

## Es. Benefits 361

### Chapter 361: Love Worm Turns into Butterfly\_2

The butterfly in the room, upon seeing that caterpillar, immediately flew to the head of the bed and then took the caterpillar into the moonlight.

Before long, the caterpillar also transformed into a stunning butterfly, its body radiating even more beautiful light.

Afterward, the two butterflies fluttered about the room, their wing powder filling the entire space.

Lu Chen, who was fervently stirring Chen Wanrong's emotions at that moment, also noticed the anomaly in the room. He got up again and turned his head to look aside.

Seeing two iridescent butterflies flitting about in the room, Lu Chen was slightly taken aback. Could these butterflies be some kind of poisonous insects?

Lu Chen then asked in his mind, "System, what is the name of these butterflies?"

"Pair-Wing Butterfly, the powder on the Pair-Wing Butterfly's body can cause men and women to become lost in the cultivation of feelings for each other."

Hearing the system's notification, Lu Chen thought to himself, so these are the Pair-Wing Butterflies. He had initially thought that Chen Wanrong was preparing some poisonous insect again, still not giving up on using it against him.

After returning to his senses, Lu Chen turned his head to look at Chen Wanrong. At this time, her snowy white neck had also turned crimson, her eyes foggy. She bit her silver teeth lightly, her delicate body twisting nonstop, as if she was enduring something.

Lu Chen paused for a second, unable to help but wonder, could it be that the powder from the Pair-Wing Butterflies has affected her?

Even though the powder of the Pair-Wing Butterflies was ineffective on him, anyone who was touched by the Pair-Wing Butterfly powder would be attracted to another who had also been touched by it. Now, these two butterflies were flying about in the room, and their wing powder had already been scattered over his body, while Chen Wanrong had also come into contact with it.

Seeing this, Lu Chen smiled. He then leaned down and whispered into her ear, “Rongrong, tell me, what do you want to do?”

As soon as Lu Chen’s words fell, Chen Wanrong suddenly raised her jade arm, wrapped it around his neck, and kissed him, taking him by surprise. Chen Wanrong’s kiss completely stripped away Lu Chen’s last shred of rationality.

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At dawn, the sun rose in the east.

Yunrong Courtyard.

Lin Wanyun sat in the pavilion with a worried expression on her face. She had been waiting there all night, but Chen Wanrong had still not returned.

She had no idea where she had gone.

In the past, even if Chen Wanrong went out, she would definitely tell her where she was going, but she hadn’t last night, which made Lin Wanyun very anxious.

Lin Wanyun couldn’t help but think, could it be that Rongrong went to find Lu Chen last night?

After all, Lu Chen had already let Wei Siyuan convey those words to Chen Wanrong, which means he was ready to clear the air. Chen Wanrong must have known what Lu Chen was thinking.

At that moment, a maid entered the Yunrong Courtyard, “Commander Lin,” she greeted.

Lin Wanyun came back to her senses, “What’s the matter?”

The maid asked, “Commander Lin, did you see the Prince last night? The Princess prepared porridge for the Prince, but after searching the entire Prince’s Mansion, the Prince is nowhere to be found. Commander Chu asked me to inquire with you.”

The “Commander Chu” the maid referred to was naturally Chu Qingli. Both Lin Wanyun and Chu Qingli were very clear that they were both Lu Chen’s women. Therefore, Chu Qingli supposed that if Lu Chen was not in any of his concubines’ rooms, he was probably in the Yunrong Courtyard seeking pleasures.

After hearing the maid’s words, Lin Wanyun’s heart skipped a beat.

It’s over...

Rongrong isn’t in the Prince’s Mansion, neither is Lu Chen...

They have most likely found a place to negotiate.

That scoundrel Lu Chen, faced with such a beautiful woman like Chen Wanrong, how could he possibly resist? Moreover, Lu Chen is a Grandmaster, and Chen Wanrong is only a Grandmaster. If Lu Chen were to force himself, she might not be able to fight back. Lin Wanyun’s heart became even more anxious.

But being anxious now seemed to be of no use since she had no idea where they went to negotiate last night.

Lin Wanyun then said to the maid, “I don’t know where the Prince has gone, but he must have had something to do to leave.”

The maid then said, “Understood. I apologize for the disturbance, I shall take my leave.”

Afterward, as the maid turned and left, Lin Wanyun, with a solemn look, muttered to herself, “You little bastard, if you dare to do that kind of thing to Rongrong, I will never let you off.”

What Lin Wanyun didn’t know at that moment was that Lu Chen was struggling with all he had. The fairy’s moans completely overwhelmed his senses.

...

The sun gradually moved to the center of the blue sky, its golden rays filtering through the gaps in the windows into the room.

The sunlight passing through the gaps formed beams of light, within one of which the Pair-Wing Butterflies that had hatched last night were positioned tail to tail, with one butterfly overlapping the other.

At the same time.

On the bed.

Lu Chen slowly got up, looking at the fairy with whom he had cultivated feelings all night long.

Chen Wanrong looked at Lu Chen with a flushed face and cold indifference, then coldly said, "Aren't you getting up yet?"

Lu Chen said indifferently, "The matter isn't over; I can't get up yet."

Chen Wanrong didn't pay attention to Lu Chen's words, instead she asked, "When do you plan to let Madam Lin leave?"

Lu Chen shamelessly said, "She's already my woman; I can't possibly let her go."

Hearing this, Chen Wanrong's eyebrows furrowed slightly, "Are you going back on your word?"

Lu Chen said, "I never claimed to be a good person. It's normal for me not to keep my word. I will not only not let her leave, but from today on, you won't be able to leave either."

Chapter 362: Love Worm Turns into Butterfly\_3

For the fairy before him, Lu Chen's possessiveness had reached its peak. Yesterday, he still harbored thoughts of letting her go but after he touched Chen Wanrong, the idea of letting her leave vanished completely from his heart.

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Chen Wanrong was slightly stupefied; she hadn't expected Lu Chen to be so shameless.

Just as she was about to say something, Lu Chen leaned down and kissed her again.

"Mmm mmm mmm..."

Chen Wanrong made sounds of protest with her mouth, but soon she gave up struggling.

...

Noon.

Lu Chen wrapped his arms around Chen Wanrong's slender waist, lying on his side, and buried his head in her lush hair.

Chen Wanrong felt helpless against Lu Chen. She thought that, as a Grandmaster herself, she could withstand the pressure from Lu Chen, but her skill was sealed.

With her skill gone, she couldn't shield any of her sensations, and even though she tried to control herself, she eventually became just like Lin Wanyun.

In a powerless voice, Chen Wanrong asked, "What do you want ...?"

A whole night had passed, and now a morning, yet Lu Chen still wouldn't let her go.

Hearing Chen Wanrong's words, Lu Chen just quietly held her delicate body, making no other moves.

Lu Chen felt he had fallen, completely intoxicated by the land of tenderness.

Chen Wanrong, with a beauty score of ninety-eight, was indeed a fairy; anyone who touched her found it impossible to extricate themselves.

After an indeterminate amount of time, Lu Chen finally whispered in Chen Wanrong's ear, "I want you to stay by my side until you carry my child."

Hearing that, Chen Wanrong asked, "Aren't you afraid my master will find out about this?"

Yesterday, Lu Chen said he was afraid of her master, but today he began acting shamelessly, refusing to let Lin Wanyun leave, and even coercing her to stay herself.

As Lu Chen gently caressed her jade back, he said, "It's better to die under a peony flower and be a ghost of love. From now on, you shall be my wife."

Seeing Lu Chen so determined, Chen Wanrong felt completely out of options.

She then spoke, "The Sum Emperor and I have a blood feud. Keeping me in the North Prince Mansion is not good for you."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "How is it not good? Haven't I already benefited now?"

Chen Wanrong did not speak again; she understood that Lu Chen would not let her go.

After last night's events, she gradually came to believe that the Love Worm poison Lu Chen spoke of might truly exist.

If there was no Love Worm, how could touching Lu Chen render her powerless and make her act shamelessly like Lin Wanyun?

But for the person she had become, it didn't matter anymore. Her body had already been taken by this shameless man; why should she care about the Love Worm?

At this moment, she also discovered a serious problem.

The hatred that had been suppressed in her heart seemed to have dissipated like smoke, and even her desire to seek revenge on the Sum Emperor had faded considerably. Chen Wanrong began to doubt if she had been confused; she couldn't believe that sleeping with Lu Chen for one night could so easily erase her past hatreds.

This man's methods of dealing with women were truly terrifying. No wonder Lin Wanyun sneaked around time and again to do those unspeakable acts with him.

But as the hatred faded, Chen Wanrong felt lost. She had grown up sustained by the hatred in her heart, but now that it had faded, she wondered what the meaning of all her years of effort was if not for revenge, if not to restore her nation.

Amidst Chen Wanrong's confusion, Lu Chen whispered in her ear, "Look at the Pair-Wing Butterflies on the table. Don't they resemble us now?"

Upon hearing this, Chen Wanrong's gaze shifted to the table in the room, and when she saw the two Pair-Wing Butterflies, she was momentarily stunned.

Why were there Pair-Wing Butterflies in this room?

No wonder she had acted so crazed last night that she forgot her own surname; it turned out that a Pair-Wing Butterfly had appeared in the room. With her skills restricted, she was unable to resist the effects of the powder from the butterfly wings, which was why she had become so shameless.

Wait a second...

These Pair-Wing Butterflies...

Chen Wanrong suddenly felt that the aura of these two butterflies was somewhat familiar.

Were these the Love Worms she had cultivated?

How had they hatched?

Her master once told her, if the Love Worm turned into a butterfly, it might backlash against the person who deployed it.

Initially, her master taught her how to cultivate the Love Worm so that in the future, she wouldn't be trapped by love. If she fancied a man, she could just use the Love Worm to take him back with her.

Unexpectedly, the first time she cultivated the Love Worm and used it on someone, it turned into a butterfly.

Continuing to tempt her with his words beside her ear, Lu Chen said, "Your Love Worm failed, but you can become the worm, making me unable to leave you."

"You are the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace, and I am God's Son of the Mysterious Moon Palace. In terms of status, there doesn't seem to be anything wrong with us being together."

At this point, Chen Wanrong asked, "My master was right, men are adept at sweet talk."

Lu Chen said, "This is not sweet talk."

Chen Wanrong, expressionless, said, "The Love Worm cannot leave its host for life. Do you want to trap me by your side forever?"

Lu Chen said, "I don't have such thoughts. Whether you want revenge or to restore your nation, I don't care. You can still do what you want to do, but the condition is, you must bear my children."

Chen Wanrong reminded him, "The Sum Emperor is your biological father."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "There's no kinship in the royal family, and my mother's death wasn't without his involvement. To tell you the truth, his life or death doesn't concern me much."

Chen Wanrong continued, "Then what if I want to use your blood to concoct the Subtle Dragon Spell? Would you agree?"

Lu Chen asked, "You have to tell me what the Subtle Dragon Spell is first."



The two of them chatted back and forth, and for a while, Chen Wanrong seemed to forget that they were still engaging in the same act as the Pair-Wing Butterflies.

### Chapter 363: The Flowers I Picked from Yunrong Courtyard\_1

When Lu Chen first met Chen Wanrong, he learned of the Subtle Dragon Spell through her personal files, but he never understood in detail what the Subtle Dragon Spell actually was. He just knew that the Subtle Dragon Spell was meant to be used against his own father, the Emperor.

Seeing Lu Chen inquiring about the Subtle Dragon Spell, Chen Wanrong then counter-asked, “How much do you know about your father, the Emperor?”

Lu Chen replied, “I can’t say I understand him.”

Lu Chen only knew that the Sum Emperor was an ambitious Emperor; beyond that, he had no impression of him. He had seen the Sum Emperor only a few times from childhood to adulthood, and he had even almost forgotten what the Emperor looked like now.

At this time, Chen Wanrong said, “He is a Grandmaster.”

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen’s mind went blank.

Grandmaster?

The Sum Emperor is a Grandmaster?

How is that possible?

In this world, Grandmasters are generally in their eighties, nineties, or over a hundred. How old is the Sum Emperor this year, and how could he possibly be a Grandmaster?

Lu Chen found it hard to believe.

Although Lu Chen himself was a Grandmaster, after all, he was a man with a system. The Emperor was a native of this world, and without a system, how could he have broken through to the Grandmaster Realm at such a young age?

Speaking of the Emperor, Lu Chen thought of another individual, the mysterious Great Yue Empress, who was also rumored to possibly be a Grandmaster. That Empress was even younger. If she could be a Grandmaster, then it was not particularly strange for the Sum Emperor to be one as well.

With this in mind, Lu Chen accepted the news, but he still felt extremely surprised. He had always thought that the Sum Emperor was a Master, at most at the peak of the Master Realm. It wasn't just him; almost everyone on the Great Sum court believed he was only a Master.

It turned out that the Emperor had kept such a deep secret.

Coming back to his senses, Lu Chen curiously asked, "How did you find out?"

No one on the court of the Great Sum knew that the Emperor's Realm was that of a Grandmaster, but the Mysterious Moon Palace did, which made Lu Chen very curious about where they got their intelligence from.

Chen Wanrong did not directly answer Lu Chen's question. She started by saying, "The Emperor has a Sacred Artifact from the Mysterious Moon Palace in his possession. The person who obtains this Sacred Artifact will see a significant improvement in strength. He plotted to kill your mother back then to acquire this Sacred Artifact."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen thought to himself, a Sacred Artifact? How many good things does the Mysterious Moon Palace have?

He had heard from his grandfather that his mother brought back a very terrifying weapon to the Chu Family years ago. Because of that weapon, the Chu Family was torn apart; he hadn't realized that in addition to such a deadly weapon, the Mysterious Moon Palace also had something that could directly enhance someone's strength.

The origins of the Mysterious Moon Palace must not be simple.

Chen Wanrong continued, “Besides being able to help someone gradually improve their strength, that Sacred Artifact can also significantly boost a Martial Artist’s strength in the short term. The Emperor is already at the Grandmaster Realm, and once he uses the Sacred Artifact, his strength can at least temporarily rise to the Heavenly Human Realm.”

“The Subtle Dragon Spell can restrict his inner skill. As long as the Subtle Dragon Spell is cast on him, his skill will be sealed. Even if he uses the Sacred Artifact, he will not be able to unleash his true strength.”

Hearing what Chen Wanrong said, Lu Chen finally understood why she was willing to stay so long in the North Prince Mansion and wanted to obtain his blood to refine the Subtle Dragon Spell.

However, it made him somewhat conflicted.

No matter what, the Sum Emperor was his biological father. Although this biological father never cared about his life or death and even killed his mother, he was still related to him by blood.

If he were to help Chen Wanrong and the others refine the Subtle Dragon Spell, wouldn’t that be a little too “devotedly filial”?

But if he did not help Chen Wanrong and the others, Chen Wanrong and Lin Wanyun were going to be his women in the future, his own people, even without blood ties. Once they entered the North Prince Mansion, they would be his for life.

As Chen Wanrong’s darling, he was supposed to help her with her vengeance.

After thinking it over, Lu Chen finally said, “I can’t help you with refining the Subtle Dragon Spell, but if you want to seek revenge against my father, I won’t stop you.”

Hearing this, Chen Wanrong fell silent; she had guessed that Lu Chen would definitely not want to cooperate with them.

No matter how the Emperor treated the North Prince, the Emperor was still the North Prince’s biological father.

Now it seemed that if she wanted to refine the Subtle Dragon Spell, she could only go to the South to find Lu Shuyun.

Lu Shuyun had already rebelled; he was surely aiming for the throne. For Lu Shuyun to obtain the throne, defeating the imperial army wasn't enough; he had to overcome this final hurdle with the Emperor.

If the Emperor didn't die and used the power of the Sacred Artifact to reach the Heavenly Human Realm, he could easily suppress the rebellion. By that time, even if the rebels entered the Capital city, their efforts would likely be in vain.

At this point, Chen Wanrong said, "I can bear you children, as long as you allow me to go to the South."

As she spoke these words, Chen Wanrong felt her cheeks getting hot. She hadn't imagined there would come a day when she would use bearing children as a bargaining chip.

Hearing what Chen Wanrong said, Lu Chen chuckled, then whispered in her ear, "Are you planning to seek cooperation with Lu Shuyun?"

Chen Wanrong didn't hide any longer. She said directly, "Yes."

Lu Chen immediately said, "I won't let you leave for the time being. You have to stay in the North Prince Mansion for the next six months."

Chapter 364: The Flowers I Picked from Yunrong Courtyard\_2

Chen Wanrong said, "Don't you think you're being a bit too domineering?"

Lu Chen replied indifferently, "Domineering? You were my enemy before, and now that I've captured you, it's only natural for me to confine and punish you, isn't it?"

Chen Wanrong said no more. She knew that anything she said was useless; this man had never intended to let her go from the start.

Now, she could only wait for the elders of Mysterious Moon Palace to rescue her. Although she was not on the same side as those elders, she was, after all, the Palace Master, and as a disciple of an Honorable, they would likely come to her aid, given that she had not returned for so long.

Just as Chen Wanrong was thinking this, Lu Chen said, “Actually, there’s no need for you to concoct the Subtle Dragon Spell to deal with my father. As long as your strength is sufficient, neither a Grandmaster nor someone in the Heavenly Human Realm would be your match.”

Chen Wanrong remained silent. Lu Chen was stating the obvious. If she truly had that power, would she still need to concoct a Subtle Dragon Spell? She would have already stormed into the Great Sum Imperial Palace and killed the Sum Emperor.

For her to surpass the Sum Emperor’s strength could take decades, not to mention whether or not the Sum Emperor’s power might further increase. To wait decades for her revenge was torture to her.

Even now, she was haunted in her dreams by the massacre of Chen Nation’s capital city every night. If she gave up on revenge, she might never be able to let go of the events she experienced as a child.

Unable to settle the affairs of the mortal world, she found it impossible to quiet her mind for cultivation. She could clearly feel that her progression had nearly stalled.

In fact, she had broken through to the Master Realm years ago, but since then, her level had remained stagnant, and her cultivation was always interrupted by memories of the massacres.

Without resolving her hatred, how could she advance any further?

Seeing that Chen Wanrong remained silent, Lu Chen wrapped his arm around her waist, flipped over, and pinned her down once more.

Chen Wanrong was stunned for a moment. Was Lu Chen even human? Although it was her first time being intimate with a man, she had learned all sorts of knowledge in the Mysterious Moon Palace’s library.

She couldn’t understand men like Lu Chen.

While Chen Wanrong helplessly tolerated Lu Chen's actions, suddenly, she felt a surge of power enter her body.

The skill that had disappeared from her body was instantly revived; however, she still couldn't use it to counter Lu Chen and was forced to endure everything he was doing.

But the circulation of skill in her body quickly caused her Realm to fluctuate, and as she was already at the peak of the Master Realm, if her level rose any further, she would reach the Grandmaster Realm.

Chen Wanrong was utterly astounded. How could this be possible?

Although she was curious about how Lu Chen did it, she was now past caring, as Lu Chen took control of her body again.

The two were unaware that Lin Wanyun was already worried sick. Neither had returned for a whole night, and now a morning had passed without their return.

Even if Lin Wanyun was naive, she could guess what Lu Chen was doing.

But guessing was of no use; she had no idea where the two had gone.

After an unknown amount of time, a chill suddenly erupted from Chen Wanrong's body, causing Lu Chen, who was embracing her, to shiver with cold.

In order to alleviate the cold, Lu Chen could only hold Chen Wanrong tightly.

Chen Wanrong was somewhat dazed at this time.

Her consciousness had fully returned, and seeing the man lying on top of her, Chen Wanrong was a bit lost. How did he do it?

Why was he able to help her break through to the Grandmaster Realm?

It wasn't that Lu Chen stumbled upon her breakthrough to the Grandmaster Realm by chance, but rather, he had sensed the accumulation of Spiritual Power within her, what Martial Artists often referred to as skill.

Chen Wanrong was already on the verge of the Grandmaster's strength; she was just one step away from breaking through, so Lu Chen decided to help her.

The Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill was indeed effective, helping Chen Wanrong break through with ease.

At that moment, Lu Chen propped up his upper body, looked into Chen Wanrong's eyes with a smile, and said, "Now that I've helped you break through to the Grandmaster Realm, as a way to thank me, shouldn't you bear me a few dozen children?"

Hearing this, Chen Wanrong blushed and remained silent, yet she still gazed at Lu Chen's eyes tenderly, not avoiding him this time.

The fairy who was cold as ice yesterday now resembled a delicate little wife.

Lu Chen continued, "To be honest, I'm somewhat regretting helping you reach the Grandmaster Realm. The higher the Realm, the harder it is to conceive children. Now that we're both at the Grandmaster Realm, it could take years of cohabitation before it's possible for us to have a child."

Chen Wanrong felt a shock in her heart upon hearing Lu Chen's words.

Grandmaster...

No wonder the Love Worm had no effect on Lu Chen last night; it turned out Lu Chen had already broken through to the Grandmaster Realm. She knew something was different about Lu Chen recently; his aura had changed significantly.

At this point, Chen Wanrong asked with a blushing face, "Just who are you exactly?"

Lu Chen smiled slightly and then replied, "Your darling!"

“My dear wife, now you surely won’t think about leaving the North Prince Mansion, right?”

### Chapter 365: The Flowers I Picked from Yunrong Courtyard\_3

Chen Wanrong countered, “Are you really not going to stop me from seeking revenge?”

Lu Chen replied, “I won’t.”

After hearing Lu Chen’s definitive answer, Chen Wanrong finally made a decision. She gazed into Lu Chen’s profound eyes and said calmly, “After the child turns fifteen, I will return to Mysterious Moon Palace to continue my cultivation.”

Chen Wanrong’s words carried two pieces of information: one, she would not marry Lu Chen, and two, she was willing to have a child with him.

Honestly, Lu Chen didn’t care at all about whether Chen Wanrong wanted to return to Mysterious Moon Palace or not. Once his strength was strong enough, even stronger than the Honorable One of Mysterious Moon Palace, he could visit Mysterious Moon Palace every day to cultivate his relationship with Chen Wanrong without any issues.

Lu Chen said with a smile, “Then what if our first child isn’t yet fifteen and you become pregnant again? What then?”

Hearing this, Chen Wanrong’s complexion became even more flushed. She turned her head away and then said, “We’ll discuss it when the time comes.”

Seeing the fairy’s shy demeanor, Lu Chen couldn’t resist. He leaned down once again and kissed her tender red lips.

At that moment, a trace of resentment appeared in Chen Wanrong’s heart. This man was truly too domineering; he’d been like this with her the first time, and she didn’t know how he would play with her in the future at the North Prince Mansion.

Now, not only had her plan failed, but she had also gotten herself involved. She couldn’t help wondering if her decision to come to the North Prince Mansion had been right or wrong.



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When Chen Wanrong and Lu Chen returned, it was already around two or three in the afternoon.

Lu Chen's prolonged absence had caused all the women in the inner courtyard of the Prince's Mansion to become anxious. He usually wouldn't leave the Prince's Mansion for so long. It was one thing for him to be away for a night, but now it was almost evening, and Lu Chen had yet to return. Moreover, not many people in the Prince's Mansion knew where he had gone.

Previously, Lu Chen would always inform someone at the Prince's Mansion about his destinations so that Mu Zixuan and the others, when they asked, could have an idea of his whereabouts and be reassured.

At this moment.

All of Lu Chen's wives and concubines were waiting anxiously in the main hall of the Prince's Mansion.

Zhou Youyou, holding a child, said, "The Prince is so powerful; surely nothing could have happened to him, right?"

Yelv Nanyan spoke up, "Whenever the Prince went somewhere in the past, he would remind Xiao Huan or tell a maid, but this time, he didn't inform anyone. I'm afraid something must have happened to him."

Hearing this, Mu Zixuan's expression showed her worry. However, Chu Yuqin then said, "Don't worry, Chen'er will be fine. Currently, in the North Country, there are very few people who can harm him. He probably had some important matter and left in a hurry, which is why he forgot to tell a maid about his whereabouts."

Lu Chen was now at the Grandmaster Realm. There was nobody in this world who could silently take away a Grandmaster unless he left of his own accord.

Clearly, Lu Chen had left the North Prince Mansion on his own.

Just as Mu Zixuan and the others were worrying about and comforting one another regarding Lu Chen, a maid rushed into the great hall and said, “Madam, the Prince has returned!”

Hearing this, Mu Zixuan immediately handed the child she was holding to the wet nurse and then led Lu Chen’s wives and concubines outside.

At that moment, Lu Chen was standing at the entrance of the main courtyard, checking the system notifications from the previous night and thinking about how to surprise his wives and concubines.

[Congratulations, Host, for adding a new wife and concubine. Reward: Glassmaking technology.]

[For cultivating feelings with a wife and concubine, Qi Refinement Mantra experience increases by 10,000, Rejuvenating Skill experience increases by 10,000, Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill experience increases by 10,000, Absorption Technique experience increases by 10,000, Shadow Shifting experience increases by 10,000, Shadow Shifting breaks through to the third level. The host receives an Emotional Crit, doubling all experience points.]

[For being spiritually attuned with a wife and concubine, reward: 10 Preserving Beauty Pills.]

Seeing this full page of system notifications, Lu Chen’s smile was radiant.

With the glassmaking technology, the paper windows of the Prince’s Mansion could be replaced. From now on, it would not be so easy for someone to peep into the rooms by poking through the paper windows.

Of course, this was just one use of glass. Glass had various applications, such as glass cups, bottles, and the creation of various exquisite glass products, making it a profitable technology.

While glass had many uses, what excited Lu Chen even more were the Preserving Beauty Pills.

Lu Chen then checked the effects of the Preserving Beauty Pills.

[Preserving Beauty Pill: Upon consumption, one can remain forever young, only the hair will turn white.]

No woman doesn't wish to stay forever young and beautiful. These Preserving Beauty Pills were extremely important to the women of the Prince's Mansion, especially the ordinary people like Mu Zixuan and the sisters from Dazhou and Xiaozhou.

Yelv Nanyan and the others were Martial Artists. As Martial Artists progress to a certain Realm, they don't age as easily. But ordinary people are different; without skill within their bodies, they age very quickly.

Although Lu Chen had recently been using the Dragon and Phoenix Yin Yang Skill to help Mu Zixuan and the others cultivate, their cultivation speed was relatively slow. Mu Zixuan had always been worried about what to do if her Cultivation State hadn't improved and she could no longer maintain her youthful beauty before aging set in.

Now with the Preserving Beauty Pills, they no longer had to worry about aging.

While Lu Chen was absorbed in the system interface, Mu Zixuan appeared in front of him with a group of his wives and concubines. At that moment, Mu Zixuan said, "Prince, you've finally returned."

Chu Yuqin added from the side, "Chen'er, when you go out, you should at least inform someone in the Prince's Mansion. Zixuan and the others have been extremely worried."

Hearing Mu Zixuan's words, Lu Chen snapped back to reality and said with a smile, "Sorry, I was in a bit of a rush when I went out last night and forgot to tell someone."

Just then, Mu Zixuan suddenly caught a whiff of a faint fragrance on Lu Chen, a scent she was particularly sensitive to, and immediately realized that it didn't belong to any of the women present.

Gazing at Lu Chen with a wistful expression, Mu Zixuan said, "Prince, with so many sisters in the Prince's Mansion, why did you go out to pick wildflowers?"

Hearing this, Lu Chen was taken aback. He hadn't expected Mu Zixuan's sense of smell to be so sharp.

Then Lu Chen said with a laugh, "What wildflowers? What I picked was from the Yunrong Courtyard."

## Chapter 366: Rumor\_1

Hearing Lu Chen's reply, the women were taken aback for a moment, before they quickly realized what was happening.

Yunrong Courtyard? Isn't that Chen Wanrong?

Mu Zixuan immediately said, "Congratulations, Prince, on gaining another beauty."

Lu Chen just smiled.

Chu Qingli was staring at Lu Chen with a deep gaze at that moment.

She couldn't help but think, another beauty? This scoundrel hasn't just gained one beauty; he had already devoured Lin Wanyun completely, and now he had taken Chen Wanrong as well. Now Lu Chen had added two more women to his list.

This scoundrel truly is audacious to the extreme, even daring to touch the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace.

The Mysterious Moon Palace is not just any power; there are rumors that the Mysterious Moon Palace has long had beings who have broken through to the Heavenly Human Realm.

Lu Chen really isn't afraid of death. If he brings Chen Wanrong's master here, I'd like to see how he manages that situation.

No, I must hurry and complete the transaction with Lu Chen, then take my sister and run away, to avoid being implicated by this scoundrel.

Thinking this, Chu Qingli began to calculate in her heart how many times she had already traded with Lu Chen.

After thinking for a while, Chu Qingli was slightly stunned; she seemed to have forgotten just how many times she had traded with Lu Chen.

This...

How could she have forgotten such a thing?

Now she was in trouble. What if she had already fulfilled the hundred times without knowing it and foolishly went to Lu Chen for another trade?

Chu Qingli inwardly blamed herself for not remembering such an important matter.

At this time, Lu Chen said, "Alright, you all go and attend to your own tasks. I'm going to take a bath, and later I still have state affairs to deal with."

As his words fell, Lu Chen headed straight for his own room, and the maids of Prince's Mansion hurriedly set about preparing hot water for him.

After Lu Chen left, Mu Zixuan and the others didn't disperse; instead, they returned to the main hall to continue enjoying their tea and pastries.

Meanwhile,

In Yunrong Courtyard.

Lin Wanyun had finally waited for Chen Wanrong to return. Seeing Chen Wanrong at the entrance of the courtyard, Lin Wanyun hurriedly got up and walked towards her, "Palace Master, where did you go last night? Are you alright?"

As soon as she approached Chen Wanrong, Lin Wanyun felt the tremendous pressure emanating from her, and she suddenly froze.

Grandmaster!!!

Lin Wanyun said with joy, "Palace Master, have you broken through to the Grandmaster Realm?!"

Chen Wanrong was only in her twenties this year. To have broken through to the Grandmaster Realm at such a young age meant she might be able to break through to the Celestial Realm before she was forty or fifty.

As far as Lin Wanyun knew, the only other person who had broken through to the Grandmaster Realm at such a young age besides Lu Chen was Chen Wanrong.

Lin Wanyun was genuinely happy for Chen Wanrong from the bottom of her heart. With Chen Wanrong's breakthrough to the Grandmaster Realm, the chances of succeeding in their revenge had increased, and perhaps they could defeat the Sum Emperor without resorting to the Subtle Dragon Spell in the future.

If they didn't refine the Subtle Dragon Spell, there wouldn't be a major conflict between them and Lu Chen.

Chen Wanrong responded with a light "Hmm," not saying much, and she headed straight for the pavilion in the courtyard.

Lin Wanyun quickly followed into the pavilion.

After settling down, Chen Wanrong began, "Madam Lin, I already know about the matter between you and Lu Chen."

Hearing Chen Wanrong's words, Lin Wanyun's heart skipped a beat, and then her complexion turned ashen. Lin Wanyun hastily said, "Palace Master, I..."

Lin Wanyun didn't know how to explain. Since Chen Wanrong had not returned all of last night and brought up such a matter upon her return, it certainly meant that Chen Wanrong had seen Lu Chen last night, and he had told her everything about their affair.

At this moment, Lin Wanyun was unaware that Chen Wanrong had already witnessed their indiscretions with her own eyes.

"Palace Master, don't believe what Lu Chen says, I had absolutely no intention of betraying you!"

Seeing Lin Wanyun still trying to argue, Chen Wanrong, with an expressionless face, said straight away, "I had already seen the two of you in the study engaging in that act a long time ago."

"I..."

Lin Wanyun was at a loss for words, completely unable to argue, since Chen Wanrong had seen everything with her own eyes.

Lin Wanyun was sorely anxious inside; she feared that Chen Wanrong might think she had betrayed her.

At that moment, Lin Wanyun said, "Palace Master, I did all this out of a desperate situation."

Chen Wanrong said, "Madam Lin, you don't need to explain; I know you did it to get the antidote for me."

Relieved that Chen Wanrong knew of her dilemma, Lin Wanyun heaved a sigh of relief. As long as Chen Wanrong didn't think she had betrayed her, that was enough.

Lin Wanyun breathed deeply and then asked, "Palace Master, what should we do next? You must have met with him last night, right?"

Chen Wanrong "Hmm"ed again and continued, "I have become his woman."

Upon hearing this, Lin Wanyun was momentarily stunned, then anger surged within her.

"How... How could this be!"

"That little scoundrel went back on his word; he had clearly promised to spare you!"

Lin Wanyun then started walking out of the pavilion, saying as she went, "I'm going to seek justice from him! He's a Prince, his word should be as good as gold, yet he went back on it!"

It was then Chen Wanrong said, “Madam Lin, there’s no need to be so angry; it was I who willingly gave myself to him.”

“You...” Lin Wanyun was stunned yet again.

She hadn’t imagined that Chen Wanrong would make such a decision.

Chen Wanrong went on to say, “I was able to break through to the Grandmaster Realm thanks to his help.”

A look of disbelief crossed Lin Wanyun’s face as she asked, “How could he possess a method to enhance someone’s strength?”

## Chapter 367: Rumor\_2

Chen Wanrong said, “I don’t know either, but I do know that the path he’s taken is not that of a martial artist, but the path of cultivation.”

“To break through to the Grandmaster Realm at such a young age is only possible through the Daoist Immortality.”

Lin Wanyun sighed again.

Well, now both of them had been hoodwinked by that little rascal, who really seems to pick up every beautiful woman he sees. How could his vigor be so inexhaustible?

Lin Wanyun asked, “Palace Master, has he agreed to let us leave the North Prince Mansion yet?”

Chen Wanrong shook her head, her expression indifferent as she said, “After I bear him a child, he will let me leave.”

Lin Wanyun’s brows furrowed slightly, “But what about the Mysterious Moon Palace? If we don’t return for a long time, I’m afraid the Elders will have opinions. We have already stayed at the North Prince Mansion for such a long time.”



Chen Wanrong said, "I will ask him again after some time."

Lin Wanyun said no more.

At that moment, Chen Wanrong looked at Lin Wanyun and asked, "Madam Lin, what do you think? Last night he told me that he has already made contact with your Lin Family, intending to have you marry into the North Prince Mansion."

"I..."

After a moment of thought, Lin Wanyun didn't know how to respond; she was equally confused.

She always felt that the age gap between her and Lu Chen was too much, marrying him seemed inappropriate, and yet, it was precisely older women that this little rascal favored.

Looking at the ages of the women in the Prince's Mansion, it seemed that every one of Lu Chen's women was older than him, even the youngest Zhou Youyou and Xiao Wenyao were older than Lu Chen.

There was also Yelv Nanyan in the Prince's Mansion, who was about the same age as him.

Chen Wanrong said, "If you are unwilling to marry him, I will find a way to help you leave."

Although Chen Wanrong currently could not persuade Lu Chen to let Lin Wanyun leave the North Prince Mansion, she believed that one day she would find a condition that touched Lu Chen's heart, getting him to agree to let Lin Wanyun go.

Hearing these words, Lin Wanyun hesitated for a moment, but eventually mustered the courage to say, "There's no need, Palace Master. I've decided to stay at the North Prince Mansion to bear him sons and daughters."

Chen Wanrong was slightly stunned; she had indeed guessed that Lin Wanyun might have developed feelings for Lu Chen, yet hearing Lin Wanyun express her decision to stay caught her by surprise.

Chen Wanrong then said, "I understand."

Since Lin Wanyun had decided to stay and bear Lu Chen's children, Chen Wanrong had nothing to prevent, as long as Lu Chen wouldn't let her down.

However, Chen Wanrong still harbored some worries. Given Lu Chen's current trajectory, he would definitely become Emperor in the future, and Chen Wanrong worried that once Lin Wanyun entered the Imperial Palace, she might be neglected by Lu Chen and spend her whole life within its walls.

Right now, apart from noticing that Lu Chen was quite lustful, it was still hard to discern his other characteristics, so it was difficult to say whether he would abandon his women or not.

But then again, there's not much use worrying so much at this point, only when Lu Chen becomes the Emperor and possesses supreme power, can they really determine what kind of person he truly is.

...

Two hours later.

Having bathed and changed his clothes, Lu Chen arrived at his study to deal with state affairs.

Even though he had enjoyed himself last night without sleeping, Lu Chen still didn't feel too fatigued and remained energetic.

Just then, the voice of a maid resounded at the door of the study, "Prince, Commander Qin requests an audience."

Lu Chen said directly, "Let him in."

The next moment, Qin Yushan pushed the door and entered the study.

Lu Chen asked faintly, "What's the matter?"

Qin Yushan replied, “Prince, in recent days, rumors have spread among the people of the North Country that you’ve monopolized the widow of a hero who fought against the barbarians, and there are also rumors claiming you don’t even spare your own aunt.”

Hearing this, Lu Chen was taken aback, then put down what he was holding and looked up at Qin Yushan with a serious expression, asking, “Have the sources of these rumors been clarified?”

Qin Yushan answered, “They have, from the Chu Family.”

Hearing Qin Yushan’s response, Lu Chen’s face immediately darkened as he continued to ask, “The Chu Family from the South, or from the North Country?”

The Chu Family had already split, and there was now also a Chu Family in the North Country.

Qin Yushan answered again, “The North Country Chu Family.”

Lu Chen fell silent.

Thinking about it, it made sense. The aristocratic families of the South were currently at war with the Imperial Army under Lu Shuyun’s leadership; they wouldn’t have the time to send people to the North Country to spread rumors. Most likely, it was the work of the North Country Chu Family.

But the North Country Chu Family had already pledged allegiance to him, and Lu Chen didn’t believe that his maternal grandfather would spread such talk. It was quite clear that Chu Xiong supported the idea of Chu Yuqin becoming Lu Chen’s woman.

If Chu Yuqin became his woman, it would create another connection for the North Country’s Chu Family, even though Chu Yuqin and the Chu Family were not related by blood. This was similar to the situation with Lin Wanyun and the Lin Family: Lin Wanyun had no blood relation to the Lin Family, but Lin Gaoyuan still wanted Lin Wanyun to be a link to the North Prince Mansion.

After thinking for a while, Lu Chen said to Qin Yushan, “Don’t hand this matter over to the Brocade Guard to investigate. Go to the Chu Family yourself, and tell them what you’ve found. My maternal grandfather will know what to do.”

Qin Yushan said, “Your subordinate understands. I will go now.”

## Chapter 368: Rumor\_3

“I shall take my leave.”

As the words fell, Qin Yushan turned and left.

Watching Qin Yushan’s retreating figure, Lu Chen thought to himself, why would the Chu Family be spreading such rumors at this time?

It’s probably the work of people sent by the Chu Family from the South, isn’t it?

The likelihood is that there are spies from the Southern Chu Family within the North Country Chu Family. The Southern Aristocratic Family is doing this partly to sow discord between the North Prince Mansion and the North Country Chu Family and partly to ruin his personal reputation.

While Lu Chen was pondering this matter, the maid’s voice came again, “Prince, Commander Lin is seeking an audience with you.”

His train of thought interrupted, he said, “Come in.”

The next moment, the mature and dignified Lin Wanyun entered the study.

Lu Chen looked at the furiously angry Lin Wanyun at the door and said with a smile, “Madam Lin, who has angered you? Why do you look so displeased?”

Lin Wanyun asked, “Didn’t you promise me that you would let Rongrong go? Why are you still taking possession of her body?”

Lin Wanyun initially did not want to come to Lu Chen, but she considered that if Chen Wanrong did not leave the North Prince Mansion, how could she avenge herself, and how could she reclaim her country?

Hearing Lin Wanyun’s words, Lu Chen just smiled faintly and then said, “It seems you know everything.”

Lin Wanyun continued, “You are, after all, a prince, and someday you will be an emperor. How can you speak without...”

Before Lin Wanyun could finish her sentence, her body suddenly lost control and was drawn into Lu Chen’s arms with a palm strike.

Lin Wanyun immediately began to struggle, “Let me go...”

Holding her plump body, Lu Chen whispered into her ear, “I never said I wouldn’t let her go. She willingly became my woman. Such a beautiful fairy, what man wouldn’t be moved? If I wasn’t moved at all, would I still be a man?”

Lin Wanyun was both angry and annoyed, “You...”

Lu Chen said in a low voice, “Wanyun, you came here to confront me; could it be jealousy that’s driving you?”

Lin Wanyun’s face flushed, and just as she was about to say something, Lu Chen kissed her to silence, “Mmm mmm mmm...”

Lu Chen couldn’t be bothered to say anything more. Since she was angry inside, he would let her vent her anger first. Making her get over her anger wasn’t difficult.

Before long, Xiao Huan outside of the study heard Lin Wanyun’s voice, and she silently walked to the entrance of the courtyard, standing guard for Lu Chen.

Two hours later, Lin Wanyun’s anger had completely dissipated; she was straddling Lu Chen’s legs, her whole body leaning on his shoulder, motionless.

Not just her anger gone, but her soul seemed to have flown away. She no longer had the strength to confront Lu Chen.

Now, Lin Wanyun said weakly, “What exactly will it take for you to let Rongrong go?”

Holding her delicate body, Lu Chen whispered in her ear, “She must have told you, right? As long as she bears me a child, after the child turns fifteen, she can return to the Mysterious Moon Palace.”

Lin Wanyun said, “She’s the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace. She can’t stay in the North Prince Mansion forever. If the Elders of the Mysterious Moon Palace find out, they will definitely come for her. Are you planning to go to war with the Mysterious Moon Palace?”

“The Mysterious Moon Palace is not just any force. Although you are a Grandmaster, there are not a few Grandmasters at the Mysterious Moon Palace. Even if you and Zhuge Zhongguang joined forces, you could not possibly be a match for those Elders.”

After hearing Lin Wanyun say this, Lu Chen thought for a moment. That could indeed be the case.

If Chen Wanrong was kept at the North Prince Mansion for ten or even dozens of years without being allowed to return, and it lured the Elders of the Mysterious Moon Palace here, then the trouble would be significant.

At this thought, Lu Chen’s hand gently caressed Lin Wanyun’s jade back before he said, “So, Wanyun, you came to remind me about this matter. And here I thought you were really coming to punish me.”

“It seems that you do care about me after all.”

Lin Wanyun huffed lightly, “Who would care about you, you little scoundrel! Such a lecher, you won’t let any pretty woman slip by. Sooner or later, you’ll fall because of a woman.”

Lu Chen said nonchalantly, “Don’t worry, I won’t fall because of a woman, it’s only women who fall for me, and haven’t you and Rongrong fallen for me?”

Hearing Lu Chen say this, Lin Wanyun spoke indignantly, lowering her voice, “We are just unlucky to have met a little bastard like you.”

Right then, Lu Chen suddenly heard the sound of a maid talking with someone outside the courtyard.

“Commander Chu, the Prince is busy; please don’t go inside.”

Chu Qingli said, "Busy with what?"

Hearing Chu Qingli's voice, the corners of Lu Chen's mouth turned up slightly, and then he called out loudly, "Qingli, come in."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Lin Wanyun, who was clinging onto Lu Chen, was dumbfounded. She whispered angrily, "Are you crazy?"

Lu Chen paid no attention to her protest.

Seeing that Lu Chen in the study had spoken up, the maid Xiao Huan didn't say anything more. She thought, after all, Chu Qingli was a frequent visitor to the study; adding one more person probably wouldn't matter.

Chu Qingli had no idea there was already someone in the study, and she walked straight towards it.

However, as soon as she opened the door to the study, she was stunned by the scene before her.

Lin Wanyun was struggling to escape but was pressed down on the desk by Lu Chen, completely unable to break free.

Chu Qingli exclaimed with shock on her face, "You... you..."

Chu Qingli couldn't finish her words. A blush quickly appeared on her face, as she had long known about the affair between Lu Chen and Lin Wanyun, but she had never expected that Lu Chen, that bad guy, would let her walk in at this moment.

Although she indeed came for a trade with Lu Chen, the study was already occupied.

Lu Chen said indifferently, "Qingli, aren't you going to close the door? Do you want everyone outside to see?"

Hearing this, Chu Qingli hurriedly turned around to close the door. After closing it, she turned back and glared at Lu Chen with resentment.

Lu Chen resumed his business, and while doing so, he asked, "What did you want to see me about?"

Chu Qingli glanced at the gasping Lin Wanyun, then said, "Our trade should be reaching its end soon, right? Isn't it time to let my sister leave the Prince's Mansion?"

Lu Chen replied, "Ah... that matter... um... I'll come to find you to talk about it tonight."

Chu Qingli then said, "Then I'll leave first. Tonight is my sister's patrol night; I'll be waiting for you in my room."

Lu Chen "Mhm" in response, and then concentrated all his attention on Lin Wanyun.

As Chu Qingli was leaving, she glanced at Lu Chen and Lin Wanyun, thinking to herself, this guy didn't come back all last night and is now up to no good again; by the time he comes to find me tonight, he probably won't be in the mood for anything else. Hopefully, he'll keep his word this time and let my sister leave. After all, she had recently heard quite a few rumors about her sister in Yan County.

## Chapter 369: The Matter is Exposed\_1

North Country, Chu Family.

At dusk, the red sunset cast its glow upon the earth, the red light resembling fresh blood spilling over the land.

Chu Xiong sat in the courtyard, savoring the high-proof liquor brewed by the North Prince Mansion as he reviewed the latest intelligence gathered about the Chu Family in the South.

Although he had already led part of the Chu Family to side with his grandson, he still couldn't completely let go of the Chu Family in the South, considering his ungrateful son was still there.

When he saw in the intelligence that the rebels were continuously defeated by the Imperial Army, Chu Xiong couldn't help but sigh; he had anticipated this outcome from the start.



Despite the fact that the aristocratic families in the South possessed formidable weapons like the Piercing Cloud Bow and Piercing Cloud Arrows, the strength of the court was undoubtedly greater. Moreover, it was the Sum Emperor who had forced the southern aristocratic families into rebellion; since he dared to press them into revolt, it proved that the Sum Emperor had already prepared to deal with them. Lu Shuyun's aspiration for the throne was not as easy to realize as he had thought.

While Chu Xiong was sighing, a servant entered the courtyard, "Family Head, a member of the Brocade Guard is looking for you."

Upon hearing this, Chu Xiong was startled.

The Brocade Guard?

What would the Brocade Guard want with him?

Could it be that Lu Chen had something to communicate to him?

Having been in the North Country for quite a while now, Chu Xiong had basically figured out the political structure of the North Country and had a rough idea about the key people around the North Prince.

Chu Xiong was well aware that the Brocade Guard was one of the most important institutions around Lu Chen. If a Jinyiwei Guard sought him out, it most likely meant they brought orders from Lu Chen.

Chu Xiong then said to the servant, "Quickly, invite them in!"

Soon after, the servant led Qin Yushan into the Chu Family courtyard. Upon entering, Qin Yushan greeted him with a smile, "Master Chu, I pay my respects."

Seeing that the visitor was Qin Yushan, Chu Xiong was taken aback. Qin Yushan was the Commander of the Brocade Guard. As far as he knew, besides the North Prince, the highest authority over the Commander of the Brocade Guard was the Commander himself.

The Commanders of the Brocade Guard were always busy; why would one personally visit the Chu Family unless there was a matter of great urgency? A foreboding feeling surged within Chu Xiong, and he directly asked, "Commander Qin, what wind has blown the Prince's favored one to my doorstep?"

Qin Yushan responded with a smile, "What favored one? I am merely a loyal hound raised by the Prince."

At this point, Qin Yushan glanced at the servants inside the courtyard and then added, "The Prince sent me to discuss a matter with you. This is not the place for such a conversation."

Chu Xiong instantly understood Qin Yushan's implication and immediately replied, "Commander Qin, please follow me."

Chu Xiong then led Qin Yushan to his study. Once inside, he shut the door of the study and asked, "May I know what the Prince has instructed?"

Qin Yushan produced a piece of intelligence from his sleeve and said, "There are no specific instructions, but the Prince asked me to show you this intelligence."

At those words, Chu Xiong, curiosity piqued, took the paper intelligence from Qin Yushan and began to read seriously. With just one glance, Chu Xiong's brows furrowed instantly, and his expression turned increasingly somber.

He had not expected that among the members of the Chu Family who had accompanied him to the North Country, there would indeed be a traitor. His biggest concern had always been the possibility of a betrayal within the Chu Family.

They had come to the North Country seeking the support of the North Prince. If there were traitors among these Chu Family members, it could lead to the North Prince distrusting them, or even suspecting that they had not joined the North Country in good faith, but with ulterior motives.

However, Chu Xiong could also see that Lu Chen had sent Qin Yushan to personally deliver this intelligence without raising any alarm, which likely meant that he wanted Chu Xiong to take care of the traitor issue himself. For the time being, Lu Chen was not apt to doubt them over a few traitors.

Chu Xiong promptly said, "Please convey my message to the Prince, Commander Qin. I will surely deal with those who spread rumors, and furthermore, I will ascertain who is the mastermind behind it all."

Qin Yushan acknowledged, "Very well."

"I shall not disturb you any further."

With these words, Qin Yushan turned and left the study. Chu Xiong quickly said, "Commander Qin, take care."

After Qin Yushan left the Chu Household, Chu Xiong immediately began an investigation based on the intelligence Qin Yushan had shown him to determine who was spreading rumors.

In just two hours, Chu Xiong had identified several individuals who were spreading the rumors.

Looking at the kneeling servants in the courtyard, Chu Xiong's face was ashen. He then demanded, "Speak, who instructed you to do this?"

Realizing their actions had been exposed, the servants hastily kowtowed, pleading, "Family Head, spare us! It was all at the order of the Second Young Master!"

Hearing the servants' words, Chu Xiong felt no surprise; he had long suspected his disobedient son was behind this mischief.

Chu Hongfei had always coveted Chu Yuqin, and he had long wished to have Chu Yuqin taken back to Sufeng City. However, the North Prince's strength had suddenly increased, and the North Country had become the most militarily powerful among the feudal states; this had forced Chu Hongfei to abandon the plan of forcibly taking Chu Yuqin back to the Chu Family.

But this did not mean Chu Hongfei had given up.

At this moment, Chu Xiong's expression fluctuated, as if he was contemplating something.

The southern rebels were currently engaged in battle with the Imperial Army, and Chu Hongfei, as a member of the Chu Family in the South, should have focused on assisting Lu Shuyun. Instead, he was instigating rumors and causing trouble in the North Country.

Chu Xiong then inquired, “When you all followed me to the North Country, was it also on his behest?”

## Chapter 370: The Matter is Exposed\_2

The servant kneeling on the ground hurriedly said, “Yes, the second young master asked us to note down everything that happened in the North Country and write to inform him.”

Chu Xiong sighed, no need to investigate further, it was certain that the two brothers of the Chu Family had used Chu Hongfei. On one hand, they wanted to gather intelligence on the North Country; on the other, they intended to use someone else to do their dirty work. No wonder the Chu Family had so readily agreed to split the family assets back then.

If the traitor in the Chu Family was not discovered, they could continuously provide the South Chu Family with intelligence about the North Country. If they were discovered, then the North Prince would surely suspect the North Chu Family, and once a ruler harbors suspicion against a family, the Chu Family in the North Country would have a difficult time in the future.

The few chess pieces the South Chu Family had planted in the North Chu Family had a significant influence on them, regardless of their actions.

Chu Xiong thought to himself that it seemed he would have to personally visit the North Prince Mansion early in the morning to apologize to Lu Chen.

At this thought, Chu Xiong instructed the family guards in the courtyard, “Take these people away and deal with them.”

Upon hearing this, the servants were so frightened that they wet themselves on the spot.

“Family Head, please spare our lives!!!”

“Master, please spare our lives!!!”

“We were forced to do this!!!”

...

The guards paid no heed to the wails of the traitors and dragged them away, later dealing with them in the back courtyard of the Chu Family.

...

Night had fallen.

The sky was dotted with stars, and the moon shone like water.

Lu Chen, after processing and reviewing some documents in his study, began to feel a hint of fatigue.

He had spent the previous night laboring and had not slept, and he hadn't rested during the day either. Just a while ago, he had worn out Lin Wanyun in the study and then had dealt with government affairs for such a long time. Even for a Grandmaster, it was time to feel tired.

Lu Chen had intended to take a bath and then head to Spring Sound Court to sleep holding that soft, large pillow, but then he suddenly remembered he had arranged to meet with Chu Qingli.

With this in mind, Lu Chen stood up, stretched, yawned, and muttered to himself, “Looks like I won't be getting any sleep tonight.”

No sooner had he finished speaking than he left the study. As soon as he stepped out, he encountered Chu Yuqin, who was on duty patrolling that night.

Upon seeing Lu Chen, Chu Yuqin hesitated for a moment but then asked with concern, “Chen'er, why haven't you gone to rest yet?”

Lu Chen replied with a smile, “I was just about to go to sleep.”

Now, Chu Yuqin was no longer as flustered as she had been around Lu Chen some time ago, even though she had long agreed to serve him. But since Lu Chen had never made a move on her, she simply stopped worrying about it, thinking that with so many women around Lu Chen, she would not be the one to serve him, as he could alternate among them daily.

Of course, if Lu Chen made such a request, she would certainly not refuse now, as long as she could find a way to distract Chu Qingli without letting her find out.

At that moment, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something and said to Chu Yuqin, “Madam Chu, have you heard the rumors about me circulating among the common folks recently?”

Chu Yuqin was taken aback by this question.

Of course, she knew what rumors Lu Chen was referring to.

Wasn’t it said that Lu Chen had claimed her, a widow, and wouldn’t even spare his own aunt?

Just thinking about this so-called rumor brought a blush to Chu Yuqin’s cheeks.

Her initial fear of Lu Chen making a move on her stemmed from the concern that it would lead to slanderous talk, affecting the reputation of him as a prince.

Lu Chen was someone who would be Emperor in the future, and he couldn’t afford to have too many stains on his record.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin said, “Qing Li has already told me about it, I...”

Words reached her lips, but Chu Yuqin hesitated, uncertain of what to say.

Lu Chen replied with a smile, “Madam Chu, don’t feel pressured. In a few days, these rumors will vanish. They were all spread by the Chu Family, and my grandfather should already be handling it.”

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin was stunned. Why would the Chu Family spread such rumors?

Chu Yuqin asked, "Is it the South Chu Family?"

Lu Chen answered, "Investigators found it to be people from the North Chu Family, but I suspect those who spread the rumors are probably spies planted by the South Chu Family in the North Chu Family all along."

Chu Yuqin sighed faintly without saying a word.

At that point, Lu Chen said, "Madam Chu, I'll go ahead and get some rest now."

Chu Yuqin responded, "Mm, alright."

After that, Lu Chen headed straight for the courtyard where Chu Qingli was.

Since Chu Yuqin was out on patrol, it was the perfect opportunity to go to Chu Qingli for a transaction.

Before long, Lu Chen arrived at Chu Qingli's room. Just as he entered, before she could react, he scooped her up in a princess hold and placed her on the bed, then pinned her beneath him, gazing down at her from above.

Chu Qingli, looking into Lu Chen's eyes, said coldly, "What's the rush? You were mixed up with the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace all last night, and just now you bullied Lin Wanyun in your study. What's the use of being in such a hurry? I don't believe you still have any energy left."

On hearing this, Lu Chen paused for a moment before responding with a laugh, "Previously, a certain bitch often provoked me like this. She hasn't dared to return to the Prince's Mansion these past few days."

Chu Qingli, with an indifferent look on her face, replied, "Your words don't scare me, I... mmm mmm mmm..."

Before Chu Qingli could finish her sentence, Lu Chen leaned in and kissed her red lips.

Truth be told, Chu Qingli wasn't trying to provoke Lu Chen; she genuinely felt that after he had been busy all day and night, even a Grandmaster should be out of energy by now.