

## Es. Benefits 461

### Chapter 461: Wu Junwan's Mission to the North Country\_3

Wu Junwan was nothing but a woman, so what gave her the right to steal the limelight from a prince like him! It was bad enough that she snatched credit for quelling the rebellion, but this time on a diplomatic mission to the North Country, she was at it again, trying to snatch the credit.

From the beginning, his royal father had only planned for him to represent Great Wu on the diplomatic mission to the North Country. When he heard about it, he was very excited. In his eyes, this was his father showing faith in him, wanting him to accumulate more achievements.

Then, unexpectedly, along came Wu Junwan. It was all because of that wretch Chai Jiliang. If not for Chai Jiliang persuading his royal father, how could his father have allowed Wu Junwan to join him on the mission to the North Country?

The more Wu Ming thought about it, the angrier he became. Eventually, he couldn't hold back any longer and blurted out cursing, "This pair of dogs!"

No sooner had Wu Ming's words fallen than the old man sitting in the carriage with him reminded him, "Your Highness, watch your words."

Upon hearing this, Wu Ming calmed down a bit.

Shortly after.

Lu Chen and his party arrived at the Hall of Political Affairs, and the envoys from Great Wu took their seats as well.

Once seated, Lu Chen had the dancing girls and musicians perform.

But the attention of the envoys from Great Wu was not on the performance; they kept scanning around the Hall of Political Affairs, as if they were searching for something.

Their subtle movements did not escape Lu Chen's notice, and he knew what they were looking for. Clearly, they wanted to see if Zhuge Zhongguang had attended today's luncheon, to ascertain whether Zhuge Zhongguang had managed to break through to the Heavenly Human Realm.

Lu Chen certainly didn't give them that opportunity, as Zhuge Zhongguang did not attend this luncheon.

At this time, Lu Chen also noticed the neat and clean-looking young man sitting next to Wu Junwan. The young man was dressed in white brocade with golden threads, his demeanor highly noble, looking the very picture of a young master.

Although Lu Chen naturally knew who the person was, he still feigned ignorance and asked, "Princess Junwan, who is this gentleman sitting next to you?"

Hearing this question, Wu Junwan was slightly taken aback. Regaining her composure, she answered with a smile, "I forgot to introduce him to the North Prince. This gentleman is the Prince Wu Ming from Great Wu."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen said smilingly, "So, it's Prince Wu Ming. I've long admired your reputation!"

Hearing the conversation between the two, Wu Ming felt a surge of indignation. The North Prince actually couldn't recognize that he was the Prince Wu Ming from Great Wu. He needed this woman, Wu Junwan, to introduce him! If Wu Junwan hadn't introduced him, would the North Prince even be aware that he came on the diplomatic mission to the North Country?

No, this mission to the North Country was his opportunity to accumulate merit, and he absolutely couldn't let this woman beside him snatch all the credit.

He must take initiative. Even though there was always an inexplicable sense of oppression in front of Wu Junwan, for the sake of the Crown Prince position, he must not be suppressed by Wu Junwan, a woman, to the point of not being able to hold his head high.

With this thought, Wu Ming said smilingly, "The North Prince jokes. I have little popularity in Great Wu. How would the North Prince have heard of me? Instead, the North Prince's great renown has already resounded through all of Great Wu. Now, almost every household in Great Wu knows of a great hero from the Great Sum who repelled the southward charges of the Barbarian Tribe many times!"

Lu Chen chuckled and then replied, "What kind of hero am I? I am merely trying to protect my own patch of land, that's all."

Just as Wu Junwan was about to say something, Wu Ming suddenly interjected, "I hear that Elder Zhuge now holds a key position in the North Country, but today we haven't seen Elder Zhuge. Why is that?"

Lu Chen answered indifferently, "You should also know that he has only recently broken through, and his Realm is not yet stable, which is why he has been in seclusion for cultivation lately."

Wu Ming said, "Speaking of Elder Zhuge, it just occurred to me that I haven't yet congratulated the North Prince on recruiting such a Celestial Realm powerhouse."

Hearing this, Lu Chen smiled but did not continue the topic further.

About Zhuge Zhongguang's affair, he wasn't inclined to mention more. He wanted to maintain Zhuge Zhongguang's air of mystery, letting them guess whether Zhuge Zhongguang had really broken through to the Celestial Realm.

At this moment, Wu Junwan noticed that Wu Ming seemed to be in a rush to make an impression on Lu Chen, trying to seize every opportunity to speak more. She smiled slightly and then said, "North Prince, you must have received the letter I sent you, right?"

Before the formal diplomatic mission to the North Country, aside from the official letter from Great Wu, there was also a letter from Wu Junwan. Of course, the content of the letter was mainly about some topics that Great Wu intended to discuss during the mission.

As for why Wu Junwan would write a letter to Lu Chen in advance, the purpose was obvious.

At this point, Lu Chen replied, "Certainly."

Upon hearing the conversation between the two, Wu Ming was taken aback in his heart.

A letter?

What letter?

That despicable woman, Wu Junwan, had actually written a letter to the North Prince in advance!

He didn't know anything about it!

Nor did he know the content of the letter.

How was he to interject?

Wu Junwan continued, "Now that the North Country has a Celestial Realm powerhouse, the military strength of the North Country has surpassed that of the Capital city of Great Sum. Does the North Prince have any plans for the throne of the Capital city? If the North Prince desires that position, Great Wu is willing to support the North Prince with all its strength!"

Seeing Wu Junwan speak so directly, Lu Chen said, "I thought Princess Junwan would be a bit more tactful. I didn't expect the Princess to be so straightforward."

Wu Junwan spoke, "The rise of the North Country is apparent to everyone. It is only a matter of time before the North Prince ascends to the supreme position. So I think some things need not to be concealed; it is better to speak openly."

"Once the North Prince ascends to that position, Great Wu is willing to sign an alliance with Great Sum and maintain good relations with Great Sum for generations."

Hearing Wu Junwan's words, Lu Chen sipped his wine and then smilingly asked, "Why wouldn't Great Wu sign an alliance with Great Sum now?"

Wu Junwan replied, "If we sign an alliance with the Court of Great Sum now, once the North Prince ascends to that position, the alliance would be void. Since the North Prince will soon ascend to that position, it is only natural for Great Wu to discuss the alliance directly with the North Prince."

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Upon hearing Wu Junwan's words, Lu Chen smiled faintly before responding, "Princess Junwan, you must have misunderstood; I have never coveted that position in the Capital City."

"My father, the Sum Emperor, loves his subjects as his own children and is benevolent and wise. He is especially caring and considerate towards his own children, and I am his proudest child. How could I possibly commit such disloyal acts of seeking power and usurping the throne?"

After listening to Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan chuckled softly and then said, "North Prince really knows how to jest."

If your relationship with the Sum Emperor is truly as harmonious as you describe, the court of the Great Sum wouldn't have stationed troops in Qi Country, nor would North Country have dispatched a hundred thousand troops to the border of Qi Country to face off against the army of the Da Yue Dynasty."

Lu Chen said, "There's no need to discuss this topic; I am absolutely not going to provoke a civil war in Great Sum. I'd like to thank Great Wu for the kind intentions here."

Seeing how Lu Chen bluntly shut down the conversation, Wu Junwan essentially understood that there was a high probability that Lu Chen wouldn't instigate a civil war in Great Sum in the short term.

If Lu Chen truly was the Tower Master of the Rain-listening Pavilion, that would mean he had been deeply concerned about intelligence work from the start. Now, with the Rain-listening Pavilion spread throughout several dynasties, gathering intelligence would be easy.

The more a ruler values intelligence from the various dynasties, the more shrewd they are, and not so easily influenced.

Moreover, since the Qianhai Commercial Association began cooperating with the Rain-listening Pavilion, it's likely that the pavilion has already gathered quite a bit of insider information about Great Wu through them.

The objective of their current mission to North Country had probably been made crystal clear to the North Prince early on, thus trying to incite the North Prince to engage in a civil war with the Da Yue Dynasty at this time was virtually impossible.

The fisherman benefits when the snipe and clam grapple; it isn't so simple for Great Wu to be that fisherman.

Now, the only option was to fall back on plan B, which was to strike some kind of deal with North Country and then prod the court of Great Sum to send troops against them.

Then, Wu Junwan said with a slight smile, "I have heard that the North Prince has signed a trade agreement with the Da Yue Dynasty, enhancing trade relations between the two sides. It seems you

must value commercial development highly, North Prince. In my view, Great Wu also has commodities that North Country needs.

I wonder if Great Wu could, like the Da Yue, sign a trade agreement with North Country?"

Hearing Wu Junwan's words, Lu Chen knew she hadn't given up on disrupting Great Sum. However, he didn't mind it in the slightest.

If Great Wu wanted to sign a trade agreement with them, then so be it. For North Country at present, importing some resources was still overly reliant on a single source.

Although North Country now included North Land within its own maps, they hadn't started large-scale mining of the resources available in North Country. They hadn't even located some ore resources, let alone knew where to mine, so for now, they remained dependent on trade.

Great Wu was vast and rich in resources, so if they were willing to engage in trade cooperation, it would certainly be a great boon for North Country.

With this, North Country wouldn't be as reliant on the resources of Great Sum.

Of course, this was merely a transitional period for North Country, which wouldn't last too long.

Lu Chen then spoke with a smile, "This is certainly no issue. However, Princess Junwan has only arrived in North Country today, and it isn't suitable to discuss too many political matters. Let's leave the issue of the trade agreement until tomorrow, shall we?"



Just as Wu Junwan was about to say something, Lu Chen continued, "I've heard that it was Princess Junwan's merit that Great Wu was able to quell the internal strife in the dynasty. Having a woman who is talented in both literature and military in Great Wu is indeed the dynasty's good fortune!"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan smiled lightly and then said, "North Prince makes jest. It was the soldiers, fighting for Great Wu against the rebels, who stabilized the southeast insurgency. How could I steal credit from the soldiers?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Princess Junwan is too modest. Even excellent soldiers need a competent commander to unleash their combat power. I've heard that before Princess Junwan led the troops, there were two princes of Great Wu who, with the dynasty's elite, attempted to suppress the rebels.

As a result, not only did the two princes fail to eradicate the rebels, they even caused Great Wu to lose a number of elite soldiers."

Hearing Lu Chen's remark, Wu Ming's face beside Wu Junwan turned dark in an instant.

One of those princes Lu Chen mentioned was Wu Ming himself, making him feel that Lu Chen was taking a dig at him.

Although he was irritated, considering that they had a purpose in visiting North Country, he had to swallow his discomfort, no matter how uneasy he felt.

At that moment, Wu Junwan also realized Lu Chen's intentions. She didn't believe that Lu Chen was unaware that Wu Ming was one of those two princes. Yet, Lu Chen had chosen this moment to bring up the matter, and even compared her, a woman, to Wu Ming.

Clearly, Lu Chen was trying to sow discord between her and Wu Ming.

In order not to let Lu Chen continue to foment dissension, Wu Junwan hastily said, "Oh, there's something I forgot to mention to the North Prince. I've heard that the North Prince has a fondness for beauties, so for this visit to North Country, I have specially prepared a magnificent gift for you."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen said with a laugh, "Oh? Is the grand gift Princess Junwan has prepared for me a beauty?"

Wu Junwan smiled slightly and then said, "Not just one, but ten exquisite dancers. May I let them come in?"

Lu Chen responded, "Of course."

After hearing this, Wu Junwan then said to the members of her entourage, "Go and bring them in."

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Before long, members of Wu Junwan's diplomatic corps entered the great hall with ten exquisite dancers in tow.

Wu Junwan asked, "What does North Prince think of them?"

Lu Chen did not immediately reply. His gaze swept over the women, using a system to rate them. He found that their scores were mostly above eighty, but none reached ninety. The highest score was just eighty-nine, failing to meet the system's standards.

While the dancers were certainly beautiful, they were of little use to him. Lu Chen then smiled and said, "These dancers are indeed beautiful, it's just that..."

At this point, Lu Chen paused for a moment before continuing, "Only, they're not the type of women I prefer. I appreciate Princess Junwan's kind gesture."

Seeing Lu Chen's outright rejection, Wu Junwan was momentarily stunned. She had thought that even if Lu Chen did not fancy these dancers, he would still accept them since they were a gift from the Great Wu mission. She did not expect Lu Chen to refuse them.

However, this also showed that Lu Chen was different from the rumors; he wasn't a lecher. After all, if he were such a man, how could he have achieved the Grandmaster Realm at his age?

While Wu Junwan was contemplating this, Lu Chen spoke up, "I do, however, fancy a lady from Great Wu."

Upon hearing this, Wu Junwan came back to her senses, smiling as she inquired, "May I know who this lady is who caught North Prince's eye? Once I return to Great Wu, I will surely send her to the North Prince Mansion."

Lu Chen sighed, his face a portrait of sorrow, "I once met the daughter of President Qian of the Qianhai Commercial Association. I was smitten with Miss Qian at first sight. Alas, beauty is fragile, fated to fade. After making arrangements for the Qian Family to move to North Country, I was told by President Qian that his daughter had already passed away."

The moment these words were spoken, Pei Hong, who sat behind Wu Junwan, clenched the hilt of his sword, and Wu Junwan's brows subtly rose.

Although she had guessed that Lu Chen was the Tower Master of the Rain-listening Pavilion upon entering the city, she did not expect him to bring up this matter now, especially claiming to have fallen for her at first sight.

Was North Prince making a mockery of her?

Wu Junwan chuckled to herself.

A seventeen or eighteen-year-old boy was attempting to mock her, a woman in her thirties.

Fascinating.

Then Wu Junwan said, "Please, North Prince, accept my condolences. There are countless beautiful women in the world. With your skills, North Prince, you can have any beauty you desire. There's no need to mourn a lost love."

Lu Chen took a sip of wine and then said, "Princess Junwan is right. It seems I have been too sentimental."

"However, speaking of which, I find you bear a remarkable resemblance to Miss Qian."

Wu Junwan felt little emotion stir within her and spoke indifferently, "Perhaps, North Prince, you're simply missing Miss Qian too much, leading to an illusion."

Lu Chen smiled and then said, "Well, this is the Princess's first visit to North Country. Let's not dwell on such melancholic subjects. Rather, let's continue drinking and enjoying the delicacies."

With that, Lu Chen addressed the musicians and dancers in the great hall, "Proceed with the music, carry on the dance."

The luncheon lasted around two hours, a period which seemed unbearably long for Pei Hong, who was constantly worried that North Prince might do something detrimental to Wu Junwan.

Wu Junwan also felt Lu Chen's gaze on her from time to time, especially after he had declared his love at first sight for Miss Qian. His eyes seemed to constantly roam over her.

Wu Junwan suspected that her nerves were causing her to see things that weren't there. As the luncheon ended, she mockingly thought to herself that it was ridiculous for her to be so anxious over a few words spoken by a seventeen or eighteen-year-old boy.

Clearly, Lu Chen was reminding her that he knew she owned Qianhai Commercial Association and warning her not to play any tricks. As for "falling for Miss Qian at first sight," that was obviously a ruse.

After the luncheon had ended.

The North Prince Mansion arranged for the Great Wu delegation to be accommodated in a residence in the northern part of Yan County, where they would stay for the next few days.

At that moment, Wu Junwan was seated in the pavilion of the courtyard, deep in thought when Pei Hong beside her spoke, "Your Highness, I fear we can no longer trust the Qian Family."

Hearing this, Wu Junwan pondered for a moment before replying, "Not necessarily."

"Although North Prince knew from the start that Qian Dahai was my man, he still dared to use him. It shows that North Prince is very confident in himself. Now, since Qian Dahai has moved all of the Qian Family to North Country, it seems they have completely sided with North Country. This might lead North Prince to believe he has successfully turned Qian Dahai away from me."

"Of course, whether the Qian Family can be trusted still depends on what kind of information they can provide us."

"Now, Qian Dahai's two sons are still with Qianhai Commercial Association, and Qian Dahai can only adhere to my wishes. I believe he wouldn't dare betray me proactively. We just have to see whether North Prince will allow Qian Dahai access to North Country's secrets."

In Wu Junwan's view, since she still held Qian Dahai's two sons, who had already secretly sworn their loyalty to her, Qian Dahai was unlikely to betray her lightly. What was key was seeing North Prince's attitude and whether he truly trusted Qian Dahai.

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If the North Prince truly trusted Qian Dahai, then the Qian Family would still be able to play its part; if the North Prince didn't trust him, the Qian Family would still be able to help Qianhai Commercial Association manage various businesses in the North Country.

In other words, for Wu Junwan, whether or not Qian Dahai could extract more intelligence from the North Prince Mansion, Qian Dahai and the Qian Family were still of great use to her, and she had no plans to give up on the Qian Family for the time being.

After hearing Wu Junwan's words, Pei Hong also realized that the Qian Family was still useful to her, so he stopped bringing up the matters of the Qian Family.

At this moment, he thought of the words the North Prince had said at the luncheon, and then he reminded her, "Your Highness, I saw the North Prince staring at you several times during the luncheon, and he also mentioned falling in love with Miss Qian at first sight. I think he may truly covet your beauty, and we'd better be wary of him."

The reputation of the North Prince was not very good to begin with; everyone said he was a lecher, and even the common folk of the North Country considered the North Prince quite worldly.

Wu Junwan offered a faint smile, then said, "Pei Hong is overthinking it, his words at the luncheon were just to remind me that he already knew Qianhai Commercial Association belonged to me, warning me not to cause trouble in the North Country using the association."

Pei Hong didn't continue the conversation and fell silent.

Initially, Pei Hong had also thought that Lu Chen's words were a warning to them not to cause trouble in the North Country with the commercial association, but as someone experienced, he always felt something was off about the way Lu Chen looked at Wu Junwan.

Perhaps he was overthinking it.

At this moment, Wu Junwan said, "What we should be most vigilant about now is the North Prince taking this opportunity to drive a wedge between the relationship between myself and Prince Wu Ming."

Wu Junwan had realized during the luncheon that Lu Chen had constantly belittled Wu Ming. It was clear that he was sowing discord in an attempt to make Wu Ming resent her.

As a woman not only leading this visit, but also being compared in various ways to Wu Ming, who was part of the delegation, Wu Ming was certainly very displeased.

Pei Hong offered a suggestion, "To prevent Prince Wu Ming from harboring any grudges against you, I think it would be better if you had a few words with His Highness, to avoid any sabotage from him when we finalize the trade agreement with the North Country."

Wu Junwan said, "There are people watching over him; he wouldn't go so far as to trip me up over this matter unless... "

Wu Junwan had not finished speaking when a soldier from the delegation hurriedly entered the courtyard, "Princess, something's wrong. Prince Wu Ming has gone to the North Prince Mansion to meet with the North Prince."

Upon hearing this, Wu Junwan's face instantly darkened, her brows furrowed slightly, then she asked, "Did that elderly man follow him there?"

The soldier replied, "He went too."



Wu Junwan pondered for a moment, then said, "It seems that the Emperor still doesn't want me to accumulate too much merit."

"Well, since that elder is also with Wu Ming, he probably won't do anything detrimental to Great Wu."

Wu Junwan did not recognize the elder with Wu Ming, but she had found out through various channels that the man was a Grandmaster sent by her father to protect Wu Ming.

Of course, while protecting him, he was also keeping an eye on Wu Ming to prevent him from doing anything unseemly.

At this time, Pei Hong said, "Prince Wu Ming is being a bit too hasty."

They had just arrived in Yan County today, and the luncheon had just ended, yet Wu Ming had rushed to find the North Prince. What could Wu Ming be doing with the North Prince? Obviously, he was discussing the trade agreement; he wanted to take credit for it.

Being so eager to seek the North Prince gave the impression that they were desperate for the North Country to sign the trade agreement.

Meanwhile.

In a pavilion in the outer courtyard of the North Prince Mansion.

Wu Ming and Lu Chen were sitting opposite each other.

Lu Chen poured a cup of tea for Wu Ming, then said with a smile, "I didn't expect Wu Ming to come to see me so soon. You're here to discuss the trade agreement, aren't you?"

Wu Ming said, "It seems the North Prince had anticipated my visit."

Lu Chen picked up the tea cup from the stone table, took a gentle sip, and then said, "With such a domineering Princess, the life of you brothers must be quite difficult."

Wu Ming said, "The North Prince seems to be quite knowledgeable about Great Wu's affairs?"

Lu Chen replied, "I wouldn't say extremely knowledgeable, but I do know a bit."

Then, Lu Chen asked, "Tell me, what does Prince Wu Ming want me to do for him?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's question, Wu Ming was taken aback.

Help?

The North Prince offered to help him?

There's no such thing as a free lunch. Although he wasn't as capable as Wu Junwan, he wasn't naive.

Wu Ming said, "Perhaps the North Prince should state his conditions first."

Lu Chen said, "Honestly, I don't have many demands. I'm just troubled by your Princess, and frankly, I don't like her much."

With that, Lu Chen asked, "Prince Wu Ming should know who is behind Qianhai Commercial Association, right?"

Wu Ming replied, "Of course."

Lu Chen continued, "Princess Wu has allowed Qianhai Commercial Association to infiltrate the North Country and boldly probe for our secrets, making me feel uncomfortable."

Wu Ming said, "I feel like you consider her a tough woman to deal with, and that's why you want to cooperate with me?"

Lu Chen gave a smile and then said, "Prince Wu Ming can think of it that way. Compared to a woman skilled in scheming, I prefer straightforward dealings with an honest man like Prince Wu Ming."

Lu Chen's words immediately made Wu Ming feel insulted, but he didn't mind. Since the North Prince was wary of Wu Junwan, it was a good thing for him; he could use this to his advantage and reach an agreement with the North Prince, then snatch the credit for this mission to the North Country.

Lu Chen continued, "In this trade agreement, I will instruct it to be signed by Prince Wu Ming. What does Prince Wu Ming think of this?"

Wu Ming was taken aback; if he could sign the trade agreement, the outcome of this mission would essentially be his.

Wu Ming immediately said, "Then I thank the North Prince."

Chapter 465: Sooner or Later She Will Become His Woman\_1

Wu Ming had spent an hour at the North Prince Mansion, discussing the content of the trade cooperation agreement with Lu Chen.

After Wu Ming left the North Prince Mansion, his heart was still incredibly excited. Sitting in the carriage, he felt much more relaxed.

At that moment, he remembered the words that Lu Chen had previously said, and he couldn't help but clench his fists. Then he muttered to himself, "A mere feudal seignior dares to insult me in such a way, when I ascend to that position, the first I will annihilate is North Country."

Wu Ming also hadn't expected that Lu Chen would actually reveal North Country's fears about Wu Junwan, and in front of him, no less.

North Country was wary of Wu Junwan, so they chose to cooperate with him, the second prince. Wasn't this revealing that to North Country, he, the second prince, posed no threat at all?

The more Wu Ming thought about how the North Prince had praised him as an honest man, the angrier he became inside.

What nonsense about an honest man! The North Prince just meant to say he, Wu Ming, was a fool! As if he couldn't tell!

Wu Ming's anger grew the more he thought about it, and the joy from earlier gradually dissipated. He continued to mutter to himself, "Today's humiliation, I will surely return a hundredfold in the future!"

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The next morning, Lu Chen sent someone to tell Wu Junwan that for this trade cooperation agreement, they needed Wu Ming to sign it.

Wu Junwan instantly guessed Lu Chen's motive; it was clear he intended to sow discord between her and Wu Ming.

Feeling that this couldn't go on, Wu Junwan went straight to Wu Ming, planning to have a serious talk to prevent Wu Ming from being exploited by Lu Chen.

When Wu Ming heard that Wu Junwan wanted to see him, he almost guessed what it was about, but he still went to her courtyard.

After entering the courtyard, Wu Ming asked, "I wonder what matter brings sister to seek me out?"

Although they were not from the same mother, Wu Ming still acted quite humbly in front of Princess Junwan and even refrained from referring to himself as "this prince," instead using "I."

Junwan spoke indifferently, "Did you meet with the North Prince alone yesterday?"

Wu Ming answered with a smile, "Nothing can be hidden from sister."

Junwan continued, "The North Prince just sent someone to tell me that for this trade cooperation agreement, he specifically wants your signature."

Wu Ming showed a surprised expression, "Really?"

Junwan went on to say, "Third brother, you should understand the reason the North Prince is doing this is to undermine the relationship between you and me, thereby gaining more benefits. If you consent to his terms just to sign on the trade cooperation agreement, that would be tantamount to betraying Great Wu."

Faced with Junwan's warning, Wu Ming didn't take it to heart. Smiling, he said, "Sister, there's no need to scare me. Besides, I am a prince of Great Wu. I know well what I should and should not do. With Father's men watching my every move, how could I possibly do something to betray Great Wu?"

"The North Prince's proposal for me to sign the trade agreement is perhaps because I am a man, right?"

Wu Ming's words were blunt, implying that Junwan, being a woman, had no claim to the throne, and naturally, in signing any kind of treaty with a country, one would choose someone with the right to succession.

On hearing Wu Ming's words, Junwan wasn't angered; she simply smiled and said, "It seems I have misunderstood you, third brother. As long as you have done nothing to betray Great Wu, that's all that matters."

At this point, Wu Ming said, "If sister has no other matters, I'll take my leave. Yan County is bustling, and I wish to have a look around."

Junwan replied, "Very well."

Wu Ming then turned and left.

Watching his retreating figure, Pei Hong, standing beside Junwan, said, "Maybe the North Prince did not propose any additional conditions."

Junwan spoke up, "To the North Prince, even obtaining many favorable terms in the trade cooperation agreement is not as profitable as throwing Great Wu's dynasty into chaos."

Pei Hong asked, "Your Highness, are you really willing to let all the credit for this diplomatic mission to North Country fall into Prince Wu Ming's hands?"

After reflecting for a moment, Junwan replied, "Send someone to tell the North Prince that this palace wishes to speak with him alone."

Although Junwan knew Lu Chen aimed to drive a wedge between her and Wu Ming, to avoid the diplomatic achievements from the mission to North Country falling into Wu Ming's hands, she had to talk to Lu Chen.

If the North Prince liked to create divisions, let him do so. After all, as a woman trying to claim the supreme position, the Chen Family wouldn't be easy to deal with, and not just Wu Ming—Great Wu's other princes would also become her enemies on the way forward.

Sooner or later, she and her brothers were bound to come into conflict, and this didn't require Lu Chen's instigation.

As for the diplomatic achievements from this mission to North Country, they definitely couldn't fall into Wu Ming's hands.

...

North Prince Mansion.

Study.

Lu Chen was dealing with official documents when Wu Yuan came in to report, "Prince, Xuanyuan Chaoge has arrived in Yan County."

Hearing Wu Yuan's words, the corners of Lu Chen's mouth slightly lifted. At last, he had arrived; now he wouldn't have to worry about Mysterious Moon Palace coming to trouble him.



Wu Yuan continued to inquire, "Would you like to meet with him, Prince? He has already settled into the residence you arranged for him."

Lu Chen responded, "Have him come to the Prince's Mansion. There are some questions this prince wishes to ask him."

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"Yes, I will send someone to notify him immediately."

Wu Yuan then turned and left the study.

Before long, Wu Yuan arrived at Lu Chen's study with Xuanyuan Chaoge in tow.

Xuanyuan Chaoge immediately performed a courtesy and said, "This old official pays respects to Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "Lord Xuanyuan, please dispense with the formalities."

Lu Chen then directly asked, "Lord Xuanyuan, I am quite curious, how did you break through to the Heavenly Human Realm?"

"I remember that to break through to the Heavenly Human Realm, one must withstand the trials of this world. Without passing the trials of this world, it would be impossible to break through."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Xuanyuan Chaoge paused for a moment, then said, "The trials of the world? Your Majesty is not incorrect, but we usually call this achieving Unity."

"Although everyone follows the path of Martial Arts, there are many branches along the way, and each person has their own path. Only by comprehending one's own path can one break through to the Heavenly Human Realm."

"After Your Majesty came to inspect Great Yu City, the old knot in this old official's heart finally unraveled, and I grasped my own path, hence successfully achieved Unity and reached the Unity of Heaven and Man."

Upon hearing Xuanyuan Chaoge's words, Lu Chen thought to himself that Xuanyuan Chaoge's breakthrough into the Heavenly Human Realm truly had something to do with himself.

Lu Chen continued, "There is a Grandmaster at the Zenith Realm in Yan County who recently caused a heavenly phenomenon but did not succeed in achieving Unity. Instead, he only perceived a method that could enable his breakthrough to the Heavenly Human Realm. What is going on here?"

"Since he already knows how to break through to the Heavenly Human Realm, logically, he should have comprehended his own path. Then why hasn't he been able to break through to the Heavenly Human Realm?"

Xuanyuan Chaoge replied, "Your Majesty must be speaking of Zhuge Zhongguang! I have also heard about his situation."

Xuanyuan Chaoge had heard of Zhuge Zhongguang's feats while he was still in Great Yu City. Given the frequent interactions between Great Yu City and Yan County, with the trade caravans

entering and exiting Yan County nearly every day, Xuanyuan Chaoge had quickly learned of the occurrences there.

Initially, he thought a Celestial Realm powerhouse had emerged in Yan County, but upon entering the city, he did not sense the presence of any such Celestial beings. He soon realized that this was merely a strategy of the North Prince.

Lu Chen nodded and said, "Yes, it is him."

Xuanyuan Chaoge continued, "His ability to cause a heavenly phenomenon shows that he was close to achieving Unity. The reason he could not attain Unity with Heaven and Man might be due to his insufficient understanding of the path he is pursuing."

"When this old official heard that Your Majesty was in the North Country, a heavenly phenomenon was also induced. At that time, a voice told this old official that to break through the Heavenly Human Realm, I had to manage Great Yu City well."

Hearing Xuanyuan Chaoge's words, Lu Chen pondered for a moment, feeling it all seemed too mystical.

Lu Chen more or less understood that from the first rank of Martial Artist to the Grandmaster Realm, one could continue to break through realms as long as their skill accumulated.

But from Grandmaster to Celestial Realm, advancement in skill was useless; the breakthrough to this Realm required insight.

As for the specifics of how to break through, it was mysterious and varied, with each person being different.

Initially, he and Zhuge Zhongguang thought breaking through to the Celestial Realm required the world's recognition. Now it seemed, that was merely their own assumption.

Lu Chen rubbed his temples, ceasing to ponder any further.

Never mind, thinking on this now was futile. After all, he just needed to know that breaking through to the Celestial Realm was not easy.

Lu Chen then said, "I will have Palace Great Scholar Zhuge go learn from you later. Share your experience of breaking through to the Celestial Realm with him, and see if he can comprehend anything."

Xuanyuan Chaoge replied, "As Your Majesty wishes."

Just then, Xuanyuan Chaoge inquired, "Your Majesty, what role shall this old official undertake in Yan County?"

Although he had already broken through to the Celestial Realm, a person of Xuanyuan Chaoge's status no longer needed to work. However, as a city lord accustomed to management, remaining idle was unsettling.

Hearing Xuanyuan Chaoge's question, Lu Chen mused for a moment before saying, "I initially wanted you to serve as Palace Great Scholar, but thinking it over, it is not yet prudent to reveal your

existence. I must trouble you for a while longer; you will manage North Country's armament production including steam engines and the manufacture of trains."

Before Zhuge Zhongguang broke through to the Celestial Realm, Xuanyuan Chaoge was a trump card. Since a trump card should be played last, naturally Xuanyuan Chaoge's existence should not be revealed so hastily.

Xuanyuan Chaoge eagerly said, "It's no trouble at all. Being needed by Your Majesty is my honor."

Just then, a servant at the doorway of the study said, "Your Highness, Princess Wu from Great Wu has sent a letter."

Lu Chen immediately said, "Bring it in."

The maid then delivered Wu Junwan's letter to Lu Chen. After opening it and scanning the contents, he smiled, and then told the servant at the door, "Tell the messenger to inform Princess Junwan that Your Highness will be available at the ninth hour today."

"Yes, Your Highness."

...

In the afternoon.

In a pavilion in the outer courtyard of the North Prince Mansion, Wu Junwan, dressed in a long violet dress, sat on the stony bench, eyeing Lu Chen, who was opposite her at the stone table. She then smiled sweetly and said, "This princess's younger brother must have been sitting right where I am just yesterday, right?"

Chapter 467: Sooner or Later She Will Become His Woman\_3

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I'm afraid Princess Junwan guessed wrong; he sat on the stone stool to your right."

Lu Chen then asked, "May I know what matter brings Princess Junwan to meet with me alone?"

Wu Junwan replied, "The North Prince Faction sent someone to the place where I reside, specifically ordering that my brother sign the trade cooperation document. And now you're asking what brings me here? Isn't this asking what you already know?"

With a faint smile, Lu Chen said, "Prince Wu Ming is the second prince of Great Wu, and he has the qualification to succeed the throne. There should be no problem with me having him sign the document, right?"

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan displayed no expression on her face, as she clearly picked up on Lu Chen's implication that she, being a woman, had no qualification to succeed the throne.

Wu Junwan then remarked, "Does the North Prince truly believe that only a man can become the future Emperor of Great Wu? Great Jue also had an Empress. Since Great Jue had one, why can't Great Wu have one too?"

Lu Chen responded, "Whether the Emperor of Great Wu is a man or a woman is of no concern to me. Since Princess Junwan wishes to sign the trade cooperation document, you need to show sincerity."

At Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan smiled slightly and then said, "What kind of sincerity does the North Prince wish to see?"

Lu Chen smiled, picked up the teacup from the stone table, took a sip of tea, and then slowly said, "Does Princess Junwan still remember Miss Qian of the Qian Family whom I mentioned during yesterday's midday banquet?"

At this, Wu Junwan's brows furrowed slightly, unsure why Lu Chen was bringing up Miss Qian at this time. The situation being what it was, and Lu Chen still putting on an act—the so-called Miss Qian was nothing but a false identity she had created during her last visit to Yan County.

Without delay, Wu Junwan said, "North Prince, at this point, why don't we speak frankly and directly about our business?"

With a light smile, Lu Chen continued, "Although the Qian Family informed me that Miss Qian has passed away, I've learned through some minor channels that Miss Qian is, in fact, not dead but is at the Qianhai Commercial Association of Great Wu. I fell for Miss Qian at first sight, and I quite fancy her.

I wonder if Princess Junwan would be willing to let go of such affection and allow Miss Qian to become my concubine?"

Wu Junwan looked serious as she stared into Lu Chen's eyes, trying to detect from his gaze whether his last statement was a mere jest.

However, with a smile on his face, Lu Chen too gazed into her eyes, showing no sign of jesting.

Wu Junwan remarked, "It is said that the North Prince is a playboy who loves beauty, and I did not believe it at first. Seeing it today, it seems the reputation is indeed well-deserved."

Wu Junwan had thought that because Lu Chen managed to break through to the Grandmaster Realm at such a young age, he wouldn't be too interested in the allure of beauty, but here he was, speaking such flirtatious and frivolous words to her, the epitome of a wastrel.

This man actually had the audacity to set his sights on her, the esteemed Princess Wu!

Lu Chen said, "A fair lady is a gentleman's favourite pursuit. I am not of lascivious nature, but I do like beautiful things."

Seeing that Lu Chen even compared her to an "object," her impression of him grew even worse.

Wu Junwan then said, "You should know that Miss Qian is unlikely to marry you, so please propose another condition, North Prince."

"Princess Junwan has gathered a lot of information about me through the Qianhai Commercial Association, so you should be very clear, the only hobby I have is women. Whatever condition Princess Junwan suggests, in my eyes, none are more valuable than Miss Qian."

Upon hearing these words, Wu Junwan felt a swirl of anger rising inside her, and a faint blush appeared on her cheeks.

This young man, barely seventeen or eighteen years old, was he truly making his moves on her?



Wu Junwan then stated, "Miss Qian is already in her thirties, which is not quite suitable for the North Prince."

Lu Chen replied, "Several women of mine are already in their thirties, and one is even carrying my child. My favorite type is mature women in their thirties, just like Miss Qian."

Coldly, Wu Junwan said, "I kindly ask that the North Prince stop jesting."

At that moment, Lu Chen spoke indifferently, "Since Princess Junwan is unwilling to give Miss Qian to me, let us drop the matter. You may leave now, Princess."

Seeing that Lu Chen had dismissed her, Wu Junwan thought to herself, could it be that the North Prince never intended to negotiate terms with her, using this conversation as a ruse?

She knew it; how could the North Prince possibly fancy her for her beauty.

Wu Junwan immediately stood up and left the pavilion. Watching her graceful figure leave, Lu Chen's lips curled up slightly.

Princess of Great Wu, right? One day she will be his woman.

Chapter 468: Retaliate against me? Great!\_1

Wu Junwan left the North Prince Mansion with some anger still lingering in her heart. Although she thought that Lu Chen's provocative words were only meant to dissuade her, she couldn't help feeling uncomfortable.

This young man had actually teased her, the Princess of Great Wu—and she was already in her thirties, old enough to be his mother.

Just as Wu Junwan was pondering how to make Lu Chen agree to let her sign the document, Pei Hong's voice came from outside the carriage.

"Princess Junwan, do you feel it?"

Wu Junwan lifted the carriage curtain and asked with confusion, "What is it, Sir Pei?"

Seeing that Wu Junwan seemed to have felt nothing, Pei Hong frowned and then said, "Just now at the North Prince Mansion, I felt my true qi became extremely chaotic, and a great sense of oppression arose in my heart, so heavy that I could hardly breathe."

Hearing this, Wu Junwan was stunned.

Why didn't she have such a feeling just now?

Wu Junwan then said, "Strange, why did I not experience this feeling?"

Pei Hong pondered for a moment, then said, "Could it be Zhuge Zhongguang exerting pressure on me?"

When Pei Hong put it that way, Wu Junwan also realized that if Zhuge Zhongguang truly was already a Heavenly Human Realm powerhouse, then such a being could indeed lock onto someone within their perceptive range, without having seen that person, and exert pressure on them.

Thinking of this, Wu Junwan's eyebrows slightly knitted together, and then she said, "Does that mean Zhuge Zhongguang has really broken through to the Heavenly Human Realm?"

Pei Hong said, "It is very likely. If it were only a Grandmaster, even when Zhuge Zhongguang was still a Grandmaster, he could not have imposed such a sense of oppression on me. I fear only a Heavenly Human Realm powerhouse could exert such a formidable pressure."

After Pei Hong said this, Wu Junwan fell into silence. Now, with the North Country having a Heavenly Human Realm powerhouse, and with the North Prince being a man of immense martial talents and ambitions, it seemed inevitable that there would be a war between North Country and Great Wu in the future.

The North Country would become the greatest threat to Great Wu.

It seemed that upon her return, she would have to persuade her father, the Emperor, to send an envoy to the Great Sum.

With the North Country boasting a Heavenly Human Realm powerhouse, Great Wu could not compete with the North Country in single combat, especially as the North Country was in a period of rapid development.

Although currently the North Country's population was not large, if one day Lu Chen conquered the entirety of Great Sum and became the next Sum Emperor, controlling all of Great Sum, then Great Wu would hardly be a match for them.

Although they wanted to stir up trouble between the North Country and the Great Sum court, inciting war between them, Wu Junwan did not want to see the Great Sum court easily defeated by the North Country.

If the Great Sum court fell, Great Wu would face an even stronger enemy, a disaster for Great Wu.

The Great Sum court still had the capability to contend with the North Country; hadn't there been recent rumors that the royal family of Great Sum had means to counter a Heavenly Human Realm being? Since Great Sum and North Country had the strength to fight each other, it was best for Great Wu to side with the Great Sum court, aiding them against the North Country.

Of course, the best outcome would be if the Great Sum court and North Country both suffered, allowing the Great Wu dynasty to reap the benefits.

In the evening.

Lu Chen was reviewing documents in his study when a voice rang out from outside the door, "Prince, there's news from Rongrong."

On hearing this, Lu Chen was slightly taken aback, then set down his pen and said to Lin Wanyun at the door, "Madam Lin, please come in."

No sooner had Lu Chen finished speaking than Lin Wanyun entered the study. She was wearing a long green dress this evening, wrapping her voluptuous figure, radiating the charm of a mature woman.

After Lin Wanyun entered the study, she closed the door and then brought a letter to Lu Chen.

Seeing the letter in Lin Wanyun's hand, Lu Chen asked curiously, "This letter..."

Lin Wanyun answered, "This is a letter that Rongrong had someone bring down from the mountain."

Lu Chen was surprised in his heart. Chen Wanrong was imprisoned by her master, yet she still managed to have a disciple bring a letter down from the mountain?

Lin Wanyun extended her jade hand and passed Chen Wanrong's letter to Lu Chen, who immediately took it and read it attentively.

After reading the contents of the letter, Lu Chen was even more startled, and amidst his surprise, he felt a touch of happiness—he hadn't expected Chen Wanrong's master not to be truly against her being his woman.

However...

Seeing Lu Chen staring blankly at the letter, Lin Wanyun asked curiously, "What did Rongrong say in the letter?"

Lin Wanyun had come directly to Lu Chen after receiving the letter and didn't know its contents.

Lu Chen replied, "She told me that her master has no intention of stopping me from being with her. However, her master will personally come down the mountain to see what kind of person I am after some time. She warned me to try not to focus too much on women during the time her master visits North Country."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's reply, Lin Wanyun asked in astonishment, "Really? The Honorable has actually agreed to your relationship?"

To Lin Wanyun, their Honorable was quite a strict person, especially concerning Chen Wanrong. Ever since the incident with Chu Yue, their Honorable had frequently reminded Chen Wanrong not to entertain relationships with men, even declaring that all men are no good.

Chapter 469: Retaliate against me? Great!\_2

Lin Wanyun had thought that upon hearing of Chen Wanrong's calamity caused by Lu Chen, the Honorable would rush to Yan County to harass Lu Chen. Unexpectedly, not only did the Honorable not trouble Lu Chen, they even agreed to their union.

Lu Chen said, "Rongrong also mentioned in the letter that her master said if I have talent, her master is even considering taking me as a disciple."

Lin Wanyun excitedly said, "If that's the case, then nothing could be better. In this way, the relationship between you and Rongrong will be justified."

If Lu Chen became the Honorable's disciple, then Lu Chen would be one of Mysterious Moon Palace's own. With Chen Wanrong choosing a partner from within Mysterious Moon Palace, surely no one in the palace would object anymore, right?

At this point, Lu Chen, looking at the letter in his hands, fell into deep thought. To be honest, he couldn't be certain whether the contents of the letter were true, for he had never seen Chen Wanrong's handwriting. Moreover, Chen Wanrong was still at Mysterious Moon Palace.

He didn't know whether she had been imprisoned or not, and since the letter was sent from Mysterious Moon Palace, it could also have been written by someone else using Chen Wanrong's name.

With this in mind, Lu Chen handed the letter to Lin Wanyun and said, "Madam Lin, could you see if the handwriting on this letter is Rongrong's?"

Upon hearing Lu Chen's question, Lin Wanyun instantly understood his concerns.

She promptly took the letter from Lu Chen's hand, glanced over it, and said, "This is indeed Rongrong's handwriting."

Lu Chen continued, "Did you ask the disciples of Mysterious Moon Palace about Rongrong's current situation there?"

Lin Wanyun answered, "I did. The disciples of Mysterious Moon Palace told me that after Rongrong returned, she met with the Honorable alone several times. It seems the Honorable hasn't punished her. She is still the Palace Master of Mysterious Moon Palace, and she is currently managing all affairs within the palace."

Lu Chen thought to himself that since Chen Wanrong's master had not punished her, did that mean the content of the letter was most likely true?

Was Chen Wanrong's master truly enlightened?

They actually agreed to their union so readily; he had thought her master would be extremely angry.

Lin Wanyun could see what Lu Chen was worried about and followed up, "In fact, it's not surprising that the Honorable agreed. When your mother married the Sum Emperor, she was initially opposed to it but ended up having to agree in the end."

"You and Rongrong have 'cooked the raw rice' already; what has happened has happened. Her opposition at this point would be pointless, so it's normal for her to agree to your union."

Lu Chen said, "That's also true."

However, Lu Chen still had some concerns, and he inquired to Lin Wanyun, "What kind of person is Rongrong's master?"

In response to this question, Lin Wanyun did not know how to answer right away. She pondered for a moment, then said, "A true fairy."

Lu Chen said with a smile, "I mean, what is her personality like?"

Lin Wanyun answered, "I haven't seen her many times and don't particularly understand her. However, I've heard from Rongrong that the Honorable is quite a strict person."

Lu Chen thought to himself, well, anyway, Chen Wanrong's master would be coming to Yan County sooner or later. He'd face the trouble when it came. By then, he would know what kind of person Chen Wanrong's master was.



He wasn't too keen on conflict with Mysterious Moon Palace, after all. Given that the palace possessed a weapon capable of destroying an entire mountain peak, the Honorable's background must not be simple. If direct conflict with Mysterious Moon Palace were to arise, the North Country might not be able to defeat them.

At that moment, Lin Wanyun continued, "Chen'er, if there is nothing else, I will go ahead and leave. You continue with your work."

Lu Chen, coming back to his senses, said, "Hmm, alright."

After Lin Wanyun turned around and left the study, Lu Chen also rose from his seat and went back to the main hall for dinner.

After dinner, Lu Chen's wives went their separate ways, each returning to their own rooms.

Chu Yuqin and Chu Qingli also returned to the courtyard where they stayed. Chu Qingli couldn't help thinking that now her sister had spoiled the scoundrel's progeny, that scoundrel probably wouldn't be spending the night in her sister's room anymore, so she decided to stay with Chu Yuqin for the night.

Chu Yuqin didn't say much, and after the two sisters entered the room, Chu Qingli curiously asked, "Sister, what does it feel like to be pregnant?"

Upon hearing this question, Chu Yuqin smiled and then said, "When you also carry Chen'er's child, won't you know what it feels like to be pregnant?"

As she said this, Chu Yuqin teased, "Qingli, you're suddenly asking me this question – could it be that you want to have a child?"

Chu Qingli hastened to say, "I don't want to bear that scoundrel's child at all, I'm just asking casually."

"As for you, sister, you're already married to him, you're now his woman, and still you call him 'Chen'er' every time. Don't you feel ashamed?"

Hearing this from Chu Qingli, Chu Yuqin's face flushed slightly. She had been married to Lu Chen for some time now and, although she had thought about changing how she addressed Lu Chen, for some reason, every time she addressed him, she couldn't help but call him "Chen'er."

The key point was that no one in the Prince's Mansion corrected this form of address, so she had unconsciously continued to use it without realizing. Although she was already married to Lu Chen, she still looked like an elder to Lu Chen in the mansion.

Chapter 470: Retaliate against me? Great!\_3

In fact, Chu Yuqin felt more shame in calling Lu Chen "darling" than calling him "Chen'er." Even though she had accepted Lu Chen, deep down she still couldn't get over the age difference, mainly because they had lived together for too long, and it wasn't something that could be changed in a short time.

At that moment, Chu Qingli continued to ask, "Sister, how come you got pregnant with that scoundrel's child so easily? Yelv Nanyan and the others have been with him so many times, and yet there's no sign of their bellies growing."

Chu Yuqin said with flushed cheeks, "I'm not quite sure myself."

Recently, Yelv Nanyan had repeatedly pulled her aside to quietly ask her how she got pregnant with Lu Chen's child, even wanting to find out the details of her intimate encounters with Lu Chen.

Now, within the Prince's Mansion, she was the only female martial artist to carry Lu Chen's child, and it had happened on the first try, which naturally aroused the curiosity of the other women.

Although it is normal to fall pregnant after intimacy between man and woman, just the thought that she was the only female martial artist to bear Lu Chen's child made Chu Yuqin feel somewhat ashamed. She couldn't help but wonder if the people in the Prince's Mansion were speculating whether she and Lu Chen had done something particularly special for her to conceive so effortlessly.

At this time, Chu Qingli looked at Chu Yuqin's rosy cheeks with a suspicious expression and said, "Sister, you didn't sleep with that scoundrel a long time ago, did you? That's why you got pregnant with his child so quickly."

Chu Yuqin replied, "What nonsense are you talking about? Do you think I'm like you?"

Hearing this, Chu Qingli pouted. She wanted to say that she had done it initially for Chu Yuqin's sake, but the words stayed at the tip of her tongue, as even she no longer believed that excuse.

Chu Qingli had since come to her senses. She realized that her agreement to transact with Lu Chen was nothing short of a voluntary offer of herself. She had once thought of Lu Chen as a contemptible person, and yet she had believed his words and agreed to a transaction of a hundred times with him, which was akin to seeking her own misery.

However, it was meaningless to discuss this now. Now that she had become one of the members of the Harem, no amount of words would change anything. Like her sister, she could no longer escape the clutches of that scoundrel for the rest of her life.

At this moment, Chu Qingli raised her hand and caressed Chu Yuqin's belly.

Chu Qingli murmured to herself, "I wonder if it's a boy or a girl."

Chu Yuqin smiled faintly and then replied, "Whether it is a boy or a girl, I believe Chen'er will love the child."

Chu Qingli said, "That's uncertain. Who knows if he just says he likes it, but deep down he's full of disdain."

"I think it's better to bear him sons. Didn't he say he treats all his children equally? Sister, just bear him a few more sons, divide his inheritance, and take revenge on him for bullying the two of us sisters."

Just as Chu Qingli finished speaking, Lu Chen's voice came from the doorway, "Take revenge on me? Great! I can't wait for you to take revenge."

As soon as he finished speaking, Lu Chen pushed the door and entered.

Seeing Lu Chen's unexpected arrival, Chu Qingli was taken aback.

Lu Chen then closed the door and said with a smile, "Qingli, what kind of skill is it to incite your sister to take revenge on me? Why don't you personally bear me a few dozen children to take your revenge?"

Hearing this, Chu Qingli snorted lightly and said, "I can't get pregnant. If I could, I wouldn't mind giving birth to dozens or even hundreds for you to see. I'd have my children carve up your estate, and then I'd like to see how you'd provide for so many children."

Lu Chen was momentarily taken aback by Chu Qingli's words. Of course, he knew that what Chu Qingli said was just said out of anger; regardless of how capable she was, Chu Qingli couldn't possibly bear hundreds of children for him alone.

However, Chu Qingli's words did remind Lu Chen that indeed, if one day he had more and more children, arranging for their future would indeed be a concern.

With his Realm determining he would not be limited to just the few women he had now and ensuring that he would not have only six children – and given that as the children grew up, they too would have children, and their children would continue to have more children – it was likely that Lu Chen would live to see many generations of his descendants.

Of course, tonight was not the time to think about that. He had come to ask Chu Yuqin some questions today.

Afterwards, Lu Chen walked straight to the bed and sat down next to Chu Qingli.

Seeing herself in the way of Lu Chen and her sister, Chu Qingli immediately got up, planning to yield her place to them and leave the room.

"Sister, I won't disturb you guys," she said.

At this point, Chu Qingli was ready to leave, but just as she got up, Lu Chen grabbed her wrist and gently pulled her tender body into his embrace, making Chu Qingli sit on his lap.

Lu Chen whispered in Chu Qingli's ear, "Qingli, what are you doing? I didn't say you could go. So why are you leaving?"

"Didn't you say you wanted to bear my child to take revenge? If you leave so quickly, how will you get pregnant?"

Hearing this, Chu Qingli was stunned, and her cold face instantly flushed with red, her heart racing with the thought that the scoundrel might actually intend to do that sort of thing in front of her sister.

Chu Yuqin's face also turned even redder, suspecting that Lu Chen's insistence on keeping Chu Qingli from leaving was probably driven by such thoughts.

Chu Qingli quickly said, "Sister is pregnant, Prince. If you want to, please go to my room instead."

Being alone with Lu Chen, Chu Qingli would not feel anything amiss, but in the presence of her own sister, she could not accept it internally. She didn't want to let her sister witness her in her moments of disgrace.

Lu Chen replied, "No need. We'll stay in this room. I have something to discuss with your sister."

As he spoke, Lu Chen's hands moved to Chu Qingli's belt and directly pulled it out.

Seeing Lu Chen was actually serious, Chu Qingli immediately struggled, "No, my sister is right here!"

Without another word, Lu Chen stood up, placed Chu Qingli on the bed, then leaned down and sealed her lips with a kiss.