hoped for his survival, regardless of her own position.

As for using Lu Chen's blood to craft the Subtle Dragon Spell, that was a concern for later.

Lin Wanyun glanced at Chen Wanrong, who was quietly observing Lu Chen, who was still saying goodbye to his wives and concubines.

This scene reminded her of the day when her father emperor had sent them away from the Chen Nation capital.

Back then, they were just as reluctant to leave.

When she returned to the Chen Nation capital, everything had changed, and her father emperor and the royal relatives had all turned to dry bones.

At this point, Chen Wanrong felt an urge to abandon the plan of using Lu Chen to create the Subtle Dragon Spell.

She didn't want to shatter this beautiful tableau.

Once everyone had said their farewells to Lu Chen, he declared, "All right, let's set off and aim to reach Anping City as soon as possible!"

Zhou Youyou and Zhou Xiaoxiao, after boarding the carriage, kept saying through the window, "Prince, please take care of yourself!"

“Prince, your humble concubine will always wait for your news, sob, sob, sob...”

Lu Chen, unlike his wives and concubines, who were crying their hearts out, smiled and waved goodbye to them.

Watching the caravan gradually disappear into the distance, Lu Chen suddenly felt relieved. With his important people gone, he too could now prepare for the decisive battle against the Barbarian Tribe.

Then, Lu Chen turned and headed back to the Prince’s Mansion.

The caravan headed south with Mu Zixuan and the others was very large, comprising not only the Prince’s Mansion’s coaches but also those from Mu Mansion, as well as some common citizenry.

For their safety, Lu Chen had especially commissioned Mu Xingping to lead a detachment of the Brocade Guard to escort them southward and had also arranged for several Ninth Grade martial artists.

Safety was certainly guaranteed.

When the common folks of North City saw such a large caravan moving south, they understood that something significant must have happened in North City.

Over the following few days, rumors spread throughout North City that the Barbarian Tribe was about to invade from the south and that, in order to save himself, the North Prince had abandoned the people of North City and fled..

Chapter 94: 94 Hasn’t the North Prince Already Fled?_i

As for the rumors in North City, Lu Chen, who was at the Prince’s Mansion, had naturally heard of them.

Such a large convoy from the Prince’s Mansion heading south was bound to catch the eyes of the common folk, and rumors were inevitable.

Lu Chen didn’t pay too much attention to the rumors; he was already busy preparing to defend against the Barbarian Tribe.

Several days later.

In order to get the people in the northern part of North City to cooperate with the scorched earth policy and evacuate the population, North Prince Mansion issued a proclamation directly, informing the commoners that the Barbarian Tribe was about to

assemble three hundred thousand cavalry to head south, conquer North City, and even establish a country there.

Once the proclamation was out, in less than half a month, it created an uproar.

Not only did the commoners of North City become aware of this matter, but the whole of Great Sum, as well as the neighboring countries around Great Sum, also learned that the Barbarian Tribe was about to move south.

The commoners had already heard rumors of the Barbarian Tribe moving south when North Prince Mansion's convoy was heading south; now that North Prince Mansion had issued the proclamation directly, that confirmed that the Barbarian Tribe indeed planned to head south.

Some commoners thought that since even their Prince had fled, staying in North City meant a certain death, so they fled south.

Of course, there were also some commoners who did not want to leave their homes where they had lived for generations.

To ensure the commoners cooperate with the scorched earth policy, North Prince Mansion quickly issued another decree that any commoner who complied with the policy would be exempt from agricultural taxes for two years after the war ended when they returned to their original lands.

The policy of exempting agricultural tax was initially planned by Lu Chen to promote the cultivation of new crops, but with no other choice and some of the northern commoners stubbornly refusing to leave, he had to bring out this policy in advance.

If, under these circumstances, those commoners still refused to leave, Lu Chen had no intentions to interfere any further.

He had to focus on training the new army and couldn't put all his efforts into the scorched earth policy.

Early morning.

Lu Chen got out of bed and glanced at the icy beauty in his arms.

Bai Qingqing was also gazing at him, as she always woke up before he did.

Seeing Lu Chen looking at her, a blush appeared on Bai Qingqing's cold and beautiful face, and she quickly turned her head to look away.

Since Lu Chen's wives had left, he had been coming to her bed every night, and her body and mind already belonged entirely to Lu Chen, but she still couldn't dare to look directly into his eyes.

Seeing Bai Qingqing's shy demeanor, Lu Chen smiled faintly; after these days of exploration, he had figured out how to use the Dragon Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell.

The role of the Dragon Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell was to accelerate one's own cultivation, to improve one's speed of absorbing Spiritual Energy, and also to allow the female partner to embark on the path of cultivation.

In other words, the Dragon Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell was a dual cultivation technique.

Lu Chen planned to bring Mu Zixuan and the others back after the war with the Barbarian Tribe ended and cultivate the Dragon Phoenix Yin-Yang Spell together with them.

Although the chances of becoming immortals were slim in this world where Spiritual Energy was scarce, the possibility of extending their lives or maintaining their youth and beauty was still achievable.

At this moment, Lu Chen got up from the bed; he didn't plan to start his day with a morning greeting to Bai Qingqing since he had important matters to handle today.

After getting up, Lu Chen ate something simple and then rode his horse to the new army's camp.

When the commoners of Yan County saw Lu Chen riding his horse, they were all incredibly shocked and started talking among themselves.

"Wasn't it said that the North Prince has already fled?"

"Yeah, I saw the wives' carriages heading south with my own eyes."

"Then why is the North Prince still in Yan County?"

"Could it be that this is a body double for the North Prince?"

"How could it be a double, I've seen the North Prince several times, this is definitely the North Prince himself."

"It seems then that the North Prince has merely sent his wives south to take refuge, he himself hasn't fled."

"Didn't expect the North Prince to have such integrity!"

Hearing the commoners' discussions, Lu Chen didn't pay much heed; he had specifically ridden his horse to the new army's camp to let the commoners of Yan County know he had not left Yan County.

Soon, Lu Chen arrived at the new army's camp.

The new military camp was located outside the city, and to facilitate the testing of cannons, Lu Chen had people build the new military camp site at a location fairly distant from Yan County.

When Lu Chen arrived at the new military camp, Mu Changtian and several other key generals immediately came to Lu Chen's front, "We pay our respects to the Prince."

Lu Chen nodded slightly, then asked, "Have all the recruits for the new army been gathered?"

Mu Changtian replied, "Back to the Prince, they have all been gathered, exactly ten thousand men."

No sooner had Mu Changtian's voice faded than Li Feng spoke up, "Prince, I've heard that the court has issued a Military Expansion Order to North City. North City can now have up to one hundred and fifty thousand soldiers. Why don't we take this opportunity to recruit some more soldiers?"

After they reported the situation of the Barbarian Tribe moving south to the court, the court immediately issued a Military Expansion Order to North Prince's Mansion, but after so much time had passed, Lu Chen hadn't continued to recruit soldiers, and he appeared to have no intention of doing so. This left Li Feng and the others feeling somewhat baffled.

Securing a Military Expansion Order from the court was no easy feat; everyone knew that the Sum Emperor had always been weakening the Seigniors' power. Being able to maintain a hundred thousand-strong army in North City was already quite an accomplishment.

This time, had it not been for the internal instability within Great Sum's borders, making it inadvisable to mobilize the army casually, the Sum Emperor would never have agreed to issue a Military Expansion Order to North City.

This Military Expansion Order was an opportunity for North City, for the North Prince, to swiftly boost their power.

Yet, the North Prince did not take immediate action.

Although North City's population was sparse, recruiting one hundred and fifty thousand soldiers was still not a big problem.

Moreover, they were on the verge of war with the Barbarian Tribe. If they could recruit another hundred thousand new soldiers in a short time, their hope of defeating the Barbarian Tribe would be even greater.

Hearing Li Feng's question, Lu Chen smiled faintly, "The value of soldiers does not reside in their number, but in their quality."

"Even if we were to recruit another hundred thousand new soldiers now, would you be able to train them in a short time?"

"If they were to enter the battlefield, they would likely be scattered by the Barbarian Cavalry's charge."

"Let's not even talk about new recruits. Even the imperial army often gets scattered when facing the Barbarian Cavalry, isn't that right, General Mu?"

As he said this, Lu Chen's gaze fell on Mu Changtian. It was time to discuss official matters, so Lu Chen did not address Mu Changtian as his father-in-law but referred to him directly as General Mu.

Lu Chen looked at him as he spoke these words because Mu Changtian had fought the Barbarian Tribe many times and was experienced.

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Mu Changtian said, "What the Prince says is right; if we have the new recruits face the Barbarian Tribe head-on, they would probably be wiped out by a cavalry charge."

With this, Mu Changtian's tone shifted, "However, Prince, these new soldiers do not necessarily have to confront the Barbarian soldiers head-on; they could also defend the city."

Since they were already the defending side, there was no need to clash directly with the Barbarian Cavalry. Soldiers were needed to defend the city, and even if the new recruits could not match the cavalry in combat strength, they could still play a significant role in city defense.

Therefore, Mu Changtian leaned towards recruiting some more soldiers.

At this point, Lu Chen said, "I understand your thoughts, but don't worry. Since the court has issued a Military Expansion Order, naturally, I intend to expand the army, but not right now."

"Also, in a few days, I shall give you all a surprise."

Upon hearing this, Mu Changtian and the others exchanged puzzled glances, all curious about the surprise Lu Chen mentioned.

Lu Chen continued, "By the way, the tunnels you were ordered to dig, are they ready?"

Li Feng answered, "Back to the Prince, they have been completed."

Lu Chen then said, "Take me there."

Following this, Li Feng and the others led Lu Chen to the Artillery Camp's tunnel.

Seeing the tunnel before him, Li Feng was very eager to ask Lu Chen what the purpose of having them dig tunnels was, but in the end, he held back.

Since the North Prince had them dig tunnels, there must be a use for them, and probably the North Prince would soon reveal their purpose.

Lu Chen did not hesitate, walking straight into the tunnel while saying, "You all wait outside, and without my command, no one is allowed to enter."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, everyone immediately halted in their tracks.

Once Lu Chen was inside the tunnel, he opened the system backpack and took out a 122mm towed howitzer.

He then glanced over the data of the howitzer.

[Caliber: 122mm, Range: 18,000 meters, Initial Velocity: 690 m/s, Projectile Weight: 33.4 kg, Total Weight: 3400 kg, Fragmentation Shell Casualty Radius: 15-30 meters..]

Chapter 95: 95 Test Firing i

After reviewing the data for the 122mm howitzer, Lu Chen's mouth curved slightly upward.

With such powerful weapons at hand, the cavalry of the Barbarian Tribe wouldn't stand a chance.

Unfortunately, there were too few shells, only one thousand rounds.

Two hundred howitzers and just one thousand rounds of ammunition, the system was really stingy.

Although one thousand rounds might seem a lot, each howitzer only had five rounds. Not only that, he had to train the new army and let the soldiers see how the shells were fired.

Teaching the soldiers to use the 122mm howitzers would waste some ammunition, by the time they reached the battlefield, there wouldn't be one thousand rounds left.

At this moment, Lu Chen called out to the people outside, "All right, come in."

Hearing Lu Chen's voice from deep within the cave, Mu Changtian and the others immediately entered.

As everyone entered the cave and saw the howitzers before them, they were momentarily stunned.

What is this?

Were these things in the cave before?

Unlike Mu Changtian and Mu Jingwu, Li Feng and the others had witnessed Lu Chen conjure weapons out of thin air, so they were not overly surprised by the sudden appearance of the howitzers in the cave.

However, Li Feng and the others were still incredibly excited. They found that the design of the howitzer closely resembled the mysterious weapon previously in Lu Chen's hands, only much larger.

In the eyes of Li Feng and his companions, the howitzer in the cave was simply a larger version of Lu Chen's Barrett. If the mysterious weapon in Lu Chen's hands could kill a Master Level expert, then wouldn't this weapon be capable of killing even a Grandmaster?

Mu Changtian was now scrutinizing the howitzer carefully before asking, "Prince, what is this?"

Lu Chen replied indifferently, "Howitzers. Have the soldiers pull them out, and I'll show you the power of this weapon."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, everyone was momentarily taken aback, but very quickly several soldiers gathered around and began moving the howitzers outside.

Although they didn't know what kind of weapon this was, they could tell from its weight and the metallic materials used that this weapon was definitely extraordinary.

Mu Changtian and the others didn't dwell on how the weapon appeared in the cave, they just wanted to know the extent of its power.

If they weren't mistaken, Lu Chen had specifically recruited ten thousand soldiers to form an artillery camp to wield this mysterious weapon.

With the soldiers' effort, the howitzer was quickly wheeled out, and upon seeing the mysterious weapon before them, they all began discussing amongst themselves.

"What is this?"

"Could it be some kind of siege weapon?"

"It has wheels, could it be a siege vehicle?"

"Why did the Prince have them bring a siege vehicle here?"

"I don't think it's a siege vehicle, look, it seems to be made entirely of metal, it would be too heavy if it were a siege vehicle."

Lu Chen ignored the soldiers' discussions and said to Mu Jingwu beside him, "Captain Mu, gather the new recruits immediately, I want to demonstrate to the soldiers how to use this weapon."

"Yes, Prince!"

Mu Jingwu quickly summoned the ten thousand soldiers, and then they pushed the howitzer to an open area.

Once the howitzer was positioned, Lu Chen took out the instruction manual from the system space and adjusted the position of the howitzer according to the plain firing table.

Then he said to the people behind him, "Everyone, cover your ears!"

Hearing this, the soldiers did not hesitate and immediately covered their ears with their hands.

The next moment, an ear-splitting noise rang out, and the ground around them shook.

Even though they had all covered their ears, they could still hear the tremendous sound.

Following that, the shell fired by the howitzer exploded in the distant woods, instantly blasting a huge pit into the ground with dirt flying up several meters high, and some of the surrounding trees were directly shattered by the blast.

Witnessing this scene, Mu Changtian and the others were dumbstruck.

All faces were stunned; they had never seen such a terrifying weapon before.

Just the act of firing caused the earth to shake, and the projectile that was launched was capable of creating a crater of about five meters in the ground in an instant.

Had that projectile landed in their midst, it was uncertain how many of them would have perished.

Could this be the mysterious weapon that the Prince had spoken of, Mu Changtian and the others couldn't help but wonder?

If they possessed such a weapon, or could produce more of this mysterious weapon, what was there to fear from the Barbarian Tribe?

Forget the Barbarian Tribe, even unifying the entire world wouldn't pose a problem!

Mu Changtian and his son, Mu Jingwu, exchanged glances, both seeing the astonishment in each other's eyes.

They had already surmised that perhaps the North Prince had intentionally come to North City to lie in wait, primarily to accumulate strength in preparation for the unification of the world.

Now that the North Prince had revealed such a fearsome weapon, it was almost certain their guess was correct. With such a weapon at their disposal, what fear was there of failing to unite the world?

What kind of city gates could withstand the assault from such a weapon?

No matter how strong the gates, they would likely be destroyed in a single strike, and even a Grandmaster Level warrior, if hit by the projectile that was just fired, could potentially be blasted into dozens of pieces.

So, this was the North Prince's trump card!

At that moment, Lu Chen turned to look at the people behind him, whose faces were so shocked they were speechless.

"General Mu, what do you think of my mysterious weapon? Can it withstand the Barbarian Tribe's three hundred thousand cavalry?"

Hearing this, Mu Changtian finally recovered from his shock and immediately replied, "Congratulations to the Prince on possessing such a Divine Artifact, the Prince's unification of the world is within reach!"

This...

Lu Chen was taken aback; when had he ever declared his intent to unify the world?

At this time, Mu Changtian continued to inquire, "Prince, how many of these... siege vehicles do you have at your disposal?"

Mu Changtian did not know the name of this object and could only temporarily refer to it as a siege vehicle, after all, it did bear some resemblance to a siege vehicle, such as having wheels.

Lu Chen did not correct Mu Changtian's term and responded, "I have a hundred howitzers at my disposal, with around eight hundred projectiles."

Lu Chen did not disclose the entire number of howitzers and projectiles he possessed. This battle against the Barbarian Tribe wouldn't require so many projectiles, nor so many howitzers. A hundred would be more than enough for deployment.

Upon hearing Lu Chen's reply, Mu Changtian said, "Your Highness, are the projectiles you mentioned the same as the one that was just fired?"

Lu Chen replied, "Yes, the howitzer in front of us is merely a launching device, the actual effective part is indeed the projectile we just fired."

With that, Lu Chen crouched down, opened the wooden box storing the howitzer's projectiles, and then took out one of the projectiles.

Witnessing the projectile in Lu Chen's hand, everyone fell into deep thought.

It seemed that Great Sum did not have the technology to produce such projectiles.

Where had the North Prince obtained this terrifying weapon from?

At that moment, Mu Jingwu asked, "Prince, can we produce these projectiles?"

Lu Chen answered, "Not at the moment, but it won't be long before we can manufacture similar weapons."

Hearing this, everyone inside felt an immense excitement.. If they could mass-produce such terrifying weapons, who would be North City's opponent in the future?

Chapter 96: 96 Is the Prince an Immortal? !

Lu Chen's cannon testing gave the soldiers immense confidence. In their eyes, possessing such a terrifying weapon, there was nothing to fear from the barbarian cavalry.

At this moment, Mu Changtian and others also understood why Lu Chen had planned from the start to lure the barbarian cavalry into the Wanning Valley. Only by gathering all the barbarian cavalry together could this powerful weapon exhibit its fullest potential.

When the time came to bombard from both sides of the Wanning Valley hills, those barbarian cavalry would be utterly powerless to fight back.

Lu Chen then put down the cannonball he was holding and said to Mu Jingwu, "Captain Mu, from now on, the artillery camp will be in your and Su Wei's charge."

Hearing that Lu Chen was entrusting him with such an important weapon, Mu Jingwu was tremendously excited.

He immediately responded to Lu Chen, "Prince, I will not fail your expectations. I will make sure the soldiers of the artillery camp quickly become familiar with how to operate this weapon!"

Lu Chen then passed the howitzer manual to Mu Jingwu, "This is the instruction manual for the howitzer. I will give you about fifty training rounds. Arrange as you see fit, and try to ensure that every soldier in the artillery camp understands how to operate this thing before the barbarian cavalry arrive." Mu Jingwu said, "Yes, Prince!"

As his words fell, Mu Jingwu took the howitzer manual from Lu Chen's hands and began to study it.

Lu Chen thought to himself that operating the howitzer must certainly have a learning curve. But as long as the soldiers get familiar with the howitzer operations, even if they can't understand the firing tables...

At this thought, Lu Chen paused, then turned to Li Feng and said, "General Li, draw a group of archers from your camp to the artillery camp. Going forward, the primary operation of the howitzer will be handled by the archers."

Lu Chen had just realized that not understanding the firing tables could indeed pose a significant problem for the soldiers. However, archers, who were accustomed to adjusting their angles when shooting arrows, would know how to adjust the firing angles of the howitzer even if they couldn't read the tables. As for the new recruits, they could still work in logistics, such as transporting and loading cannonballs

Li Feng replied, "Yes, Prince."

Lu Chen continued, "General Li, go and gather the archers now. Since I am at the artillery camp today, if you have any questions about the howitzer, you may ask me."

"Yes, Prince."

Li Feng promptly turned around and rode away from the artillery camp to gather archers from another camp.

For the rest of the day, Lu Chen stayed with the soldiers at the artillery camp.

Lu Chen also found that, as he had thought, archers were indeed more adept at understanding the firing angles of the howitzer compared to average soldiers. Within just an afternoon, the archers brought by Li Feng had mainly grasped how to shoot, and some of them could even make sense of the firing tables Lu Chen had on hand.

This allowed Lu Chen to breathe a sigh of relief. It seemed the ancients were not as slow to learn as he had imagined. Initially, he had been worried that the soldiers would not know how to use the howitzer because they couldn't understand the tables. Now it seemed he had worried over nothing.

They might not understand the principles behind the howitzer, but they could quickly learn how to use it.

By evening, Lu Chen let a few of the quicker-learning soldiers operate the howitzer themselves, and the results were very satisfying.

Although the soldiers did not hit the exact designated spot, deviating by a few meters, the howitzer's range of destruction was 15 to 30 meters. Once the barbarian cavalry entered the Wanning Valley, it wasn't an exaggeration to say that even with eyes closed, they could still hit the target. Such a small margin of error was insignificant.

After the soldiers finished their test firing, Lu Chen finally rode back to the Prince's Mansion.

At this time, Mu Changtian and others stood on the hill, gazing silently at the large craters left by the howitzer testing in the distance.

After a long while, Mu Changtian broke the silence and asked, "General Li, where did the Prince obtain such a mysterious weapon? You have been with him since he came to North City, you must know something, right?"

Li Feng said, "I don't know either."

At this moment, Mu Changtian laughed and said, "General Li, I am no longer Duke Mu, we are now at the same level, so there's no need for you to call yourself a subordinate."

"If the Prince knew about this, he might overthink it."

When Li Feng was in the Hu Ben Army, he indeed was Mu Changtian's subordinate, but now they were not in the Capital city anymore, and Mu Changtian was no longer the Duke Mu. Li Feng himself had been heavily relied upon by Lu Chen, so if he still considered himself Mu Changtian's subordinate, wouldn't that be suspected of forming cliques?

Mu Changtian was certainly politically aware of this.

Sovereigns do not wish for their subordinates to be too close to one another, as such closeness among subordinates can incite a sense of crisis in a ruler.

Li Feng instantly understood what Mu Changtian meant, and he promptly corrected himself, saying, "I understand, General Mu."

At this point, Li Feng continued, "I don't know where the Prince's weapons come from, but I have seen the Prince produce a mysterious weapon out of thin air before. It was similar to a grenade launcher, but smaller, could be held in the hand, and could also shoot something like a grenade."

"The Prince once used that weapon to kill a Ninth Grade Martial Artist on the spot. I heard that the Grandmaster from Blood Moon Tower was also instantly killed by that weapon last time."

<>Mu Changtian and Mu Jingwu fell into silence upon hearing Li Feng's words.

To instantly kill Ninth Grade Martial Artists and a Grandmaster!

Are the mysterious weapons in the hands of the North Prince so terrifying?

At this moment, Mu Changtian suddenly thought of something, and then he asked, "Wait, did you just say the North Prince produced the weapon out of thin air?"

Li Feng said, "Yes."

This...

Mu Changtian and his son Mu Jingwu exchanged a glance.

Mu Jingwu said, "Father, could it be that the Prince is... an Immor..."

Mu Jingwu didn't finish the word "Immortal" because such news was too explosive.

Mu Changtian said directly, "Whether he is an immortal or not I do not know, but I am certain that no such weapon exists in this world!"

At this moment, Li Feng spoke up, "Actually, there have long been rumors in the camp that the Prince is an immortal, or that he has been blessed by an immortal, and is the Son of Destiny. They say all these weapons are gifts from the immortals to the Prince."

Hearing Li Feng's words, Mu Changtian slightly frowned, "This is not necessarily good for the Prince."

The Sum Emperor was still alive and in the prime of life, yet people were saying that the North Prince was the Son of Destiny. If the North Prince was the Son of Destiny, then what did that make the Sum Emperor?

However, saying that the North Prince was the Son of Destiny wasn't wrong.

If he had no connection to the immortals, how could he produce such terrifying and mysterious weapons?

At this time, Mu Changtian looked at Mu Jingwu and said, "Jingwu, the Prince entrusting you with such an important weapon shows his confidence in our Mu Family, you must not fail the Prince's expectations!"

Mu Jingwu replied, "Rest assured, I will ensure the Artillery camp's soldiers master the grenade launcher before the Barbarian Tribe arrives."

After receiving Mu Jingwu's answer, Mu Changtian also left the Artillery camp with peace of mind.

In their hearts, they had already accepted that Lu Chen was an immortal, or at least, someone touched by the divine..

Chapter 97: 97: Prince Lu Shuyun is Assassinated 1

Half a month had flown by in the blink of an eye.

In the Capital city, within the residence of Prince Lu Shuyun, the study.

Lu Shuyun looked at the intelligence report he was clutching tightly in his hand, his teeth gritted so hard, his eyes filled with bloodshot veins.

He was now so furious he couldn't speak.

In the past, when he became angry, he would smash things, but today the information he received left him so enraged he even forgot to smash things; his body was shaking, and his face even started to break out in a cold sweat.

He never imagined that the Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower, leading so many Ninth Grade martial artists to assassinate a useless Prince, had actually failed!!!

The Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower was a true Grandmaster!

Even if there was a Mysterious Grandmaster in the North Prince Mansion, it was no problem at all for the Tower Master of Blood Moon Tower to occupy him!

Of course, what made Lu Shuyun even more infuriated was the matter of Wang Qingci's betrayal.

Wang Qingci, an assassin who had been raised by the Wang Family since childhood, had now actually switched allegiance to the North Prince Mansion.

Lu Shuyun tore the intelligence report in his hands to shreds and said with a cold laugh, 'Good, very good! No wonder the North Prince Mansion can each time evade the assassinations from Blood Moon Tower, it turns out there was a traitor!'

'My dear younger brother, you really are capable, to have won over an assassin that the Wang Family has nurtured from childhood!'

'I really did underestimate you!'

Just as Lu Shuyun could not find a way to vent his anger, he suddenly heard a commotion outside.

Then, a servant burst in, panic-stricken, and said, 'Your Highness, something terrible has happened!'

As Lu Shuyun was seething with rage and was about to kill the servant to vent his anger, he heard the servant say, 'Your Highness, you must escape! Some masked assassins have broken in, and our people can't stop them at all!'

Upon hearing this, Lu Shuyun was momentarily stunned.

Masked assassins?

Who would dare to assassinate a Prince in the Capital city?

At this moment, Lu Shuyun didn't even consider Lu Chen as a possibility; after all, Lu Chen was far away in North City, and he only had one Mysterious Grandmaster by his side. It was impossible that he would send that Mysterious Grandmaster to the Capital city to carry out an assassination.

The first thing that came to Lu Shuyun's mind was the other Princes involved in the succession struggle; with his death, they would have one less rival.

But...

Would a Prince really dare to assassinate another Prince in the Capital city?

If that were ever discovered, not to mention losing the right to contend for the throne, they might even be banished from the Capital city.

However, now was not the time to think about these things. The attackers had already broken in, and he had to quietly find a place to hide.

Fortunately, his residence had some underground passages, so escaping was not a problem at all; Lu Shuyun was not worried in the slightest that he would die.

Lu Shuyun then entered the underground passage of his mansion and used it to escape.

In the end, although those masked assassins had broken into the residence of Prince Lu Shuyun, and had killed many of his subordinates and some guests, they did not find any trace of the Prince himself.

Of course, Prince Lu Shuyun wasn't the target of these assassins in the first place.

By the time the Imperial Guard arrived, the masked assassins had already left.

The news of Prince Lu Shuyun's assassination attempt quickly spread throughout the entire Capital city. Since the Sum Emperor ascended the throne, such a heinous incident had rarely occurred, except for the last time when the remnants of Chen Nation had entered the Imperial Palace attempting to assassinate the Sum Emperor, which was seldom the case.

A Prince, in his own mansion, had actually been targeted for assassination by a group of masked assassins.

When the Sum Emperor learned of this incident, he was incredibly furious.

Since he ascended the throne, few had dared to make such turmoil in the Imperial city. The last time the remnants of Chen Nation entered the Imperial Palace, it was mainly to seek certain items and were accidentally discovered by the guards. The Sum Emperor had only exaggerated the incident claiming he had been subjected to an assassination attempt. Then, using that as a reason, he had banished the entire Duke Mu family from the Capital city. That was not a true assassination.

But this time was different.

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On this occasion, the assassins boldly stormed through the main entrance of Prince Lu Shuyun's residence, killing anyone they encountered, and directly bloodbathed Prince Lu Shuyun's mansion.

It was clear that the assassins were lawless, utterly disregarding imperial authority.

Such an incident happening right under the Emperor's nose, how could the Sum Emperor not be furious.

The Sum Emperor ordered that very night for the Ministry of Criminal Justice and the Imperial City Forbidden Army to immediately apprehend the assassins without letting a single one escape.

The following morning.

Xuanzheng Hall.

Early in the day, officials had arrived at the Xuanzheng Hall to wait.

They had all heard about last night's incident and were utterly shocked. No one had anticipated that assassins would have the audacity to bloodbath Prince Lu Shuyun's mansion.

After all, Prince Lu Shuyun's mansion was guarded by a Grandmaster and numerous experts.

At that moment, Lu Shuyun, dragging his weary body, entered the Xuanzheng Hall.

His face was deathly pale, totally devoid of color, and he appeared as if his soul had been lost.

Seeing Lu Shuyun in person, the ministers immediately gathered around him.

"Your Highness, are you alright?"

"Your Highness, are you injured?"

"Your Highness, those villains are despicable. They dared to invade Your Mansion. I believe His Majesty will never let those villains off."

Listening to the officials' warm inquiries, Lu Shuyun said nothing.

Although he had escaped from the mansion uninjured the day before, last night's events had indeed frightened him.

Only this morning did he learn that all the retainers from his mansion and the Grandmaster sent by the Wang Family to protect him had been killed.

Furthermore, almost everyone in the mansion had perished, except for him and a few servants who managed to escape.

Lu Shuyun had initially believed that the experts in his mansion could hold off the assassins with no problem.

He had entered the mansion's underground tunnel just as a precaution, in case any assassins came directly for him.

But he did not expect that the assassins' purpose was not just to assassinate a prince; his retainers were also targets.

Just then, the eunuch's voice echoed through the hall.

"His Majesty has arrived!"

The officials hurriedly returned to their places and saluted, saying, "Long live, long live, long everlasting live His Majesty."

At this time, the Sum Emperor stood in front of the Dragon Throne without sitting down, looking down upon the officials below from a height.

There seemed to be a heavy murderous intent in the Emperor's eyes, showing that last night's events had indeed angered him greatly.

Then, Lu Shuyun dropped to his knees with a slap and said aloud, "Father Emperor, you must seek justice for your son! From my grand mansion, only four people have survived!"

As soon as Lu Shuyun finished speaking, the Sum Emperor remained silent, his eyes sweeping across the princes within the hall.

Feeling the Emperor's gaze, sharp as if to kill, the princes felt immense pressure, and cold sweat began to bead on their foreheads.

Although they were not responsible for this incident, it was a critical time for the fight for succession, and they were the most suspect, as Prince Lu Shuyun's death reduced one powerful competitor for them.

Yet they were not fools; how could they commit such an act of bloodbathing a prince's mansion right under the Emperor's nose.

If this event were to be traced back to them, being sent away to a fiefdom was the least of their worries. If their imperial father, in a fit of rage, decided to demote them to commoners, that would be a disaster.

The princes were frustrated; who would be the fool to commit such an act at this time? Could it have been a scheme orchestrated by Lu Shuyun himself?

Chapter 98: 98: The North Prince's Family Letter 1

The atmosphere within Xuanzheng Hall was unbearably somber, with the ministers hardly daring to breathe.

With such an incident occurring under the heavens, they did not know how angry the Sum Emperor was by now, and they certainly didn't dare to draw his ire at this moment.

After a long while, the Sum Emperor finally spoke, "Since my ascension to the throne, such a vile incident has occurred for the second time in the Capital city. It is a contempt for imperial authority, a provocation against me!"

As he said this, the Sum Emperor's gaze fell upon the head of the Imperial Guards, "Li Ming, have all the assassins from last night been captured?"

Hearing this, the head of the Imperial Guards, Li Ming, suddenly knelt down with a thud and quickly said, "Your... Your Majesty, when your subordinate arrived at Prince Lu Shuyun's residence last night, those assassins had already fled."

Li Ming's cold sweat was flowing freely as he feared that the Sum Emperor, in a fit of anger, might order him to be dragged out and beheaded on the spot.

Hearing Li Ming's statement, the Sum Emperor coldly said, "The last time, you allowed remnants from Chen Nation to infiltrate the Imperial Palace, and I did not punish you. This time, a bloodbath occurred in the Prince's residence within the imperial city, and you didn't even catch a glimpse of the assassins' shadows. What use is there for you as head of the Imperial Guards!"

"Effective immediately, relieve Li Ming of all duties and banish him to the frontier."

Hearing the Sum Emperor's words, Li Ming breathed a sigh of relief and then kowtowed, saying, "Thank you for your Imperial grace!"

Although he had lost his position, at least his life was spared, and Li Ming felt somewhat lucky.

At that moment, the Sum Emperor continued, "Turn this case over to the Ministry of Criminal Justice for investigation. Within three days, I need a satisfactory answer!"

As soon as these words were spoken, the officials from the Ministry of Criminal Justice began to tremble with fear.

This was not something they were able to investigate, nor dared to investigate.

The assassins had directly slaughtered their way through Prince Lu Shuyun's residence, even killing the Grandmaster there. This indicated that among last night's assassins there was at least one Grandmaster.

To dispatch a Grandmaster, and daring to boldly bloodbath a Prince's residence, there must be a significant power behind it.

It might even be the work of another Prince.

Should they really find out it was another Prince who did it, that would be a hot potato for the Ministry of Criminal Justice. In Great Sum, the Ministry simply had no way or right to judge a Prince's crime.

Although they knew it was a hot potato, the officials from the Ministry of Criminal Justice dared not refuse. With the Sum Emperor currently in a rage, they feared decapitation for even speaking out at such a time.

Then, the Sum Emperor said to Lu Shuyun, "Qi Prince, rise. I will see justice done for you."

Lu Shuyun hurriedly responded, "This humble son thanks Father Emperor."

The Sum Emperor did not continue to dwell on this matter. Although the incident was extremely vile, the assassins had not yet been captured, and not even a shred of information about them was available. It was too early to discuss how to deal with them.

Today, there were other matters for discussion. At this point, the Sum Emperor turned to the Minister of Revenue, "Minister Wang, I hear you are withholding the provisions for the army heading to North City. Is there any truth to this?"

Minister of Revenue, Wang Hai, quickly replied, "Your Majesty, it's not that your servant wishes to withhold the army's provisions, but the Ministry of Household is seriously in deficit. It is quite difficult to gather such a large sum of money in such a short time."

The Sum Emperor replied with indifference, "Are you saying that if you cannot gather the money, the court should not send troops to North City to counter the Barbarian Tribe?"

"Wang Hai, could it be that you have colluded with the Barbarian Tribe, wishing for them to march unimpeded straight to the Capital city, intentionally delaying the army's departure?"

Hearing the Sum Emperor's words, Wang Hai's complexion turned ashen in an instant. Although the Wang Family did indeed have dealings with the Barbarian Tribe, he had not expected the Sum Emperor to directly bring it up.

While the Sum Emperor seemed to be probing, Wang Hai couldn't shake the feeling that the Emperor might know something.

Wang Hai immediately knelt down and said, "Your Majesty, your servant is earnestly preparing the army's provisions."

The Sum Emperor coldly stated, "If within three days the army still cannot march north, then you will no longer need to serve as the Minister of Revenue."

Just as the Sum Emperor was about to continue, a voice suddenly echoed from the entrance of the grand hall.

"Urgent news from the North Land!"

The next moment, a Red Ribbon Messenger hurried into the hall.

Seeing the Red Ribbon Messenger, the faces of the ministers in the hall turned sour.

If they were using a Red Ribbon Messenger at this time, did it mean that the Barbarian Tribe had already begun to move south?

While the imperial court's army was still worrying about food and fodder, the cavalry of the Barbarian Tribe had already moved south. How were they supposed to defend North City?

Could they really rely on that worthless Prince?

Better not count on that. It's likely that the worthless Prince would flee back to the Capital City before the Barbarian cavalry even reached Yan County.

At this point, the Red Ribbon Messenger said, "The North Fre King of the Barbarian Tribe has already gathered a hundred thousand cavalry at the court of the Sky Wolf King and is about to move south!"

"This is a battle report from the North Prince, and in addition, the North Prince has also sent a personal letter to His Majesty."

Upon hearing this, everyone in the hall was taken aback.

A personal letter?

A Prince writing a personal letter to the Emperor?

This...

It seemed not entirely inappropriate.

Although the North Prince had taken up his fief, he was, after all, the son of the Emperor, and there was a father-son relationship.

However, since the establishment of Great Sum, it seemed there had never been an instance of a Seignior writing a personal letter to the Emperor; they always submitted official memorials.

The eunuch by the Sum Emperor's side didn't hesitate and immediately approached the Red Ribbon Messenger, took both the battle report and the personal letter, and then presented them to the Sum Emperor.

After receiving the battle report and the personal letter, the Sum Emperor first looked over the battle report. The report itself had no issues, and the North Prince also mentioned the arrangements for North City in it.

What puzzled the Sum Emperor, however, was that Lu Chen actually planned to adopt a scorched-earth strategy, moving all the common people north of Yan County to the south and then leading the army to face off against the three hundred thousand-strong Barbarian Army in a decisive battle at Yan County. The Sum Emperor furrowed his brows. Whose strategy was this?

He didn't believe that his good-for-nothing son had the audacity to do this. Setting aside whether the strategy was effective or not, it would require immense courage to dare to attempt it.

Yan County currently had only thirty thousand, at most fifty thousand soldiers. It would not be easy for a single Yan County to hold back the Barbarian cavalry.

Moreover, this would lead to Yan County being besieged by the Barbarian Army. He knew what character his son had, how could he not? The Sum Emperor was quite skeptical that Lu Chen would put himself in danger.

After finishing the battle report, the Sum Emperor then opened Lu Chen's personal letter.

Just seeing the beginning of the personal letter, the Sum Emperor snorted coldly. He just knew Lu Chen couldn't suddenly become so courageous; it turned out he wanted the Emperor to send reinforcements to North City as soon as possible.

Seeing how Lu Chen lamented in a pitiful and despicable manner in the letter, the Sum Emperor felt like tearing the letter up immediately. However, he ultimately restrained himself and continued reading.

When he reached the end, his expression darkened instantly, especially after seeing the last line of text, the Sum Emperor's brows immediately furrowed.

He had actually long suspected that this southward move by the Barbarian Tribe was connected to the Aristocratic Families, something that didn't need investigation to guess. But he didn't know exactly who was colluding with the Barbarian Tribe.

The fact that the weapons of Great Sumian standard mentioned by Lu Chen in the personal letter did nothing but confirm his suspicions.

What truly caused the Sum Emperor to frown was the mention of Prince Lu Shuyun in the letter..

Chapter 99: It seems that Prince Lu Chen has a master by his side i

Seeing the expression on the Sum Emperor's face grow increasingly ugly, the court ministers inside the great hall were all very curious about what content the North Prince had written in his family letter that could make the Sum Emperor look so angry.

Hadn't the bloodbath at Prince Lu Shuyun's residence left the Sum Emperor this angry?

After finishing the content of the family letter, the Sum Emperor directly flicked his sleeve and then coldly said two words, "Court dismissed," before leaving the great hall straightaway.

The court ministers inside the great hall were all bewildered, not knowing what had happened.

Was court dismissed just like that?

The Sum Emperor hadn't even mentioned the military reports from the North Land, had he?

Moreover, this time he hadn't had anyone come to his study to discuss military affairs.

This made the ministers even more curious about the North Prince's letter.

What exactly was written in the letter that could make the Sum Emperor angrily leave the great hall?

Awhile later,

Royal Garden.

The Sum Emperor came to the Royal Garden and directly handed the military reports and Lu Chen's family letter to the State Preceptor, Situ Ce.

Situ Ce glanced at the military report, then looked carefully at Lu Chen's family letter, his expression becoming instantly more solemn.

After a long while, Situ Ce finally spoke, "Your Majesty, it seems that this family letter is more important than the military report."

"It's quite obvious that the North Prince only wrote this military report so he could send this family letter through the Red Ribbon Messenger."

Although from the content of the family letter it seems that the North Prince is just a useless coward, merely wanting the court to send troops to help him fend off the Barbarian Tribe, the two key points in the family letter were fully laid out by the North Prince.

The first point was that the Barbarian Tribe was found with Great Sum-standard weapons and equipment, and the second point was that Prince Lu Shuyun's merchant caravan appeared in North City.

The appearance of Great Sum weapons in the North Land proves that there must be traitors within Great Sum.

And, with North City being so poor, the fact that Prince Lu Shuyun's merchant caravan went there to do business suggests that Prince Lu Shuyun might have issues.

The North Prince's family letter was just short of directly naming Prince Lu Shuyun as the traitor to the nation.

It's quite clear that the North Prince's intention was not just to simply complain about his situation in the family letter.

Hearing Situ Ce's words, the Sum Emperor, with his hands behind his back, looked at the lotus pond and fell silent for a moment, "I don't believe Chen is capable of such scheming."

While Lu Chen was in the Capital City, he always seemed to be an ignorant pleasure-seeker.

Even after he went to North City, he continued to neglect proper affairs, spending his days indulging in his Prince's Mansion.

The Sum Emperor did not believe that Lu Chen suddenly had an epiphany and knew to use this method to remind him that there were traitors within the court.

Of course, this family letter might indeed serve such a purpose, but it certainly wasn't written by Lu Chen himself, or rather, it was written under someone else's guidance.

At this moment, Situ Ce lamented, "Your Majesty, it seems that Prince Lu Chen has wise people by his side!"

"From the fact that His Highness was able to discern the movements of the Barbarian Tribe's royal court, it is evident that Prince Lu Chen must certainly possess an intelligence organization."

"Otherwise, it would be impossible for all of the Barbarian Tribe's moves to be in the hands of Prince Lu Chen."

The Sum Emperor once again fell into deep thought.

Situ Ce was right; if Lu Chen could predict the Barbarian Tribe's southward invasion by three hundred thousand troops and even knew about traitors within Great Sum, and also knew about the North Fre King leading a hundred thousand cavalry to join forces with the Sky Wolf King, it proved that Lu Chen had an organization capable of gathering intelligence not weaker than the Shadow Guard.

This made the Sum Emperor feel a hint of threat.

His ignorant and useless son, Lu Chen, actually possessed such a powerful intelligence organization?

What did he want to do?

What did he dare to do?

This made the Sum Emperor suspicious as to whether Lu Chen had always been hiding his capabilities while in the Capital City.

But from his behavior, he didn't seem to be the type to conceal his talents, did he?

He had lived in the Capital City for so many years, always under surveillance, and his behavior did not seem feigned at all.

This made the Sum Emperor more suspicious that there might be forces behind Lu Chen intending to use him for some unspeakable purposes, especially the Mysterious Moon Palace.

Lu Chen's status as the God's Son had always been a concern for the Sum Emperor.

At that moment, the Shadow Guard commander appeared behind the Sum Emperor, "Your Majesty, a secret report from Commander Bai."

Hearing this, the Sum Emperor immediately turned and took the secret report from the Shadow Guard commander's hands and opened it.

After reading Bai Qingqing's secret report, the Sum Emperor's expression turned even uglier.

As he had suspected, the Mysterious Moon Palace had indeed sent people to North City, and it was the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace who had personally gone to North City.

However...

According to the secret report, it seemed that the Mysterious Moon Palace had not actually aided the North Prince Mansion, and the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace had already headed south with Lu Chen's wives and concubines.

Now there were hardly any people left by Lu Chen's side.

This puzzled the Sum Emperor. If the Mysterious Moon Palace was not behind Lu Chen, then did he have other forces behind him?

He did not believe that merely by relying on Lu Chen, one could establish an intelligence organization capable of infiltrating the courts of the Barbarian Tribe.

It was a bit strange.

The Sum Emperor did not suspect Bai Qingqing; he simply thought that Bai Qingqing must not have yet uncovered the true secrets of the North Prince Mansion or made contact with the people behind Lu Chen.

Immediately, the Sum Emperor said to the Shadow Guard leader, "Command Commander Bai to find a way into Chen's bed. I need more intelligence about Chen."

"Additionally, have her expedite the investigation to confirm whether North

City really has any of Shuyun's merchant caravans in contact with the

Barbarian Tribe."

The Shadow Guard leader immediately responded, "Yes, Your Majesty."

"You may leave."

"This subordinate takes his leave."

After the Shadow Guard leader left, Situ Ce opened his mouth to ask, "Your Majesty, aside from the matter of Prince Lu Chen, how do you intend to handle Prince Lu Shuyun's situation?"

The Sum Emperor indifferently replied, “I do not believe that he could have done this alone; there must surely be the shadow of an Aristocratic Family behind him.”

“Once the affair in North City is settled, and the Shadow Guard has collected enough evidence, that will be the time to deal with those parasites.”

North Land.

Sky Wolf King’s court.

An old man, clad entirely in beast skins and with wrinkled skin, was making merry with Sky Wolf King Xiao Hongbo over a drink.

At that moment, Xiao Hongbo said to a slave beside him, “Go, call the princess here.”

The slave immediately got up and left the royal tent.

At the same time, Xiao Wen Yao was on a highland in the grasslands, gazing toward the direction of North City.

Shortly afterward, the slave who had been by Xiao Hongbo’s side earlier arrived behind Xiao Wen Yao, “Princess, the Great King summons you to the royal tent.”

Upon hearing this, Xiao Wen Yao’s face instantly turned pale.

She, of course, knew why her father was summoning her to the royal tent: it was to serve the North Fre King, to pour wine and wait on him.

Xiao Wen Yao had seen the North Fre King a few days prior and setting aside his ugly appearance, the stench that pervaded his entire being had nearly made Xiao Wen Yao vomit.

Though they both lived on the grasslands, their Sky Wolf tribe always valued cleanliness, unlike the North Fre King who seemingly never bathed in his life.

Xiao Wen Yao immediately retorted, “I refuse to go!”

“Go back and tell my father that I feel unwell!”

Hearing this, the slave hurriedly said, “Princess, please don’t make things difficult for me, if you don’t go, the Great King will surely kill me.”

Slaves had no status among the Barbarian Tribe; they could be killed on a whim.

Though Xiao Wen Yao felt a hint of pity for the slave, she still insisted, “I am not going!”

Having said this, Xiao Wen Yao was ready to turn around and leave.

However, just then, two personal guards of Xiao Hongbo appeared in front of Xiao Wen Yao.

“Princess, the Great King has ordered us to escort you to the royal tent!”

Xiao Hongbo likely had guessed that Xiao Wen Yao might not comply, so he opted to have her forcibly taken there instead.

Today he was seeking to improve relations with the North Fre King and wanted to show him what his future queen looked like.

Seeing the two burly men clad in beast skins before her, Xiao Wen Yao realized she could not escape and resignedly said, “I understand.”

Then, Xiao Wen Yao followed them to the royal tent.

Upon entering the royal tent, Xiao Wen Yao immediately saw the repulsive old man.

At that moment, Xiao Hongbo said with a beaming smile to the North Fre King beside him, “North Fre King, this is my daughter and your future queen.”

Upon hearing this, the North Fre King leered at Xiao Wen Yao, his gaze lingering on her shapely figure, and he could not help but swallow his saliva.

He had long heard that the Sky Wolf King’s daughter was a rare beauty of the grasslands, and seeing her today, he realized she lived up to her reputation.

She was far more beautiful than any of the women he had seized from Great Sum.

Feeling the North Fre King’s unabashed stare, Xiao Wen Yao felt as if something was crawling over her skin.

Xiao Hongbo then looked at Xiao Wen Yao saying, “Yaoyao, come here and pour wine for your future husband!”

Hearing Xiao Hongbo’s stern voice, Xiao Wen Yao knew she had no choice but to comply. She prepared to approach the North Fre King to pour the wine. However, at that moment, her uncle, Xiao Pengthian, spoke up, “Great King, Yaoyao has not yet officially married the North Fre King. It is not quite appropriate for her to pour wine for him now.”

“The queen once said that we should learn from Great Sum. Therefore, we should also adopt the rites of Great Sum, where a woman must not have contact with her future husband before marriage.”

Upon hearing Xiao Pengthian's words, the North Fre King immediately felt displeased. Yet, Xiao Hongbo did not express anger; he smiled at the North Fre King and said, "North Fre King, I think my subordinate makes some sense. How about we wait until we take over North City, and then Yaoyao can pour wine for you?"

Seeing that Xiao Hongbo had spoken, the North Fre King could only reply, "Alright then. On the day that my queen marries me, I will drink heartily with her."

As he said this, the North Fre King ogled Xiao Wen Yao's body with lecherous eyes and licked his lips..

Chapter 100: Who Made Me the Daughter of the Sky Wolf Kingi

After hearing what Xiao Hongbo and the others said, Xiao Wen Yao was finally able to breathe a sigh of relief.

At that time, Xiao Hongbo said indifferently, "Yaoyao, you should go out first."

Xiao Hongbo's tone was very cold, as if she was not his daughter at all.

Xiao Wen Yao walked out with a look of dejection.

Although she did not pour wine for the North Fre King today, if she continued to stay in the royal court, she would inevitably become the North Fre King's woman one day.

And that day was coming soon.

As soon as North City was taken down, she would have to marry that old thing who never bathes in his lifetime.

Thinking of this, Xiao Wen Yao felt an indescribable pain in her heart.

Not long after Xiao Wen Yao left the royal tent, Xiao Pengthian followed her out.

Seeing the lost and dispirited Xiao Wen Yao, Xiao Pengthian immediately walked up to her and asked with concern, "Yaoyao, are you alright?"

Xiao Wen Yao did not pay any attention to Xiao Pengthian but walked straight toward the distant grasslands.

Seeing Xiao Wen Yao like this, Xiao Pengthian sighed deeply, then continued, "Yaoyao, your uncle has done everything he could."

It was only then that Xiao Wenyao spoke, “Uncle, I don’t blame you. Who made me the daughter of the Sky Wolf King?”

The more Xiao Wenyao spoke, the more aggrieved she felt, and as she spoke, she began to cry with a “woo woo woo.”

Seeing how heartbroken Xiao Wenyao was crying, Xiao Pengthian sighed. Although he had some status in the Sky Wolf King’s tribe, he could not change Xiao Hongbo’s mind, after all, the tribe was still ruled by the Sky Wolf King.

At that moment, the sobbing Xiao Wenyao suddenly thought of something and then, while crying, asked, “Uncle, did my father really kill my mother?”

At first, when Xiao Wenyao heard Xiao Pengthian say this, she was somewhat incredulous. After all, her mother and father seemed so in love before; how could her father possibly have killed her mother?

But now, seeing how her father treated her, ignoring his daughter’s happiness for the sake of his ambition, Xiao Wenyao could not help but suspect whether her father really killed her mother in order to marry the queen.

Hearing Xiao Wenyao’s question, Xiao Pengthian fell silent. Although he had told Xiao Wenyao about this matter before, it was only said in a moment of anger, as he really couldn’t stand Xiao Hongbo’s actions.

However, he indeed suspected that his sister’s death was closely connected to Xiao Hongbo.

But seeing how sad Xiao Wenyao was, he was reluctant to tell her more about her own mother’s affairs.

After a moment of silence, Xiao Pengthian still said, “I only suspect it, as your mother was always well and had no illnesses; she couldn’t have died suddenly, so I suspect that someone poisoned your mother.”

“The most likely person who did not want your mother to live was your father, because he wanted to marry the queen.”

Xiao Wenyao wiped her tears and asked, “But hasn’t the queen already agreed to marry him?”

In the Sky Wolf King tribe there has always been this custom, that is, the queen of the previous Sky Wolf King—if she is still relatively young and capable of bearing children—must marry the next Sky Wolf King.

Of course, this is provided that the next Sky Wolf King has no blood relation; but from the way new Sky Wolf Kings are chosen in the Sky Wolf King's tribe, many times the new Sky Wolf King has no blood relation to the previous one.

The Barbarian Tribe is different from Great Sum, where succession is generally by primogeniture, while in the Barbarian Tribe the king is chosen by the Elders.

Therefore, the children of the previous Sky Wolf King are not necessarily going to become the next Sky Wolf King, although generally, the children of the previous Sky Wolf King do become the next one, because they have a great advantage in the Elder's election in the Barbarian Tribe.

Xiao Hongbo was not the child of the previous Sky Wolf King, so to consolidate his kingship, he needed to recruit the queen as his political ally.

Saying 'recruit' is too polite. Considering Yelv Nanyan's current status in the Sky Wolf King tribe, 'ingratiating' might be more accurate.

At that time, he already had a queen and it was impossible for him to take another queen. According to custom, Yelv Nanyan could at most become his woman.

But with Yelv Nanyan having such great power and high status in the Sky Wolf King tribe, how could she settle for just being his woman? Her status as the queen was inevitably to be preserved.

There was only one solution left, which was to depose Xiao Wen Yao's mother. However, deposing her directly would cause some dissatisfaction, especially among the people of Xiao Wen Yao's mother's lineage, which included Xiao Pengthian.

Since deposing her directly wasn't an option, they might as well go all out and kill Xiao Wen Yao's mother. That way, Xiao Hongbo could remarry a queen with honor and legitimacy.

Of course, this was only Xiao Pengthian's speculation at the moment; he had not yet found any related evidence.

After hearing Xiao Wen Yao's words, Xiao Pengthian sighed and then said, "Yaoyao, have you forgotten that the queen agreed to marry your father only after your mother had died?"

Hearing Xiao Pengthian put it that way, Xiao Wen Yao was completely stunned.

After a while, Xiao Wen Yao continued, "Uncle, could it be that the queen killed my mother?"

Xiao Pengthian did not immediately answer Xiao Wen Yao's question.

If one were to look at the motive, Yelv Nanyan could indeed have had the potential to kill Xiao Wen Yao's mother because to become queen, the current queen would have to be deposed or die.

Considering the circumstances at the time, deposing her was not likely, leaving only a sudden death as the alternative.

However, Xiao Pengthian did not believe that Yelv Nanyan needed to marry Xiao Hongbo to maintain her status, as she had already garnered the support of all the Elders in the Sky Wolf King tribe. Even if Yelv Nanyan had refused to marry the Sky Wolf King at that time, the Elders would not have objected.

Moreover, given her contributions to the tribe, if she did not want to marry Xiao Hongbo, no one would have any say in it.

Therefore, for Xiao Hongbo to gain Yelv Nanyan's support, he had to depose the position of Xiao Wen Yao's mother as the queen, and for Yelv Nanyan to maintain her power in the Sky Wolf King tribe, she simply needed to maintain good relations with the Elders, coupled with her own significant influence in the tribe, she had no need at all to marry Xiao Hongbo.

The most crucial point was that it was initially Xiao Hongbo who actively proposed to marry Yelv Nanyan and wanted her to be his queen, which further confirmed Xiao Pengthian's suspicions.

Seeing that Xiao Pengthian did not answer her question, Xiao Wen Yao felt she already knew the answer in her heart.

The queen had always been very kind to her since she was a child, treating her as her own daughter. Xiao Wen Yao was very clear in her heart that the queen was not a wicked woman.

Furthermore, her mother and the queen had always had a good relationship. It was said that when the queen first came to the Sky Wolf King tribe, she was nothing but a naive young girl, and her mother had taken care of the queen like a sister.

The queen was able to stabilize her footing in the Sky Wolf King tribe so quickly, and a large part of that was because of her mother, so Xiao Wen Yao found it hard to believe that the queen would do such a thing as to harm her mother.

If it really was the queen who was responsible, Xiao Wen Yao had nothing to say.

Anyway, there were currently only two people with the most suspicion: her father and the queen. Of course, it was also very possible that her mother had suddenly died of some illness.

But none of that mattered anymore.

She was about to marry into the North Fre King tribe and would never know who killed her mother for the rest of her life.

And even if she knew, she could not change anything. Her mother was dead and could not be brought back to life.

At this thought, Xiao Wenyao could not help but start sobbing once again.

Seeing her cry so sadly, Xiao Pengthian felt very distressed. Suddenly, he thought of something and then whispered, "Yaoyao, your uncle has thought of a way that could prevent you from marrying the North Fre King, but I don't know if you're willing to do it."

Hearing this, Xiao Wenyao's crying came to an abrupt halt. She immediately asked, "Uncle, what is the way you're talking about?"

Xiao Pengthian whispered into Xiao Wenyao's ear, "After your father conquers North City, you quietly go and live in Great Sum, never to return to the grasslands again."

Upon hearing this, Xiao Wenyao was taken aback..