

Es. Benefits 371

Chapter 371: The Matter is Exposed_3

Chu Qingli ultimately suffered the consequences of her own actions.

The night was very long, and after Chu Yuqin had patrolled the inner courtyard several times, she planned to sit in the yard for a while.

It was then that she saw Bai Qingqing, dressed in white, standing on the rooftop and gazing into the distance.

Chu Yuqin was somewhat curious. It wasn't Bai Qingqing's turn to be on duty tonight, so why hadn't she gone to sleep and instead was standing on the rooftop?

Chu Yuqin then used her Qinggong to leap onto the roof in a few steps, approaching Bai Qingqing, "Bai, it's not your turn to stand guard tonight, how come you haven't gone back to your room to sleep?"

After hearing Chu Yuqin's question, Bai Qingqing answered expressionlessly, "I can't sleep."

This...

Chu Yuqin asked with curiosity, "Do you have something on your mind? Perhaps if you talk about it, you'll feel much better."

In her mind, Chu Yuqin thought that since Bai Qingqing had been emotionless since childhood, logically, she shouldn't have any troubles that would prevent her from sleeping. Why would she have a sleepless night? This made Chu Yuqin feel a bit strange.

At this point, Bai Qingqing said, "I don't have any troubles, I just can't sleep."

Chu Yuqin was slightly stunned; without any troubles, how could she not sleep?

But she didn't keep pressing the matter. Everyone has their secrets, and Bai Qingqing was no exception. If she didn't want to talk about it, that was fine.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin also turned to look in the direction Bai Qingqing was looking. She thought to herself that since Bai Qingqing couldn't sleep, she might as well stay on the rooftop with her for a while.

Just as Chu Yuqin was thinking this, she suddenly faintly heard the sound of an animal's distressed cry.

Hearing this sound, Chu Yuqin didn't pay much attention to it. In the inner courtyard of the Prince's Mansion, it was normal for such sounds to appear. Every night when she patrolled, she could almost always hear similar sounds.

As for who made these sounds, it was quite obvious. Who else could it be other than that little rascal?

Chu Yuqin didn't intend to search for the source of these sounds. She continued to stand on the rooftop, keeping Bai Qingqing company in the breeze.

Gradually, an hour passed, and the sounds from the inner courtyard grew louder.

Chu Yuqin suddenly felt that something was not quite right.

Although she regularly heard such sounds in the inner courtyard of the Prince's Mansion, for some reason, she always felt like the sounds were similar to Chu Qingli's voice.

Having always been around the wives and concubines of Lu Chen, she was very familiar with their voices. Even though their voices would change a bit when they cried out, she could still discern some differences.

This time, the sounds from the inner courtyard didn't seem to be those of Lu Chen's wives or concubines.

Chu Yuqin turned her head to glance at Bai Qingqing and then said, "Bai, I'm going to patrol again."

Bai Qingqing responded expressionlessly, “Hmm.”

Chu Yuqin then jumped down from the rooftop and followed the direction from which the sound was coming.

As she walked, she found herself at the entrance to her own courtyard.

Chu Yuqin was immediately stunned, and at this point, Chu Qingli’s voice became even louder.

Chu Yuqin suddenly realized, recalling that during the recent period of diligent practice, Chu Qingli had fallen into devilment. She must have been possessed again.

The thought had barely crossed her mind before Chu Yuqin hurried toward Chu Qingli’s room, quickly arriving at her door, just as Chu Qingli’s voice suddenly took on an even stranger tone.

“Ah...”

Chu Yuqin, thinking that Chu Qingli’s possession was extremely severe, pushed the door open in desperation and blurted out, “Qingli, are you alright? Hang in there, I’ll go immediately to...”

Before she could finish her sentence, the scene before her eyes dumbfounded her, and she stood frozen in place, staring with shock at the two people inside the room.

She had been about to say, “I’ll go call Chen’er right away,” but then she realized there was no need for that. Wasn’t Lu Chen right there in the room?

The previously confused Chu Qingli snapped back to reality upon seeing Chu Yuqin bursting in, her anxiety peaking in an instant, leaving her utterly dumbstruck.

After regaining her composure, Chu Qingli frantically stammered, “Sister... listen to my explanation, it’s not what you... ah... think you saw...”

Lu Chen, unfazed by Chu Yuqin’s intrusion, continued with his actions. Noticing Chu Qingli attempting to get up, he pressed her down instead, preventing her from escaping.

Seeing Lu Chen continue his misdeeds in her presence, Chu Yuqin's face flushed red with embarrassment, then she hastily retreated from the room, "Chen'er, you two carry on, I'll come back to find you later."

Once Chu Yuqin had left the room, Chu Qingli felt both shamed and annoyed. Turning to look at Lu Chen, she scolded, "You... jerk!"

Lu Chen did not care about her reproach. Let her scold; the affair had already been exposed anyway. Now, it was a good opportunity to confront Chu Yuqin.

Chu Qingli continued to struggle, but the more she resisted, the more she fueled Lu Chen's inner rage, ultimately backfiring on Chu Qingli herself.

After Chu Yuqin stepped out of the room, her mind was completely blank.

She had always thought the noises coming from Chu Qingli's room were due to a cultivation deviation. She didn't notice anything between the two, even last time when Lu Chen appeared in her room.

But now it seemed...

The issue wasn't cultivation deviation at all; it was that scoundrel Lu Chen who had completely devoured Chu Qingli.

Thinking about it, had Lu Chen misbehaved with Chu Qingli more than just this once?

It dawned on her, with a flicker of anger in her heart, that she had previously suggested moving Chu Qingli away from the North Prince Mansion, and he seemed somewhat reluctant.

She had thought it was because he was worried Chu Qingli would be left untreated if she got possessed again. Little did she know, he had such intentions.

Cultivation deviation indeed...

What a great excuse!

Hearing the continued commotion inside the room, Chu Yuqin curled her lip in disdain. Despite being caught in the act, that scoundrel carried on with his misdeeds, completely unbothered.

No wonder Chu Qingli's possession kept relapsing; with Lu Chen "treating" her like that, it would be odd if she got better.

With a sigh, Chu Yuqin reflected on the situation.

She had long suspected that Lu Chen had feelings for Chu Qingli and that one day he would make a move on her. However, she never imagined that Lu Chen would clandestinely engage in mischief with Chu Qingli.

Seeing Lu Chen's apparent indifference to being discovered, it seemed he was ready to come clean. Chu Yuqin then walked over to the pavilion in the courtyard to sit and wait for them to come out and confront her.

Chapter 372: Madam Chu, You Were So Convincing Just Now_1

Chu Yuqin thought that Lu Chen and Chu Qingli would come out to confront her soon, since their affair had already been exposed, and she had caught them in the act.

However, what surprised Chu Yuqin was that she sat in the pavilion for a full four hours, the sky beginning to whiten, and yet the two of them had not come out from the room. All she heard was Chu Qingli's voice becoming more and more peculiar, and she could tell that Chu Qingli was trying her best to suppress her own voice, but still couldn't control it.

This rendered Chu Yuqin somewhat speechless; this little rascal really was relentless.

In fact, it was not because Lu Chen had a particularly perverse mentality, but rather, he did this deliberately. As a Grandmaster, he could naturally sense that Chu Yuqin was sitting outside in the pavilion waiting for them.

But they couldn't just go out like that, because he wanted to completely dismantle Chu Qingli's self-esteem so that she would not dare to oppose him and Chu Yuqin in the future.

As for the effect, it would soon become apparent.

At dawn, the sunshine cast upon the earth, and Chu Yuqin, sitting in the pavilion, had a flushed face, feeling somewhat uncomfortable in her body.

This jerk, really tormenting people.

The sun had risen, and they still hadn't let Chu Qingli out.

Just as Chu Yuqin was about to arrange the protective work for the inner court, the door of Chu Qingli's room finally opened.

Lu Chen, beaming, came out from the room, with Chu Qingli behind him, her face flushed red, not daring to face Chu Yuqin directly.

The once ice-queen beauty now seemed like a child who had done something wrong.

Upon seeing Chu Yuqin in the pavilion, Lu Chen greeted her with a smile, "Madam Chu, good morning."

Chu Yuqin gave Lu Chen a resentful glance, then her gaze fell on Chu Qingli, who was hiding behind him.

At that moment, Chu Yuqin let out a cold huff.

Hearing Chu Yuqin's cold snort, Chu Qingli's delicate body suddenly trembled.

Chu Yuqin then coldly said, "What a case of demonic possession, I was wondering how someone could suffer from such possession day after day while practicing their skill!"

"Qingli, tell me, what kind of demon has possessed you?"

Hearing this, Chu Qingli frantically said, "Sister... Sister, I had no choice... I..."

Chu Qingli was cut off by Chu Yuqin before she could finish, “No choice? What excuse is that? You spend the entire night without showing up after I caught you, and now you say you had no choice?”

“I...”

Now Chu Qingli hated Lu Chen, this jerk, to death. She had wanted to come out last night, but that jerk, Lu Chen, had held her back, refusing to let her leave the room.

What could she do? Her skill had been sealed, and with Lu Chen being a Grandmaster, she was but a weak woman in front of him.

Chu Yuqin continued, “Qingli, I always thought you were trying to stop me from serving Chen’er for my own good. But to think, you climbed into Chen’er’s bed yourself. Could it be that you stopped me from serving Chen’er because you wanted to monopolize him?”

Chu Qingli immediately said, “Sister, it’s not like that, I did it to save you...”

Chu Yuqin scoffed, “To save me you climbed into Chen’er’s bed? Your excuse is no different from being possessed during practice!”

Chu Qingli did not know how to explain, and she immediately looked at Lu Chen, then said, “Prince, please help me explain! Our agreed number of transactions should have been enough, you should fulfill your promise now!”

Hearing Chu Qingli’s words, Lu Chen said with a smile, “Transaction? What transaction? I don’t recall any transaction.”

“You were with me just because you were lusting after my body, weren’t you?”

Upon hearing Lu Chen actually deny it, Chu Qingli instantly became furious.

“You...”

“Despicable!”

At this moment, Lu Chen said to Chu Yuqin, “Madam Chu, Qingli and I are truly in love. You sat outside in the pavilion all night, and you should have heard that if we weren’t truly in love, she wouldn’t have made those sounds.”

Chu Qingli felt both ashamed and infuriated, blurting out, “You scoundrel! Who’s truly in love with you!”

Chu Yuqin huffed again, “Truly in love? Qingli, I really misjudged you. I didn’t expect you to be this kind of woman!”

Having said that, Chu Yuqin stood up, looking as if she were about to leave the courtyard.

Seeing this, Chu Qingli panicked; if she couldn’t explain herself today, Chu Yuqin would definitely think that she was willing to be Lu Chen’s woman, and that her own interference between them was out of a desire to monopolize Lu Chen.

Chu Qingli quickly ran out from behind Lu Chen, charging towards Chu Yuqin, “Sister, listen to my explanation, I was forced, it was all that bastard’s doing!”

“Sister, don’t listen to his nonsense!”

Soon, Chu Qingli grabbed Chu Yuqin’s arm, preventing her from leaving.

Chu Yuqin stopped walking, her face cold as she said, “Forced? I don’t think anyone makes such joyful noises when being forced!”

“I...”

Chu Qingli did not know how to explain. How could anyone control themselves in such a situation? It was impossible to hold back, especially with Lu Chen’s many methods; how could she keep totally silent?

It’s all that damn jerk’s fault!

What to do now?

How could she explain?

Chu Yuqin then turned to look at Lu Chen and asked coldly, “Chen’er, Qingli has been pure before entering the Prince’s Mansion and was never engaged to anyone. Now that you have done this to her, what do you plan to do?”

Chapter 373: Madam Chu, You Were So Convincing Just Now_2

Lu Chen replied, “Since we’ve consummated the marriage, then of course I’ll take her as my concubine and marry her into the Prince’s Mansion.”

Hearing Lu Chen’s response, Chu Qingli angrily said, “Who wants to marry you, you scoundrel!”

Chu Yuqin reprimanded, “Shut up!”

“I...” Chu Qingli immediately closed her mouth; she had never seen Chu Yuqin this angry before. It seemed her sister was truly furious.

It’s all over now...

How could she explain things so that her sister would believe her!

Chu Yuqin continued speaking to Lu Chen, “Chen’er, since you have already planned to take her as your concubine, then go to the Chu Family to propose properly, instead of sneaking around.”

Lu Chen said with a smile, “Madam Chu is right; I will go to the Chu Family to propose tomorrow.”

In name, Chu Qingli was still a member of the Chu Family. Even though she had no blood relation with the Chu Family, if Lu Chen wanted to take Chu Qingli as his concubine in an honorable manner, it would be best to propose directly to the Chu Family.

At this moment, Chu Yuqin turned to Chu Qingli and said, “Qingli, you have disappointed me.”

After dropping this statement, Chu Yuqin shook off Chu Qingli's arm and left the courtyard directly.

Watching Chu Yuqin's retreating figure, Chu Qingli felt a sinking despair and her body suddenly weakened, and just as she was about to fall to the ground, Lu Chen immediately embraced her willow waist from behind.

With Lu Chen's embrace, the anger within Chu Qingli erupted instantly, and she struggled while speaking, "It's all your fault, you scoundrel! Let go of me!"

"You faithless creature, I'll fight you!"

Lu Chen held firmly onto Chu Qingli's willow waist, rendering her struggles futile, her skills had been sealed, and she had no way to break free.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Madam Chu has already caught us in the act and there is no explaining it; you might as well marry me obediently and become my concubine."

Chu Qingli coldly said, "In your dreams! I will expose your deceit to my sister! I will definitely let her see what kind of man you really are!"

In her ear, Lu Chen whispered softly, "The more you do this, the more Madam Chu will think that you are scheming to tarnish my reputation, all to keep me for yourself."

Hearing this, Chu Qingli was stunned into silence.

What now?

If she didn't find a way to stop them from being together, wouldn't Lu Chen and Chu Yuqin indeed end up committing an unforgivable act?

But if she interfered further, her sister would definitely think she was selfish.

Damned be!

This scoundrel had never planned to keep his word from the start!

Chu Qingli then said, “As a prince, to be so faithless, do you not have a shred of moral conscience?”

Lu Chen laughed lightly and said, “Morals? You’ve even forgotten our transaction count, which shows that you never intended to trade with me. If you don’t care about it yourself, why should I uphold our original agreement?”

“You!”

Chu Qingli was speechless.

Indeed, she herself had forgotten how many transactions there were; how could she expect Lu Chen to keep their agreement?

Chu Qingli then said, “I won’t listen to your nonsense, let me go now.”

Having said this, Chu Qingli began to struggle again.

At this point, Lu Chen said, “Have you considered that if you marry into the North Prince Mansion, you can always monitor your sister and me? If I were to do improper acts to your sister, you’d be the first to find out.”

“Before, you were merely a stewardess in the inner courtyard of the Prince’s Mansion, many places were off limits to you, and your movements restricted. But once you marry me and become my concubine, you’ll have free access wherever you want, making it easier to watch over your sister and me.”

Hearing Lu Chen say this, Chu Qingli paused for a moment, then she actually felt it made sense?

After all, her sister had already discovered her relationship with Lu Chen, and nothing she said now would matter. It might be better to just marry Lu Chen.

Chu Qingli then said, "Alright, I agree to marry you."

Seeing that Chu Qingli had agreed, Lu Chen did not say more; Chu Qingli was typically rash.

Lu Chen then released Chu Qingli, "Since you've agreed, then prepare yourself these next few days. I'll take you as my concubine in a few days."

"I'll go and soothe your sister so she won't be angry with you."

With that, Lu Chen headed towards the courtyard entrance.

Watching Lu Chen's departing figure, Chu Qingli somehow felt she had been fooled by him again.

Just as Lu Chen left the courtyard, a maid came up to him and said, "Prince, the Chu Family Master seeks an audience."

Lu Chen said, "Have him wait in the study for me, I need to take a bath first."

He had been active all of last night and now had a strong smell clinging to him; it was definitely not an appropriate state to discuss matters with anyone.

Afterwards, Lu Chen returned to the main wing to take a bath. After cleaning up briefly, he headed to the study.

As soon as he arrived in the study, Chu Xiong came forward and said, "Greetings, Prince!"

Lu Chen quickly supported Chu Xiong's shoulders and said, "Grandfather, how many times have I told you? You need not be so formal with me when we're alone; I am not so rigid."

Chu Xiong immediately responded, "Customs should not be discarded, after all, you are the prince."

Lu Chen asked, "Grandfather, you came to see me this time about the rumors among the civilians of the North Country, didn't you?"

Chu Xiong promptly said, "It is my fault for not managing the Chu Family well. Here, I apologize to you, Prince. I have already taken care of those who spread the rumors, and I have also found out who was behind it all."

Chapter 374: Madam Chu, You Were So Convincing Just Now_3

Lu Chen smiled and asked, "Grandfather, is my uncle the one behind the scenes?"

Lu Chen had already learned through the Brocade Guard that Chu Hongfei was interested in Chu Yuqin. Although Lu Chen had not instructed the Brocade Guard to continue investigating the rumors, it was likely that Chu Hongfei was the one spreading them at this time.

Chu Xiong sighed and said, "I have failed in my discipline and raised such an unfilial son."

Lu Chen said, "Grandfather, rest assured, I haven't taken this matter to heart. It's good that you came today because I have a favor to ask of you."

Chu Xiong said, "You say it, as long as it's something our Chu Family can do, we will do our utmost to accomplish it."

Lu Chen then said, "I plan to have the Chu Family of the North Country act as Madam Chu and Qing Li's parental home, then marry the two of them into the North Prince Mansion."

Hearing this, Chu Xiong was stunned for a moment but he quickly came to his senses and understood what Lu Chen meant by that.

If it was about marrying Chu Qingli, that would be an easy matter. However, Chu Yuqin's status was different; she had once been betrothed to the Wang Family, and although the man had been poisoned before she could marry into the Wang Family, by name, she was still that man's wife.

If Lu Chen wanted to marry Chu Yuqin, he had to first sever her ties with the Wang Family.

The marriage arrangement had been set by Chu Xiong himself, and now that he was in the North Country, it was fitting for Chu Xiong to annul Chu Yuqin's engagement with the Wang Family for her. It was just a matter of breaking off a marriage alliance, and since the Wang Family had become traitors, breaking off the marriage wouldn't really matter anymore.

Chu Xiong immediately said, "I understand; in a few days, I will send someone to the South to call off the marriage."

Lu Chen said, "There's no need for such trouble, just write the annulment letter first, and I'll have someone fetch it from the Chu Residence when I need it."

Chu Xiong said, "Alright, after I return, I will write the annulment letter."

Just as Lu Chen was about to continue, a maid's voice came from outside, "Prince, Madam Chu is looking for you."

Hearing the maid's words, Chu Xiong realized that Lu Chen might still have matters to attend to, so he immediately said, "Prince, if there's nothing else, I will take my leave for today."

Lu Chen said, "Grandfather, take care, I won't see you out."

Chu Xiong said, "I take my leave."

Right after leaving the study, Chu Xiong saw Chu Yuqin.

Chu Yuqin was surprised to see Chu Xiong coming out of Lu Chen's study early in the morning. She was curious about what could have brought Chu Xiong to see Lu Chen so early.

Seeing Chu Yuqin, Chu Xiong's face revealed a kindly smile. He said to Chu Yuqin, "Yuqin, you have worked hard these years."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin was perplexed, wondering why Chu Xiong would suddenly say such a thing.

Chu Yuqin asked in confusion, "Father, what do you mean by that?"

Chu Xiong said, "It's nothing, nothing. I won't disturb you any longer."

As he spoke, Chu Xiong left the courtyard. Seeing Chu Xiong's retreating figure, Chu Yuqin was suddenly struck with an ominous premonition.

Chu Yuqin didn't think too much about it; she went straight into the study then instinctively closed the door behind her. Turning to Lu Chen, she asked:

"Chen'er, what were you and Grandfather talking about just now? He seemed very happy."

Lu Chen smiled and answered, "Nothing much, you'll find out in a few days."

With that, Lu Chen approached Chu Yuqin and without hesitation embraced her soft body.

Being held by Lu Chen like this, Chu Yuqin's heart rate sped up and her cheeks flushed.

Lu Chen didn't do anything bad; he just held Chu Yuqin in his arms. "Madam Chu, you were very convincing just now; Qing Li really thought you were angry with her."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin cast a deep look at Lu Chen and then said, "You have the nerve to bring that up with me, you little rascal. You've already had your way with Qing Li. Why haven't you told me!"

"I really thought her cultivation was going haywire and I worried about it every day!"

Lu Chen smiled and replied, "It wasn't the right time before."

Chu Yuqin asked, "So what do you plan to do next?"

Lu Chen whispered in Chu Yuqin's ear, "Next, of course, is to marry you two beauties and have you bear my children."

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin instantly felt even hotter all over. She immediately said, "No, the rumors among the people are very detrimental to you. I can serve you, bear your children, but you cannot marry me."

As a woman, Chu Yuqin also wanted to marry a man uprightly, but Lu Chen had a special status as a prince, and would become the Emperor in the future; he could not have any blemishes.

She would rather humble herself and silently guard Lu Chen for a lifetime than cause him to face reproach from the common people because of her.

Lu Chen indifferently said, "I know what you are worried about. Rest assured, those rumors among the people will soon disappear."

Seeing Lu Chen's confidence, Chu Yuqin asked with curiosity, "Really? What are you planning to do?"

Lu Chen said, "I cannot tell you that for now; you will know when the time comes."

Seeing Lu Chen act so mysteriously, Chu Yuqin didn't ask further. Since Lu Chen said he could get rid of the rumors, he must have a plan.

But if he really did dispel the rumors, would she really have to marry him?

Thinking about this, Chu Yuqin was incredibly conflicted, considering that Lu Chen was Chu Yue's son...

Though she was still somewhat torn, Chu Yuqin soon let go of her hesitations. Chu Yue had asked her to take care of Lu Chen and never specified how. Plus, when she was little, Chu Yue had said that she was to be married to Lu Chen, to serve him for a lifetime.

If Lu Chen could truly dispel the rumors, marrying him wouldn't be a problem.

The more Chu Yuqin thought about it, the redder her face became, and her body grew hotter. Remembering the scene she saw the night before, Chu Yuqin felt all the more odd.

Lu Chen naturally noticed Chu Yuqin's unusual behavior, but after having been at war for two days, he really wasn't in the mood for certain activities.

Lu Chen then said, “Madam Chu, I still have matters to attend to later. You should go about your business.”

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin suddenly became lucid and quickly said, “Oh, right, I won’t disturb you then.”

Afterward, Chu Yuqin hastily left the study, fearing that if she lingered, she might embarrass herself.

Chapter 375: The Common Girl Will Definitely Ask the Prince for Advice_1

After Chu Yuqin left the study, Lu Chen yawned again.

After being busy for two days, Lu Chen was distinctly feeling weary.

This won’t do, I need to sleep for a while.

With that thought, Lu Chen left the study and said to the maid at the door, “Tell the Jinyiwei Guard on duty to have Dongfang Longyue come to my study after noon.”

“Yes, Prince.”

After instructing the maid, Lu Chen headed straight for the Spring Sound Court.

When he arrived at the Spring Sound Court, Yelv Nanyan was planning to go to the main hall. Seeing Lu Chen enter the room, Yelv Nanyan was momentarily taken aback.

Lu Chen said with a smile, “My lady is up so early?”

Yelv Nanyan gave Lu Chen a deep look. His coming to find her early in the morning probably did not bode well.

This little man, whenever he comes to Spring Sound Court, is likely to do naughty things to her.

“Your concubine has seen the Prince.”

Lu Chen, upon reaching Yelv Nanyan’s side, directly embraced her soft and warm body, as if embracing cotton.

Then, as he walked towards the bed with Yelv Nanyan in his arms, he said, “I haven’t had a good sleep these past two days, so I’ll need my lady to be my pillow.”

Yelv Nanyan said, “It is my honor to serve the Prince.”

Without further words, once they were on the bed, Yelv Nanyan began to help Lu Chen undress. Although it was just for sleeping, Yelv Nanyan knew Lu Chen’s preferences— he liked to sleep unencumbered, and without the obstruction of clothes, their bodies pressed together allowed Lu Chen to feel her warmth more directly.

Once both were lying in bed, Lu Chen held Yelv Nanyan tightly by her waist, nestled in her Gentle Jade Fragrance, and soon fell into a deep sleep.

Seeing that Lu Chen had fallen asleep, Yelv Nanyan looked down at him gently and raised her hand to lightly stroke his jet-black hair. Looking at Lu Chen’s handsome profile, an involuntary smile crept onto Yelv Nanyan’s face.

When she initially came to the North Prince Mansion, she had all sorts of worries, afraid that the North Prince would be someone who would treat her roughly. But now, it seemed that all her prior concerns had been unnecessary.

True, Lu Chen could be rough with her, but since he practiced Immortal Technique, her body had never felt discomfort.

Though she no longer held the same power as she did in the Sky Wolf King’s tribe, she had gained much more at the North Prince Mansion— such as the life she wanted, the happiness she longed for, things she could never have had on the grasslands.

At that moment, the sunlight crept over the windowsill, shining into the room and onto Lu Chen’s face. Lu Chen’s eyelids fluttered involuntarily. Seeing this, Yelv Nanyan immediately raised her hand to shield the direct sunlight from his eyes.

Seeing Lu Chen sleeping so soundly, Yelv Nanyan couldn't help but wish that such days could continue forever.

Yelv Nanyan was well aware that Lu Chen's ambitions surely extended beyond being a mere Seignior; he was bound to become Emperor one day.

If there came a day when Lu Chen became Emperor, she would have to share him with even more concubines, and whether he would still cherish her as much was uncertain.

Moreover, people change. The proverbial heart of an unfeeling Emperor... the day when Lu Chen became Emperor, his heart might undergo great changes, and whether he would still treat the Harem beauties as he did then was questionable.

These thoughts brought a tinge of anxiety into Yelv Nanyan's heart.

Lu Chen, holding Yelv Nanyan—his soft pillow—slept through the morning. By this time, Dongfang Longyue had already arrived at Lu Chen's study, waiting for him.

Dongfang Longyue was curious about what urgent matter the North Prince had for summoning her at this time.

However, after waiting for half an hour, Lu Chen had not appeared.

Meanwhile.

Spring Sound Court.

Although he had only slept for a few hours, Lu Chen was already feeling much less fatigued. He slowly opened his eyes and noticed Yelv Nanyan gazing tenderly at his face.

Lu Chen asked, "What time is it now?"

Yelv Nanyan replied, "It's noon. According to the timing method you've invented, it should be one o'clock in the afternoon now."

Hearing Yelv Nanyan's reply, Lu Chen realized Dongfang Longyue was probably waiting in the study. He quickly got up from her body.

Lu Chen still appeared somewhat sleepy. Yelv Nanyan gently asked, "Would the Prince like to sleep a little longer?"

Lu Chen said, "I have an appointment to discuss matters in the study, so I'll not sleep any longer."

As he said this, something seemed to strike Lu Chen, and he smiled at Yelv Nanyan, "I will come to Spring Sound Court again tonight."

Hearing this, a blush emerged on Yelv Nanyan's face, "Your concubine will be waiting for my Prince."

Lu Chen did not linger, getting up from the bed immediately, and Yelv Nanyan quickly helped him dress.

Before long, a refreshed Lu Chen appeared in the study.

Upon Lu Chen's arrival, Dongfang Longyue promptly greeted him, "Commoner girl pays her respects to the Prince!"

With a smile, Lu Chen said, "Longyue, sorry to have kept you waiting."

Dongfang Longyue replied, "I've only just arrived."

Lu Chen took a seat at his desk and then said, "I've summoned you because I have an important assignment for you."

Dongfang Longyue said, "Please instruct me, Prince. I will do my utmost to accomplish your assignment."

Lu Chen said, "I plan to establish a newspaper office under the Dongfang Family."

Chapter 376: The Common Girl Will Definitely Ask the Prince for Advice_2

Hearing this, Dongfang Longyue paused slightly, murmuring to herself, “Newspaper agency...”

“Prince, forgive my ignorance, but could you please explain what a newspaper agency is?”

Dongfang Longyue, a native of this world, had naturally never heard of a newspaper agency.

Lu Chen then explained, “Let me put it this way, in the future, whenever anything happens in this world or if there are any interesting pieces of news, you’ll compile them and then promptly write them all down on a sheet of paper. Have the printing factory of the North Prince Mansion print them, and finally, sell them at a fair price to those who can read, letting more people know about the news you’ve compiled. This type of paper that is printed with various news is called a newspaper, and the place where you distribute newspapers is known as a newspaper agency.”

Upon hearing this, Dongfang Longyue instantly grasped what Lu Chen meant by the term ‘commercial newspaper’.

It was something similar to announcements from the Prince’s Mansion, though naturally, those announcements were only about matters concerning the Prince’s Mansion, or about some reforms in the North Country, and didn’t involve any monetary transaction.

This so-called newspaper actually already had a prototype in this world. Some powers that specialized in gathering intelligence would sell their information to specific people, which was similar to newspapers.

However, the newspaper Lu Chen was talking about was intended for everyone, including the common populace, allowing the literate to quickly learn about events occurring in the world.

Once the newspapers were introduced, as long as the price was right, the literate would certainly be very interested.

But...

There was another issue with newspapers.

Dongfang Longyue immediately spotted a drawback of newspapers; if someone were to spread false news through them, it could incite public unrest.

Hearing this, Dongfang Longyue immediately spoke up, “Prince, we must be cautious. The matter of newspapers should be controlled by the North Prince Mansion. If they proliferate unchecked, some with ulterior motives will surely publish false news and cause unrest among the people.”

Seeing that Dongfang Longyue had identified the potential problems with newspapers in an instant made Lu Chen smile faintly, “Longyue, I’m pleased that you can see the downsides of newspapers. But rest assured, not just anyone can start a newspaper agency.”

“I plan to establish two types of newspaper agencies, one for the public and one for officials.”

“The official newspapers will naturally be created by the North Prince Mansion. However, the public newspapers cannot be organized by the North Prince Mansion. They need to document the happenings in the world through the eyes of the common people.”

“Whether it’s an official or a public newspaper, they both will need to be audited by the North Prince Mansion before any newspaper agency can be established. And currently, aside from the North Prince Mansion, no one else in the North Country has control over the technology for mass printing.”

Since acquiring the paper-making and printing techniques, Lu Chen had immediately had several paper-making workshops and printing factories built in the North Prince Mansion.

Before paper-making and printing technology becomes widespread among the populace, mass printing of newspapers isn’t an easy task unless they collaborate with the North Prince Mansion.

Having heard Lu Chen’s explanation, Dongfang Longyue thought it over and agreed that, given the current situation, only the North Prince Mansion could mass produce newspapers—none of the Ancient Families of the other great dynasties could manage that.

Furthermore, if the North Prince Mansion could control the newspaper agencies well, exploiting the newspapers to spread false news wouldn’t be such an easy feat.

At that moment, Dongfang Longyue also realized why Lu Chen differentiated between official and public newspapers instead of solely running official ones.

The so-called public newspapers at their core were still official. After all, the Dongfang Family was a vassal of the North Prince Mansion and would surely stand on Lu Chen's side.

When the common people lost trust in the official newspapers, the public newspapers run by the Dongfang Family would still serve to guide public opinion in the direction the North Prince Mansion desired.

Having understood Lu Chen's intentions, Dongfang Longyue said, "I understand the Prince's meaning. As soon as I return, I will immediately start working on establishing a newspaper agency."

"However, this will be my first time dealing with such matters. If there's anything I don't understand, I hope I can come to the North Prince Mansion to consult with the Prince whenever necessary. May I?"

Lu Chen replied, "Of course. I will teach you everything—what content to write, how to title it, and how to format it. If you have any questions, you can come straight to the North Prince Mansion to find me."

With that said, Lu Chen emphasized, "The newspaper agency is extremely important to me, to the North Prince Mansion, and to the North Country. So, if you're unsure about anything, you must ask me more questions and not hesitate."

As his words concluded, Lu Chen glanced at the stunning beauty before him.

Dongfang Longyue said, "I will definitely seek the Prince's guidance often."

Lu Chen then spoke, "You may go back and begin preparations for today."

"This humble girl takes her leave."

After that, Dongfang Longyue turned and left the study.

Not long after Dongfang Longyue left, Lu Chen also rose from his seat, intending to leave the study, when suddenly he heard the voice of a maid at the door of the study, "Prince, Commander Bai is seeking an audience with you."

Lu Chen said, "Let her in."

Bai Qingqing entered the study, and Lu Chen, looking at her frigidly beautiful countenance, asked curiously, "Bai, what's the matter?"

Bai Qingqing seldom sought him out on her own, generally only when there was some intelligence about the Capital City. However, recently the Shadow Guards in the Capital City had completely cut off contact with Bai Qingqing. It was apparent that her betrayal was now known to his father, the Emperor, who no longer trusted Bai Qingqing. Consequently, Bai Qingqing found it difficult to obtain intelligence about the Capital City through the Shadow Guards any longer.

Chapter 377: The Common Girl Will Definitely Ask the Prince for Advice_3

“

Bai Qingqing answered expressionlessly, "Most of the Shadow Guards in the North Country have been dealt with. I suspect His Majesty has sent people to the North Country to eliminate traitors."

The Shadow Guards are the Sum Emperor's most important force; he definitely could not tolerate any treason within their ranks. Although it was Bai Qingqing who was betrayed, and not related to those guards responsible for relaying messages, those guards were in the North Country as well. The Sum Emperor could no longer trust them.

Upon hearing Bai Qingqing's words, Lu Chen was slightly startled.

He slowly walked over to Bai Qingqing's side and embraced her delicate body, "Do you mean someone will make a move against you soon?"

Bai Qingqing lightly hummed in affirmation, not adding anything more.

She had actually considered last night whether or not to tell Lu Chen about it. After all, the Shadow Guards' elimination of traitors was certainly meant to remove her, and they wouldn't make a move against Lu Chen.

After pondering the whole night, Bai Qingqing ultimately decided to inform Lu Chen. She had a premonition that the person coming this time was extremely powerful and that she was unlikely to be their match.

If it were before, she wouldn't have sought help from anyone else, even when facing a formidable enemy. But now things were different; she had a man, and her man was so powerful that she didn't need to face it alone.

Lu Chen was silent for a moment, then continued to ask, "Have the Shadow Guards in Yan County been removed?"

Bai Qingqing answered, "No."

Upon reflection, Lu Chen thought that if the Shadow Guards in Yan County hadn't been dealt with, it likely meant the other party didn't want to startle the snake. This didn't mean that his father's envoy hadn't arrived in Yan County yet.

On the other hand, if Bai Qingqing was always in the North Prince Mansion, his father's envoy probably wouldn't dare to come to the North Prince Mansion to trouble Bai Qingqing, right?

Lu Chen then said, "Starting today, you will stay by my side at all times. Wherever I go, you go, even when sleeping, until the person my father has sent is found by me."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Bai Qingqing's cheeks turned slightly red, feeling somewhat warm.

Bai Qingqing then said, "This servant understands."

Lu Chen wasn't sure if the other party would come to the North Prince Mansion to directly trouble Bai Qingqing, but with him, a Grandmaster, in the North Prince Mansion, it would be a trap for anyone who dared to come.

However, this also made Lu Chen feel somewhat uneasy. What if, when he left the North Prince Mansion in the future, someone sent people to trouble his wives and children?

In the past, those who troubled them were at most at the Master Realm. The North Prince Mansion now had Grandmasters, even several of them, and could temporarily withstand a Grandmaster. But as the North Country continued to grow stronger, there might come a day when someone would send a Grandmaster to trouble them.

Although Chen Wanrong was already a Grandmaster, as the Palace Master of the Mysterious Moon Palace, she was very likely to return to the palace one day. As for the agreement they made that Chen Wanrong wouldn't return to the Mysterious Moon Palace until their child was fifteen, Lu Chen wasn't taking it seriously now.

After hearing Lin Wanyun's words, he felt it was improbable to keep Chen Wanrong against her will. If Chen Wanrong truly wished to return to the Mysterious Moon Palace, he would certainly let her go.

After thinking for a moment, Lu Chen then said to the maid at the door, "Xiao Huan, go invite the Great Scholar. I need to see him."

"Yes, Prince."

Now, the place where Zhuge Zhongguang lived was quite far from the North Prince Mansion. If anything happened in the North Prince Mansion, it would be difficult for Zhuge Zhongguang to arrive promptly. Therefore, Lu Chen planned to have Zhuge Zhongguang, a Great Grandmaster on the verge of breaking through to the Heavenly Human Realm, move next to the North Prince Mansion.

With Zhuge Zhongguang, a Great Grandmaster close to entering the Heavenly Human Realm by his side, Lu Chen felt slightly more at ease.

Half a month later.

In North Country, Hall of Political Affairs.

Sitting on the throne, Lu Chen said indifferently, "Speak if there's any matter, otherwise dismiss the meeting."

Since some students from Universal Academy and people from the Chu Family entered the officialdom, there wasn't much left in North Country that required Lu Chen's personal attention.

The recent minor court sessions had been about trivial matters; North Country's reform was progressing vigorously. With the guidance of Great Scholar Zhuge Zhongguang, few matters concerning reforms ever reached the court for discussion.

Lu Chen also felt that the minor court sessions were being held too frequently. Currently, they were held every three days, and hardly any significant issues accumulated in such a short period. He had initially set the meetings at this frequency because North Country had just started reforms, and officials were facing a variety of issues.

But now it was different. North Country had generally stabilized, and even with a constant stream of refugees from Great Sum's internal strife entering North Country, lower level officials could easily accommodate them. Just when Lu Chen was contemplating whether to reset the minor court sessions to every seven days or every half month, an official from the Universal series stood up and said, "Prince, yesterday on the street, I saw some people selling something called 'newspapers.' I bought a copy and found that this so-called newspaper records the recent events in Great Sum."

"Eventually, I learned that these newspapers were sold by a shop called Eastern Newspaper Agency."

"The newspaper allows civilians to acquire information about other places quickly, but I believe that if it's not controlled, certain ill-intentioned individuals will surely use it to spread rumors, leading to civil unrest."

"Therefore, I propose to shut down the so-called Eastern Newspaper Agency!"

After this official spoke, Li Rui also stepped forward and said, "Prince, I also purchased those newspapers a few days ago. They contain a myriad of vague and uncertain messages; ordinary people indeed cannot discern the truth. Hence, I also suggest shutting down the newspaper agency."

Once Li Rui finished speaking, many other officials in the hall also stood up and proposed to shut down the newspaper agency, believing that such an influence on social stability should not be allowed to appear in North Country.

Seeing the officials' aversion to the newspaper agency, Lu Chen had a rough idea of some of their reasons. Some officials were genuinely concerned that the newspaper would lead to unfavorable public opinions about North Country, but certainly some had personal agendas.

To attract the public's attention, Lu Chen had specifically instructed Dongfang Longyue to record some quirky stories about officials in the initial few issues of the newspaper.

After the officials saw this content, they naturally felt very uncomfortable. It was no wonder they wanted to shut down the newspaper agency.

“

Chapter 378: The Chu Family's Cancellation of Engagement Letter_1

Seeing that most officials in the great hall were suggesting the shutdown of the newspaper agency, Lu Chen revealed a faint smile. He was about to say something when Zhuge Zhongguang spoke first, “To the best of this old official's knowledge, currently, the only one capable of mass-printing paper books and documents is the North Prince Mansion.”

Zhuce Zhongguang's words were not directed at Lu Chen, but were a reminder to those officials in the hall who advocated for the newspaper's closure, signaling that the newspaper could not have started without the North Prince's approval.

Upon hearing Zhuge Zhongguang's words, the officials instantly realized the implication. At this moment, Li Rui spoke up, “Prince, although it is possible that some with ulterior motives might use the newspaper to spread statements detrimental to the North Country, as long as we regulate properly, the newspaper can also become an important tool for our internal and external propaganda.”

“Therefore, I believe there is no need to shut down the newspaper agency.”

Seeing how quickly Li Rui changed his stance, Lu Chen chuckled and said, “Lord Li, your speed in changing faces is truly extraordinary.”

With that, Lu Chen scanned the other officials in the hall and continued, “The Dongfang Family had approached this prince before creating the newspaper. Their agency was established with the permission of the North Prince. As for the disadvantages you all mentioned earlier, this prince has

already considered them. However, I believe the benefits of establishing a newspaper outweigh the drawbacks.”

“In addition, to avoid private newspaper agencies from leading public opinion, I intend to establish an official newspaper. From now on, any significant events in the North Country will be published in this official newspaper, and announcements from the North Prince Mansion will also be made there.”

Lu Chen continued, “Aside from creating an official newspaper, I also plan to set up a culture agency. From now on, the review of books and periodicals will be the responsibility of this culture agency.”

At this point, Lu Chen looked towards Zhuge Zhongguang, “Great Scholar, the establishment of the culture agency will trouble you.”

Zhuge Zhongguang immediately responded, “As you command, Prince.”

Lu Chen then asked, “Is there anything else for today?”

After Lu Chen’s words fell, the officials in the hall looked at each other, but none spoke again.

Lu Chen said, “Since there is nothing else, I have one more matter to address. From now on, the minor court meetings will be held once every seven days.”

Hearing Lu Chen’s words, the officials in the hall felt very pleased. Meeting every three days for minor court sessions when there was little to discuss felt unnecessary. Unlike the Great Xia royal court, which engaged in daily court sessions where ministers would often bicker over trivial matters if there was nothing else to discuss.

In North Country’s minor court meetings, there was basically no scenario of ministers constantly fighting each other. The officials were well aware that Lu Chen was a practical man who did not take kindly to hearing their pointless prattle.

Not speaking nonsense during the minor court meetings also meant that most of the time, there truly wasn’t anything to discuss, so meeting every three days was indeed excessive. Shifting to every seven days was just right.

If something particularly important occurred, they could directly go to the study at the North Prince Mansion to find the North Prince.

Seeing no opposition from the officials in the hall, Lu Chen rose from his throne, waved his sleeve, and announced, "Then, let today's minor court meeting conclude thus."

After this, Lu Chen left the Hall of Political Affairs.

Once the minor court meeting was over, Lu Chen had other state affairs to handle, so he went straight to his study.

Just as he arrived at the study, Qin Yushan followed close behind.

"Prince, the Family Head of the Chu Family asked me to deliver this letter of marriage annulment to you."

Hearing Qin Yushan's words, Lu Chen glanced at the annulment letter in his hand and then accepted it, quickly looking it over.

The content of the annulment letter was quite straightforward, mainly stating that since the Wang Family had turned traitor, the Chu Family of the North Country would sever all ties with them, and the marriage between Chu Yuqin and Wang Han was accordingly nullified.

With this annulment letter, Chu Yuqin was now nominally a free woman.

Lu Chen smiled and then said, "Take this annulment letter to Dongfang Longyue, and let her publish the content on the front page of tomorrow's newspaper."

Qin Yushan took back the letter, "Yes, Prince. I will go at once."

"I take my leave."

Watching Qin Yushan's departing figure, Lu Chen thought to himself that it was time to make Chu Yuqin his bride.

Initially, Lu Chen only wanted to possess Chu Yuqin's body, but as more women came into his life, his attention became divided, and his intense desire for Chu Yuqin's body had waned. This allowed him to cool down a bit. Now, aside from desiring Chu Yuqin's body, he also wanted to give her a proper status, allowing her to rightfully bear his children, without any need for secrecy.

...

The next day.

At dawn.

Chu Yuqin rose from her bed, stretching her graceful figure, when a hasty voice came from outside the door.

"Sister, there's great news!"

Before Chu Yuqin had a chance to react, the door was pushed open. Chu Qingli entered, holding a large sheet of paper, looking extremely excited.

Chu Yuqin, curious, asked, "What news has got you so delighted?"

Chu Qingli replied, "Sister, when I went out this morning, I bought a newspaper on the street, and I found that it actually had our family's annulment letter published!"

Hearing this, Chu Yuqin was slightly taken aback.

An annulment letter?

What annulment letter?

Just as Chu Yuqin was about to ask Chu Qingli what was going on, Chu Qingli approached with the newspaper and opened it up before her.

Chapter 379: The Chu Family's Cancellation of Engagement Letter_2

Chu Yuqin then glanced at the content of the newspaper and realized that the first article on it was the North Country Chu Family's annulment letter.

After roughly looking through the content of the annulment letter, Chu Yuqin stood frozen on the spot for a long while, unable to return to her senses.

She wasn't a fool, and in her heart, she had already guessed who had the Eastern Newspaper Agency publish this annulment letter. Clearly, it was not the Chu Family, but Lu Chen.

By using this annulment letter, Lu Chen directly restored her freedom. From now on, she would no longer be the bride of the Wang Family.

But then again, would the common folks acknowledge this annulment letter?

After all, she was the female party. From ancient times, it has always been the male party being dissatisfied with the bride and then canceling the marriage. There had never been an instance of the female party initiating an annulment, much less making it public instead of privately.

Seeing Chu Yuqin staring blankly at the newspaper, Chu Qingli continued, "Sister, from now on, you're free. You are no longer a bride of the Wang Family!"

Hearing Chu Qingli's words, Chu Yuqin sighed lightly and then replied, "Qingli, this matter is not so simple. Although the Chu Family has publicly called off the engagement, the common folks might not acknowledge this annulment letter. Perhaps in their eyes, I am still considered a bride of the Wang Family."

Chu Qingli immediately spoke up, "Sister, rest assured. I just heard people discussing on the streets that everyone says the Wang Family rebelled and committed unforgivable crimes. The Chu Family should have severed ties with the Wang Family long ago."

"In the eyes of the common people, you are just an unfortunate woman. They will recognize this annulment letter."

Hearing Chu Qingli's words, Chu Yuqin's heart also felt a ripple of emotion. If what Chu Qingli said was true, then she would no longer be a bride of the Wang Family and could directly marry into the North Prince Mansion.

At this moment, Chu Yuqin recalled what Lu Chen had said to her sometime ago, that he wanted to marry her into the Prince's Mansion openly and honorably. From now on, they would not need to sneak around, nor fear idle gossip.

With this thought, Chu Yuqin felt an intense warmth in her heart.

Seeing Chu Yuqin fall silent again, seemingly deep in thought, Chu Qingli inquired doubtfully, "Sister, you've regained your freedom. Are you not happy?"

Although Chu Yuqin had never consummated her marriage with Wang Han, she was always identified as the Wang Family's bride. In the eyes of others, she was like a widow.

Now that her identity had been removed, Chu Yuqin was free, and she could marry whomever she wished to pursue her own happiness. Chu Qingli couldn't understand why Chu Yuqin still seemed somewhat discontent.

Chu Yuqin then looked into Chu Qingli's eyes and asked, "Qingli, do you really think this annulment letter was published by the Chu Family prompting the Eastern Newspaper Agency?"

Chu Qingli replied without hesitation, "Of course, isn't the Family Head's name written at the end of the annulment letter?"

Chu Yuqin smiled faintly, without saying anything.

Seeing Chu Yuqin's smile, Chu Qingli felt a thump in her heart and instantly realized what it meant.

If Chu Yuqin was no longer a bride of the Wang Family, it meant that a man could now possess her body openly and honorably.

As to which man that might be, did it really need any guessing?

It was some brute from the North Prince Mansion.

Thinking this way, it was highly probable that that scoundrel had the Eastern Newspaper Agency publish the letter, with the clear purpose of monopolizing Chu Yuqin.

Realizing this, Chu Qingli said, “Sister, you don’t mean to suggest that the North Prince had the Eastern Newspaper Agency publish this letter, do you?”

Chu Yuqin remained silent and, seeing that she did not deny, Chu Qingli became indignantly vocal, “If that scoundrel dares to set his sights on you, Sister, I’ll fight him to the end!”

“Rest assured, Sister, I will definitely find a way to save you!”

Listening to Chu Qingli’s words, Chu Yuqin asked indifferently, “Qingli, tell me honestly, when you say it’s all for your sister, is it because you want to monopolize Chen’er all to yourself?”

Chu Qingli was momentarily stunned, panic rising within her heart. Ever since her affair with Lu Chen was discovered by Chu Yuqin, Chu Qingli had always been worried that Chu Yuqin would harbor such thoughts.

Chu Qingli hastily said, “I didn’t, everything I’ve done was to set you free, Sister.”

Chu Yuqin said coldly, “You speak prettily of my freedom.”

“After climbing into Chen’er’s bed, you’ve probably even forgotten your own name, let alone think of your sister. Do you take me for a fool?”

“I...” Chu Qingli faltered, not knowing how to explain.

Then, biting her teeth in determination, she blurted out the bargain she made with Lu Chen, “Sister, I really started it all to save you from the Prince’s Mansion. I agreed with the North Prince that as long as I served him a hundred times, he would let you leave the North Prince Mansion. But unexpectedly, he broke his promise. The number of times I’ve served him...”

Before Chu Qingli could finish, Chu Yuqin interrupted her, “What? You’ve secretly been with Chen’er over a hundred times doing that sort of thing behind my back?”

“Over a hundred times, and you still tell me you did it for me, Sister?”

“Qingli, do you believe your own lies?”

“I...” Chu Qingli froze once again.

She had been in the North Prince Mansion for a little over a year and had traded with Lu Chen a hundred times. Lu Chen never even visited some of his other consorts’ chambers that often.

Chapter 380: The Chu Family’s Cancellation of Engagement Letter_3

Chu Qingli felt at this moment as if her own words were a lie, yet she had indeed made such an agreement with Lu Chen.

Chu Qingli now had a feeling, a sense of being manipulated by Lu Chen.

Chu Qingli cursed in her heart, this damned bastard, to think he had been plotting from the very beginning!

Previously, she thought that a hundred transactions over three months would be the end. After the transactions, her sister would gain her freedom, and she herself would also leave the North Prince Mansion.

But now she realized, things couldn’t be that simple. She was already completely unable to leave Lu Chen, even if she cursed Lu Chen as a bastard, she’d involuntarily think about him at night after a few days without transactions.

Not only was she unable to leave Lu Chen, but revealing the matter of their transactions made her sister disbelieve her due to the high number, thinking she was shameless and indulging in pleasures instead.

Seeing Chu Qingli fall silent without speaking, Chu Yuqin asked, "Qingli, speak, what exactly are you planning?"

Chu Qingli's face flushed as she replied, "I don't know."

Chu Yuqin asked, "Didn't Chen'er say he wanted to take you as a concubine?"

Chu Qingli had wanted to retort with "Who would marry that bastard," but swallowed her words before they could leave her mouth.

No matter how much she denied it, in her sister's eyes, she would always appear insincere, especially since her sister had personally witnessed her and Lu Chen together, not just witnessed, but listened to them from the courtyard for an entire night, leaving her no room for defense.

Were she to claim she didn't like Lu Chen, her sister would surely retort, "If you don't like him, why then make such sounds?" and that she had stealthily carried out the same deed a hundred times.

Chu Qingli felt that even if she jumped into the Great Sea to the east of North Country, she could never cleanse herself, and now married she must be.

Chu Qingli was silent for a while before saying, "Sister, marrying Lu Chen is my business, but you have your own happiness... This man..."

Chu Qingli didn't finish her sentence before Chu Yuqin interrupted, "Qingli, are you trying to say that Chen'er is despicable and shameless, with indecent and dirty methods?"

"Humph, at this point, are you still trying to stop me from serving Chen'er?"

Chu Qingli didn't know what to say anymore, feeling anything she'd say would be useless. Eventually, she took a deep breath and said, "Sister, I will no longer concern myself with your affairs with him in the future. Whatever you two wish to do, so be it."

Hearing Chu Qingli's words, Chu Yuqin felt a surge of joy, finally getting Chu Qingli to relent.

At this moment, Chu Qingli thought to herself, since she couldn't prevent Lu Chen from taking over her sister, she might as well stay in the North Prince Mansion and watch over them. If one day Lu Chen betrayed her sister, she would definitely avenge her sister and make Lu Chen regret his actions.

...

Meanwhile.

At Yan County, within a private room of a tavern.

More than a dozen men in bamboo hats were drinking when a man in grey cloth entered the room and whispered to the man sitting by the window, "Commander, she's been staying in the North Prince Mansion this whole time, hardly ever going out. Zhuge Zhongguang lives right next to the North Prince Mansion, so if we take action, we'll definitely alert Zhuge Zhongguang."

With the strength of a Grandmaster, and one close to breaking into the Heavenly Human Realm at that, Zhuge Zhongguang was obviously not an easy adversary, which made Wang Jiantao somewhat troubled.

Bai Qingqing was likely to have betrayed the Sum Emperor. The Sum Emperor tolerated no betrayal, and she had to be dealt with, being a Deputy Commander of the Shadow Guard. If she were to live, how could he intimidate the other Shadow Guards in the future?

Wang Jiantao then asked, "Has the Shadow Guard's letter been sent into the Prince's Mansion again?"

The grey-clothed man replied, "It has been sent, but she's unlikely to pay any attention to it."

Wang Jiantao hadn't eliminated the Shadow Guards from Yan County before solely so they could lure out Bai Qingqing. But in these past days, they had used the old Shadow Guards to pass on several pieces of intelligence to Bai Qingqing, none of which had managed to draw her out.

Wang Jiantao then said, "Seems like she has sensed that His Majesty is eliminating the traitors. We need to find another way to lure her out."

...

At this very moment.

In North Land.

On the vast grasslands, the sound of horns echoed.

A large barbaric tribe Cavalry, clad in beast hides, was swiftly advancing eastward. The size of this Cavalry was massive, stretching so far that the end was nearly out of sight.

A man clad in black-gold metal armor, carrying a huge ax, gazed towards the east.

Soon, their scouts returned.

The scouts immediately dismounted and saluted the man, saying, "Great King, the Sky Wolf King tribe and North Fre King tribe have been destroyed by North Country. According to our intelligence, North Land has already been annexed by the Great Sum North King."

Hearing this, the man immediately said, "Those two tribes have shamed our Barbarian Tribe. When I initially allowed them to join me, they refused, only to be annihilated by a flock of sheep! Ridiculous! Truly ridiculous!"

At this point, a confidant next to the man said, "Great King, shall we vanquish North Land, or march south to attack North Country?"

Tianqi King laughed, "What good is there in North Land for us to go there? If we go, we should go to North Country!"

"To have destroyed both the Sky Wolf King and North Fre King tribes, this North King of Great Sum does have some strength. I would like to see what makes North Country so special after all!"

Another confidant by his side then cautioned, "Divine Envoy instructed us to occupy North Land first and not to act rashly. If she learns that we went to attack Great Sum, she might be displeased."

Hearing the reminder, Tianqi King's face darkened instantly. The thought of that breathtakingly beautiful woman set his heart aflame, yet he was no match for her, having suffered several losses at her hands.

Tianqi King snorted coldly, "Is she your queen, or am I your king?"

Seeing Tianqi King angered, his confidant Generals said nothing further.

In their hearts, everyone knew that Tianqi King had suffered defeat when fighting Great Jue and was feeling disgruntled, urgently needing to vent on some power.