

Es. Benefits 641

Chapter 641: Wu Junwan: A bet? What bet?_2

"Her Highness advises you best not think of entering the foggy zone. Within that zone, Celestials are nothing at all."

Upon hearing these words from Wu Junwan, Lu Chen felt a jolt in his heart.

Celestials are nothing at all?

Had the time finally come when Grandmasters were less than dogs and Celestials roamed everywhere?

However, this was not surprising. Yun Xianxian had told him during her last visit to the North Prince Mansion that this world was merely a Lower World, one that could not sustain too many powerful beings, which is why Celestials were basically considered Immortals here.

Curious, Lu Chen asked, "If the people in the foggy zone consider Celestials as nothing, why haven't they left the zone and directly occupied the major dynasties?"

Wu Junwan said, "The specific reason is unclear to Her Highness as well, but it seems there are some restrictions that prevent them from leaving the foggy zone. My master mentioned that her ability to leave the foggy zone was also coincidental."

After thinking for a while, Lu Chen continued, "Then why did your master eventually send you back?"

Wu Junwan said indifferently, "Because she saw that we had not let go of our worldly desires and had no intention of staying in her sect, so she simply sent us back when the restrictions loosened."

Lu Chen said, "I see."

Right then, Wu Junwan rose from her chair and walked towards the bed. As she walked, she said, "Since Her Highness has told you about the foggy zone, you should keep your word from earlier. It's time for you to leave."

No sooner had Wu Junwan finished speaking than a pair of strong arms wrapped around her slender waist from behind. At her ear, Lu Chen now said, "I only said I wouldn't sleep here tonight; I didn't say I would leave right away."

At these words, Wu Junwan's mind reeled, and then she said angrily, "You! You're breaking your promise!"

Lu Chen chuckled, "How have I broken my promise? I just said I wouldn't sleep here tonight. So, if I don't sleep, isn't that fine?"

"With a great beauty like you here, it's impossible for me to sleep."

No sooner had Lu Chen finished speaking than he pushed Wu Junwan onto the bed and immediately pressed down on her. Wu Junwan tried to struggle a bit, only to discover that her skill was restrained within her body, just like when Lu Chen had held her earlier that day.

It dawned on Wu Junwan that, as long as this young man made contact with her body, her skill would be restrained, unable to circulate.

Could this guy have placed some Incantation Skill on her?

Having cultivated for so many years in the Misty Immortal Sect, she had some understanding of incantations. Both the Yue Emperor and she had learned quite a few, though she rarely used them and had forgotten some.

Thinking this, Wu Junwan was certain: this must be some kind of incantation. No wonder this man dared to treat her that way, even daring to let her live in the inner courtyard. It turned out he had used some incantation on her.

The thought of possibly being cursed by Lu Chen's magic, Wu Junwan simply stopped struggling and let Lu Chen's hands roam freely over her body.

However, she was not just going to lie there and take it. She then asked, "The mysterious weapon of North Country must be related to the foggy zone, otherwise you wouldn't be so interested in it."

As Lu Chen pulled off Wu Junwan's embroidered shoes and toyed with her body, he replied, "I have no connection with the foggy zone. I'm just worried that one day an enemy with power beyond my understanding will come from the west, so I plan to prepare in advance."

"Knowing both oneself and the enemy, one can be more easily victorious in battle."

"Great Wu suffered such a defeat this time because it did not understand North Country at all, and didn't even know the power of the weapons used by North Country before rashly sending troops."

Wu Junwan spoke up, "You really don't need to worry..."

Feeling Lu Chen's hands all over her, Wu Junwan cut herself off with a startled cry, biting down on her teeth hard to steady her emotions. After a moment, she managed to say, "The foggy zone has restrictions; those inside can't possibly come out. There is no need for you to worry at all."

Lu Chen smiled and said, "I don't believe that restriction will always be effective. Since you and the Yue Emperor were able to enter and even come out of the foggy zone, and even your master came out from there, it shows that the restriction has significant flaws."

"Or perhaps that restriction could be broken. If one day it were to be broken and powerful enemies from the foggy zone emerged, and North Country was completely unprepared, wouldn't it mean only becoming slaves of a defeated country?"

Hearing Lu Chen say this, Wu Junwan found some reason in his words, prompting a slight change in her view of him.

Who would have thought this lecherous young man still had some merits, and knew to be wary even in times of safety.

Wu Junwan said, "Even if the people inside the foggy zone really do come out, even if you are well-prepared, you won't stand a chance against them."

"Take the Misty Immortal Sect where I was once a part of – the lowest Cultivators in the sect are all Celestials. Not to mention whether North Country has any Celestials at all, even if you do have some, how could one or two Celestials stand a chance against the Misty Immortal Sect?"

Hearing this, Lu Chen's hands momentarily stopped their movements. He did not respond immediately. What Wu Junwan said made sense; if the forces from the foggy zone truly broke their so-called restrictions and descended upon this world, it would indeed be a devastating one-sided assault.

Chapter 642: Wu Junwan: A bet? What bet?_3

If that was the case, then he must hurry to enhance his strength and become more powerful; as long as he broke through to the Heavenly Human Realm, he could rely on the system to continue advancing his Realm.

Wu Junwan's words instantly gave Lu Chen a sense of urgency. Originally, he thought that unifying the various dynasties was something that could be done slowly.

Now, he reckoned he could not afford to take it slow. What if the restrictions in the Misty Zone were broken by the people of that world before he unified the land? Wouldn't he then be crushed by the enemies within?

With this thought, Lu Chen's hands moved again. He yanked fiercely, and a piece of Wu Junwan's Phoenix Robe was torn away, revealing her smooth and tender skin.

The voluptuous and elegant body of Wu Junwan, her graceful figure, her soft skin, all suddenly ignited the wildness within Lu Chen.

Wu Junwan originally wanted to say something else, but in the next moment, her lips were sealed by Lu Chen, and she could only make "mmm" sounds.

Lu Chen's kisses rapidly entangled Wu Junwan's heartstrings. After a short while, Wu Junwan's eyes became blurred, and her mind was filled only with Lu Chen's figure.

Although Wu Junwan knew she might have been ensnared by Lu Chen's spell, she no longer cared. All she wanted now was to engage in conjugal acts with this man.

After kissing for a while, Lu Chen slightly propped himself up, their lips parted, and he gazed at Wu Junwan's alluring cheeks, saying in a deep voice, "Wanyan, you are so beautiful, I truly adore you."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan didn't respond; her arms instinctively wrapped around Lu Chen's neck, and she actively kissed Lu Chen's mouth, unable to hide the spring fervor that filled the air.

After an unknown length of time, Lu Chen embraced Wu Junwan's waist and whispered in her ear, "Wanyan, do you love me?"

By this time, Wu Junwan had completely succumbed. She no longer had her own will and subconsciously said, "Love... This Princess... loves you too..."

A slight smile appeared on Lu Chen's face, and he proceeded to ask, "Then am I your darling?"

"Yes..."

Lu Chen continued, prompting, "How about calling me 'darling'?"

"Dar... darling..."

"No, that's not right!"

Wu Junwan's mind suddenly snapped to clarity.

She instantly remembered the bet she made with Lu Chen. If within a month, she called Lu Chen 'darling' or confessed her love for him, she would lose, and she would have to spend her life in the North Prince Mansion, bearing his children.

Finished...

It had only been a few days, and she had actually lost...

But Wu Junwan's regret quickly dissipated without a trace, and all her troubles temporarily vanished. Her mind was filled only with the joy that Lu Chen brought to her.

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Dawn.

Magpies were chirping outside the window, and the servant girls of the North Prince Mansion were starting their shift changes.

The servant girls at Wu Junwan's door yawned, quickly leaving their posts, and hastily made their escape after the handover with the girls taking over.

Having stood guard all night, they couldn't bear it any longer. They were at the age where their hearts were just beginning to stir, and listening to something they shouldn't have all night left the young maids blushing and flustered.

Meanwhile, the room was still bustling with activity, and voices could faintly be heard from outside.

Inside the room.

Lu Chen, just like the last time, was pressing down on Wu Junwan's back, embracing her soft body, whispering sweet nothings in her ear.

After regaining her composure, Wu Junwan asked resentfully, "Do you treat all your women like this?"

Wu Junwan felt as if she had been treated as a Female Slave by Lu Chen, hence his wanton behavior.

Lu Chen laughed in response, "Not really. It mainly depends on the person. If the woman sharing my bed is below the fifth rank, I know how to be tender and cherish her."

"If the woman in my bed has reached the Master Realm or above, then I don't need to be tender and cherishing."

Wu Junwan was slightly taken aback. She was already a Grandmaster, which explained why the bastard didn't treat her as a person.

However, that wasn't the main issue for her. What irritated her the most was losing the bet to Lu Chen.

Having lost the bet, according to the stakes, she would have to live as Lu Chen's consort for life and bear his children.

At that moment, Lu Chen whispered in her ear, "My dear wife, do you remember our bet?"

Hearing this, Wu Junwan's complexion turned cold but being pinned underneath him, Lu Chen couldn't see the chill on her face.

Wu Junwan then said, "Bet? What bet? When have I ever made any bets with you?"

Wu Junwan thought, since Lu Chen had shamelessly stayed the previous day, she could just as well deny their bet.

As the Princess of Great Wu, she was the one who subdued other men, so how could she possibly be conquered by a boy over a decade younger than her?

This scoundrel even wanted her to bear his children; he could dream on.

Seeing Wu Junwan denying the bet, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Your denial is useless because you've already lost the bet. From now on, just stay obediently in the North Prince Mansion and bear my children."

Wu Junwan coldly said, "Unless you imprison me, I will never respect that so-called agreement."

Wu Junwan didn't bother to pretend any longer.

Seeing Wu Junwan's unwillingness to adhere to the agreement, Lu Chen didn't get angry. He simply said indifferently, "I like tough cookies. The last one who was this difficult is now restless without coming to the North Prince Mansion to practice calligraphy with me for a few days."

"I wonder how long you can hold out."

With that said, Lu Chen blew a breath into Wu Junwan's ear.

Wu Junwan didn't know who Lu Chen was talking about, but she realized that he probably had some means to make her submit.

This young man was so confident; could it be because he had cast some sort of Incantation Skill on her?

Chapter 643: The Arrival of the Great Sum Delegation_1

Although she suspected that Lu Chen had placed some sort of incantation skill on her, Wu Junwan did not sense anything wrong with her body. To determine whether she really was under the effect of an incantation skill, she decided to probe further.

She then said, "Even if you have used some incantation skill to control me and occupy my body continuously, it's impossible for me to truly like you."

Lu Chen was no fool; he immediately heard that Wu Junwan was testing him, "Are you testing me, thinking that I've placed some curse on you?"

Wu Junwan let out a light chuckle, "Isn't that so? As soon as your body comes into contact with mine, my skill will immediately be sealed. If you have not cursed me, how could such a thing happen?"

Having heard Wu Junwan's words, Lu Chen thought for a moment. Although the effects of Dragon and Phoenix Tea were excellent, they were indeed a bit too conspicuous.

Every time they made contact, the skill within her would be sealed, and any woman would notice something amiss.

The wives and concubines in his inner court must have noticed it too; they just hadn't brought it up directly. After all, they didn't need their skill for anything while sleeping with him, and they must have guessed it was related to him.

At this moment, Lu Chen did not respond directly to Wu Junwan's words. Instead, he inquired inwardly to the system, "System, is there a way for women who have drunk Dragon and Phoenix Tea to circulate their skill after coming into contact with me?"

[The host only needs to input his own spiritual power into a woman's Dantian, and then they will be able to use their skill again.]

Lu Chen was stunned for a moment, "Is it that simple?"

"Then why, when I have transferred such vast spiritual power to them before, haven't I seen them..."

Before Lu Chen could complete his thought internally, the system responded again.

[When the host performs dual cultivation with his wives and concubines, they can already use their skill. However, since a loop of spiritual power is formed during dual cultivation, they are not able to attack you either.]

Lu Chen instantly understood; he had previously thought that a woman's skill would be completely lost upon contact with him, but that was not the case.

When they were engaged in dual cultivation, his wives and concubines had already returned to normal. However, because they were in that state, their ability to mobilize skill was restricted by him, rendering them unable to attack him. Then again, they were in the middle of intimate relations at the time, so how could his wives and concubines possibly attack him?

Wu Junwan felt the silence of Lu Chen, who had become lost in thought behind her, and after a long period of quiet, she coldly said, "It seems I've hit the mark; you really have cast some incantation skill on me. "

Hearing this, Lu Chen laughed and said, "Do you really think it's a matter of an incantation skill?"

Wu Junwan replied, "Apart from an incantation skill, I can think of no other means that could so thoroughly seal my cultivation technique."

Lu Chen then released his spiritual power, gathering it into Wu Junwan's Dantian. The next moment, Wu Junwan felt full of strength; her skill had returned.

Once her skill had returned, the first thing Wu Junwan wanted to do was to turn the tables and take control. But as soon as she began to muster her skill, she realized she was still unable to move; she was still firmly pinned down by Lu Chen.

Wu Junwan was stunned.

What was going on? Her skill had returned, so why was she still unable to resist this young man?

While Wu Junwan was puzzled, Lu Chen immediately released the imposing aura of his body. Shocked by the pressure emanating from Lu Chen, Wu Junwan exclaimed, "You... You've already become a Celestial?"

"Impossible! How old are you this year?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Indeed, I am not a Celestial."

Wu Junwan quickly realized, "Even if you're not a Celestial, you've entered the Unity Realm."

Lu Chen then whispered in her ear, "How about it? Now that your skill has returned, you can try to resist me."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan felt a surge of determination despite knowing she probably was still no match for Lu Chen – she decided to resist and give it a try.

As Wu Junwan attempted to use her skill to resist, she suddenly perceived something odd within her body and then realized that her skill seemed to become connected to something else as she began to cultivate.

The next moment, she understood what was happening. She was still in a certain state with Lu Chen; as soon as she began to use her skill, it would affect Lu Chen's skill, but their skill had already formed a looped circuit. Most importantly, the greater part of that circuit was controlled by Lu Chen, so she could only use her skill if Lu Chen allowed it.

Without his consent, she was still unable to use her skill.

Wu Junwan was perplexed; what kind of technique was this?

She had never heard of such a thing where the skills of two people could merge together like this.

As Wu Junwan was trying to understand, Lu Chen suddenly began to circulate his skill, and in the next moment, Wu Junwan felt all her skill being mobilized.

She immediately experienced the sensation of her skill being driven by someone else and subconsciously said, "Don't!"

But Lu Chen paid her no mind, continuing to circulate his skill, and their internal forces once again started to revolve in a cycle. This time, Lu Chen began to play dirty, and Wu Junwan was left with no choice but to be like before.

After an indeterminable length of time, Wu Junwan finally accepted her fate; she truly had no way to resist at the moment.

Lu Chen then said, "So, even if you recover your skill, what can you really do?"

Chapter 644: The Arrival of the Great Sum Delegation_2

Wu Junwan asked weakly as she lay there, "How did you do it?"

Lu Chen had no intention of keeping secrets; he said directly, "It's a dual-cultivation technique that can be cultivated by a man and a woman together."

Wu Junwan asked, "Yin-Yang Balance? Demonic Cultivation from the Demon Sect?"

Lu Chen chuckled, "If it were Yin-Yang Balance, given the intensity of my actions, you would probably be a dried-up corpse by now."

"Haven't you noticed that your strength has been continuously increasing? Just a few days ago, I used this method to help you break through to the Grandmaster Realm."

Wu Junwan thought about it for a moment; although this cultivation technique was very similar to the evil techniques of the Demon Sect, judging by the results, it really didn't seem like Yin-Yang Balance.

If it were an evil cultivation from the Demon Sect, considering Lu Chen's way of doing things, she would probably be close to death by now, especially after that time: two nights and one day later, it would be odd if she didn't die, yet instead, she had broken through to the Grandmaster Realm.

So, could it be that this technique was actually a righteous cultivation technique?

Wu Junwan immediately realized the crux of the matter and quickly said, "There can't possibly be such a technique in this world. Who gave you this technique?"

At this moment, Lu Chen whispered into her ear, "My dear wife, just because you don't know about it, doesn't mean it doesn't exist in this world."

Wu Junwan didn't believe Lu Chen's words; she stuck to her conjecture that this technique must come from another world, and it was very likely from the Misty Region.

Linking this to Lu Chen's earlier inquiries about the Misty Region, this further solidified Wu Junwan's guess.

At that time, one of Lu Chen's hands was caressing Wu Junwan's smooth and tender body, while he asked, "This cultivation technique is not something that just anyone can practice. Do you know what conditions are required to cultivate it?"

Wu Junwan asked, "What conditions?"

Lu Chen answered, "To practice this technique, a man and a woman need to like each other, to have affection between them."

"If one party lacks feelings for the other, then this technique cannot be cultivated."

Wu Junwan immediately understood what Lu Chen was implying; he was suggesting that she liked him, and that was why they could cultivate this technique together.

Wu Junwan immediately denied it, "Impossible!"

"How could I possibly like you? This condition is definitely not necessary to practice this technique."

Lu Chen said, "No matter how much you deny it, it's futile."

Wu Junwan felt somewhat chaotic inside; she dared not believe this was true. If what Lu Chen said was true, didn't that mean she liked this man?

Although she indeed found his body appealing and had long considered him a handsome man, she was only attracted to Lu Chen's physical appearance. How could she have feelings for him? As someone who lived in the Imperial Palace, it was impossible for her to have such emotions.

Lu Chen said, "Alright, the day has broken, and I have things to attend to, so let's not discuss this matter for now."

"In any case, just understand that you can no longer be without me."

This time, Wu Junwan did not continue to refute Lu Chen's words. The next moment, Lu Chen got up from her body, then prepared to head to the bathhouse. Just then, Wu Junwan suddenly rolled over and struck a palm toward Lu Chen.

As Wu Junwan's palm was about to reach Lu Chen's body, it was as if a force held her back, making it impossible for her palm to go any further.

At that moment, Lu Chen turned his head to look at Wu Junwan, seeing that she had just been about to make a move against him, yet her hand had stopped mid-air. Lu Chen's mouth curved slightly upward, "I was right, wasn't I? Even if you have regained your skill, what can you do? You can't bear to strike me."

Wu Junwan looked at her hand, stopped mid-air, in disbelief; she truly couldn't bring herself to do it.

He had treated her like this, tormented her as if she were a female slave, and yet she was unable to make a move against him.

Previously, when she couldn't act against Lu Chen, she could make excuses that she was under Lu Chen's control and couldn't act against him.

But this time was different. She had recovered her skill, and with Lu Chen's back to her, she could totally attack Lu Chen, yet she just couldn't do it.

She was not restricted by any power; it was simply that she could not bring herself to act, feeling a pang of pain in her heart the instant she tried to strike.

While Wu Junwan was lost in thought, Lu Chen quickly grabbed her wrist and pulled her slender body up from the bed, then carried her in a princess hold towards the bathhouse.

Wu Junwan instantly became incredibly calm, no longer struggling, instead wrapping her arms around Lu Chen's neck, allowing him to carry her to the bathhouse.

Once inside the bathhouse, with Lu Chen embracing Wu Junwan as they sat in the bath, she finally spoke, "I'm a woman with tremendous ambition."

Wu Junwan's tone had softened considerably, and she no longer referred to herself as "this palace."

Hearing Wu Junwan's unexpected remark, Lu Chen said indifferently, "I know."

Wu Junwan continued, "Aren't you afraid that after becoming your woman, I will turn the North Country upside down?"

Lu Chen said, "If I were afraid, I wouldn't have let you into the North Prince Mansion, nor would I have made you my woman."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's response, Wu Junwan fell silent. After a while, she continued to ask, "Do you truly plan to unify the various dynasties?"

As Lu Chen gently stroked Wu Junwan's jade back, he said, "If it were before, I actually didn't have a strong desire to unite the world. But now, things are different."

Chapter 645 The Arrival of the Great Sum Delegation_3

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"You've made me realize that there are even more powerful beings within the Mystic region.

If I don't hurry to unify this world and prepare for war with the powerhouses inside the Mystic region, the day the region's restrictions are lifted and the enemies inside emerge, it's not only possible that the country I belong to will be destroyed, but my women could be captured and turned into female slaves," Lu Chen said.

"I certainly don't wish to experience what it's like to have one's country annihilated."

Wu Junwan asked, "Must you wipe out the other dynasties? Is it impossible to cooperate with them?"

Lu Chen replied with a smile, "That's a somewhat naive thought. The interests of each dynasty are different; they can never be truly unified. Even if the major dynasties combine forces to temporarily stop the invasion from the Mystic region, all the enemy needs to do is to sow discord or offer benefits to the other dynasties, and this loose alliance would crumble."

After thinking it over, Wu Junwan realized that Lu Chen was right. If the alliance was only superficial, it would be difficult to mount a true resistance against the enemies. Perhaps some dynasties would even surrender to the emerging enemies from the Mystic region. By then, it would only add insult to injury for the other dynasties of this world.

Despite understanding the logic, Wu Junwan acknowledged that unifying the world was the best way to consolidate strength. However, as someone who might be on the losing side, she couldn't help but feel despondent.

If Lu Chen was determined to unify the world, Great Wu might be swallowed up, and her dream of becoming Empress would shatter completely. She now somewhat regretted informing Lu Chen about the Mystic region.

If Lu Chen hadn't known about the existence of powerful enemies in the Mystic region, he might not have been in such a rush to annihilate the other dynasties. Now that he felt the pressure, he would surely speed up the unification process.

Wu Junwan suddenly felt guilty as if she had betrayed Great Wu.

Seeing Wu Junwan fall silent, Lu Chen said with a smile, "If you want to be an Empress, why don't you wait until I've unified the world? Then I can allocate a piece of land for you to establish your own country and experience what it's like to be an Empress."

Wu Junwan regained her composure and said indifferently, "No need."

She wanted to be the Empress of Great Wu, not play house in confinement.

Lu Chen continued, "In the future, just stay in the North Prince Mansion. If you want to enter politics, I will also give you a chance."

Wu Junwan asked, "Do you dare to share power with me?"

Lu Chen replied, "Since we are family, what is there to fear?"

Wu Junwan said, "This much trust in a woman, you will suffer for it one day."

Lu Chen responded, "I don't trust just any woman; I only trust my women."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Wu Junwan felt an indescribable sensation in her heart.

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Several days later,

The diplomatic mission sent by the Crown Prince, Lu Yi, arrived in North Country.

Upon arriving at Yan County, the mission members could hardly believe that this place was the same Yan County.

The road to Yan County was incredibly spacious, with seven or eight main thoroughfares. Most importantly, the ground of Yan County was paved.

Entering Yan County, what met their eyes was the bustling city; carriages moved back and forth, the streets were crowded with people. Despite the spacious and lively atmosphere, the streets were very clean and not the least bit chaotic, something even the Capital city couldn't achieve.

Most important was that the houses in Yan County appeared very sturdy, and compared with the Capital city, there were many more tall buildings standing more than six or seven stories tall.

If it were a question of prosperity and grandeur, Yan County had already surpassed the Great Sum Capital city, but what mattered most was the vibrancy; Yan County was evidently more dynamic than the Capital city.

Currently, the political struggle in the Capital city was intense, with people being embroiled in political intrigue almost daily, or becoming victims of it. Consequently, the citizens of the Capital city had become very cautious, even avoiding discussing matters of Great Sum in public places.

Yan County, on the other hand, was different; newsboys selling newspapers were everywhere on the streets. People discussed the impact of North Prince's various reforms. Of course, most didn't just critique but also talked about the benefits.

Qin Feng, the leader of the diplomatic mission, was somewhat incredulous at what he saw in Yan County. He had never imagined that the capital of a feudal state could be more prosperous than the Capital city of the Suzerain.

This reflected North Prince's high level of governance.

Qin Feng felt sentimental. The North Prince, once considered inept, had, within just a few years, transformed North Country into a powerful and prosperous nation.

Qin Feng began to worry that North Prince would likely refuse the Crown Prince's overture.

North Prince already possessed such formidable power; he could easily march south to seize the throne. Why would he support the Crown Prince?

Although uncertain, Qin Feng had no choice but to pluck up the courage to meet with North Prince. Being part of the Crown Prince's faction, he naturally had to act on his behalf.

Within the diplomatic convoy, several carriages were adorned with red curtains, clearly indicating that they carried women.

A woman inside one carriage lifted the curtain, gazing at the bustling scene outside. Her expression was devoid of emotion, as if she had become numb to the world.

The Crown Prince's mission to North Prince included many opulent gifts aside from gems and silver—there were also beautiful women.

Inside those carriages with red curtains were the beauties meant for North Prince, including Qin Yuwei, the woman who had just lifted the curtain to look outside.

She was from the Qin Family of the South, an Aristocratic Family that had been destroyed, prompting her to seek refuge with Qin Feng.

Although Qin Feng was distantly related to the Southern Qin Family, he had sided with the Sum Emperor from the start, so his family was unaffected when the Emperor eradicated the Aristocratic Families.

Chapter 646 What Kind of Person is Your Prince?_1

After fleeing to Qin Feng's home, Qin Yuwei had hoped that Qin Feng would take her in out of their former familial ties, or perhaps offer her a way out. To her surprise, Qin Feng sold her without a second thought.

However, Qin Feng didn't send her to the Ministry of Punishments; instead, he handed her over to Lu Yi, trying to ingratiate himself.

Qin Yuwei was exceptionally beautiful, and Qin Feng thought Lu Yi would like her.

Lu Yi did indeed take Qin Yuwei in, but as the Prince, he had too many women offered to him already. His life was not short of beautiful women, so he merely kept Qin Yuwei confined in a courtyard, raising her like a canary.

Lu Yi wasn't like Lu Chen, who would sleep with any beautiful woman he saw. On one hand, he was a Martial Artist who couldn't indulge in such distractions, and on the other, he already had plenty of women.

He accepted Qin Yuwei mainly to give face to Qin Feng. If he refused such offerings, it would signal his reluctance to align with the other party. Gifts that should be accepted must be accepted. Moreover, Lu Yi kept many beauties to give away as well.

Politics can be simple at times, using women as a political tool is one such strategy.

When Lu Yi decided to win over Lu Chen, he first thought of Qin Yuwei. She was still a maiden and astoundingly beautiful; he believed Lu Chen, who had a penchant for women, would certainly like her.

Qin Yuwei, gazing out of the window, felt an endless desolation in her heart.

Ever since the Qin Family's downfall, she had been hiding here and there. In the end, she had thought Qin Feng would shelter her, but it hadn't occurred to her that he wouldn't care about their blood relation.

It made sense, after all. Qin Feng was aligned with the Sum Emperor, and the Aristocratic Family was targeted for annihilation. It was normal for Qin Feng to fear harboring her.

Looking through the window, Qin Yuwei felt like a canary caged within, her fate to be passed from one to another.

She had heard rumors about the North Prince and believed that once she entered the North Prince Mansion, she would be subjected to inhuman treatment. Once the North Prince tired of her, he would likely send her straight to a brothel for other men's amusement.

Thinking of her tragic fate, thoughts of suicide surfaced in Qin Yuwei's mind.

The Great Sum delegation arrived quickly at the accommodations arranged by the North Country. This was not a state visit, so Qin Feng wouldn't meet Lu Chen at the Hall of Political Affairs but in private.

Afternoon.

The view was splendid, with light clouds and gentle breeze; Lu Chen was sitting in a pavilion of the outer courtyard, waiting for the arrival of the Great Sum delegation.

As Lu Chen sat in the pavilion sipping tea, a light breeze blew, and in the next moment, Zhuge Zhongguang appeared in the courtyard.

Setting down his teacup, Lu Chen asked, "Great Scholar, what kind of terms do you think they will propose to persuade this Prince to side with the Crown Prince?"

Zhuge Zhongguang stroked his beard, smiling slightly, "In this old official's opinion, they've likely guessed that Your Highness plans to head South to fight for the throne, so they will spare no expense to ingratiate themselves, making you feel they pose no threat and you needn't bother competing for the throne."

Hearing Zhuge Zhongguang's words, Lu Chen also smiled. If the Crown Prince sent the delegation to the North Country for that purpose, their efforts were in vain.

He was determined to fight for the throne, knowing only by taking control of the entire Great Sum could he have the power to unify the kingdoms.

For him, the resources of Great Sum were crucial, not only material but also demographic. Abundant population was what he needed to conquer the world, so the throne he would certainly vie for. However, with about a year to go, he was in no rush yet.

He could pretend to agree and then find an excuse to head South later.

After a while, a female guard entered the courtyard, "Your Highness, the delegation from the court has arrived."

Lu Chen replied indifferently, "Let them in!"

"Yes."

Escorted by the guards of the Prince's Mansion, Qin Feng and several delegation members entered the North Prince Mansion, making their way to Lu Chen's courtyard.

Upon seeing Lu Chen, Qin Feng hurriedly paid his respects, "Your humble servants greet the North Prince!"

Lu Chen grunted, "Dispense with the formalities."

Together, Qin Feng and the others said, "Thank you, North Prince!"

As Lu Chen glanced over Qin Feng's profile, intending to speak, he noticed a woman in a light-pink sheer gown standing behind Qin Feng, her hair beautifully coiffed with a peach blossom hairpin, her body elegant and poised. Without using the system, Lu Chen knew her rating would surely be over ninety.

He still proceeded to use the system to identify the woman.

[Name: Qin Yuwei]

[Identity: The remnant of the Qin Family from the South, 23 years old, a sixth-grade Martial Artist. After her family's fall, she intended to seek refuge with the Qin Family in the Capital city but was

instead given to Prince Lu Yi by Qin Feng. Prince Lu Yi, not favoring sexual indulgence, did not touch her and kept her in a certain mansion; she remains a maiden to this day.

To win over the North Prince, Prince Lu Yi decided to present her as a gift. (She seems to know some things others do not)]

[Rating: 92]

[Favorability: 50]

Seeing Qin Yuwei's information, Lu Chen smiled slightly. His brother was indeed a decent man, not partaking in the pleasures of beauties himself but thinking of his sibling.

Noticing that Lu Chen's gaze lingered on Qin Yuwei, Qin Feng felt a surge of joy, confirming the rumors were true. Although the North Prince had indeed shed the label of "good-for-nothing," his lustfulness was very real.

Chapter 647 What Kind of Person is Your Prince?_2

As soon as Qin Yuwei entered the courtyard, the North Prince's gaze was captured by her and he couldn't look away.

At that moment, Qin Feng took the initiative to speak, "Prince, you came to the bitterly cold North at the age of sixteen and not only repeatedly defended North Country, protecting the gates of Great Sum but also developed North Country to its current prosperity. You even defeated Great Sum's most threatening enemy. Your contributions..."

Seeing Qin Feng go on and on, Lu Chen knew that Qin Feng was definitely about to heap a pile of flattery on him and he quickly interrupted, "Enough, enough!"

"Lord Qin has come all this way, surely not just to sing praises about this Prince, right?"

Qin Feng said with a smile, "Of course not."

"The Crown Prince believes that the North Prince's toils and merits should be rewarded. However, due to the chaotic situation in the imperial court, every time the Crown Prince proposes a reward for you, ministers from other factions strongly obstruct it. Therefore, the Crown Prince has decided to take out his own gold, silver, and jewels to reward you as thanks for your contributions to Great Sum."

Having said this, Qin Feng gave an order to the people behind him, "Bring them in!"

The next moment, the guards of the North Prince Mansion carried in dozens of large chests into the courtyard.

Qin Feng continued speaking, "The Crown Prince knows that you also fancy beauties, so he has specially selected some exceptionally beautiful girls as gifts for you. They are all virgins."

As he spoke, Qin Feng turned his head towards Qin Yuwei, and his face instantly changed, coldly saying, "From now on, you belong to the Prince, go and serve the Prince."

Qin Yuwei said expressionlessly, "Yes, Lord Qin."

Then Qin Yuwei walked towards Lu Chen, and Lu Chen did not stop her.

Soon, Qin Yuwei stood behind Lu Chen.

Lu Chen glanced at the chests filled with gold and jewels and smiled, "Lord Qin, you might as well stop beating around the bush. Just say what you want to say."

"The Crown Prince wouldn't send over so many things without reason."

Qin Feng immediately said, "The Prince is astute!"

"Prince, the Crown Prince plans to support your independence in establishing a dynasty in North Country, and he's willing to cede all the land north of Qi Country to you."

Lu Chen laughed, "Is the Crown Prince afraid that this Prince will go south to fight for the throne?"

Hearing the unfriendly tone in Lu Chen's voice, Qin Feng's forehead started to break out in cold sweat.

"Prince, Yan County is now even more prosperous than the Capital city. I've heard that the common people in North Country no longer suffer from hunger and cold, living better than the common people in other parts of Great Sum."

"For the Prince, the current Great Sum is just a hot mess. Now that you have developed North Country to this extent, why would you need that throne?"

"If the Prince were to go south, with the military strength of North Country, seizing the throne would indeed not be difficult. But even if the Prince captures the throne, with the things you have done in North Country, the common people of Great Sum would hardly agree to you sitting on that seat. If they start rebelling, it would be another big trouble for you."

Hearing Qin Feng's words, Lu Chen smiled faintly. It seems Zhuge Zhongguang was right; Lu Yi or rather the people around Lu Yi have indeed realized the possibility of my moving south, which is why they're so anxious to send an envoy to North Country.

Lu Chen then said, "You do make some sense."

"However, for North Country to develop, it needs a massive amount of resources, and its land is not fertile, so it's hard to grow crops. Although it now seems that the common people in North Country don't suffer from hunger anymore, a large reason for that is because we're buying a lot of foodstuff from other dynasties.

If one day other dynasties refuse to sell us food, the common people of North Country might once again live through those days of sheer hunger."

"So, for the sake of the bellies of North Country's common people, the North Prince also has to fight for that position."

Qin Feng wiped the sweat from his forehead and immediately said, "Prince, your consideration for the well-being of North Country's common people shows you to be a benevolent ruler."

"But you should be very clear, if you lead troops southwards, it would inevitably lead to a massacre, and countless people would die."

"Since you are so benevolent, you should not start a war willingly."

Hearing Qin Feng's words, Lu Chen was almost amused into laughter, and with a cold laugh, he said, "So, are you saying that the common people of North Country deserve to starve and freeze?"

As he spoke, Lu Chen released his aura in an instant. Qin Feng and the delegation immediately knelt down, and Qin Feng quickly said, "Of course not, the Crown Prince has thought of a better solution."

Lu Chen said, "Oh? Let's hear it then. What's this solution?"

"Once the Prince has established his own dynasty, Great Sum will immediately sign a perpetual alliance with you. From then on, whatever North Country needs, Great Sum will provide, and the caravans from North Country can trade freely within the territory of Great Sum, without any restrictions on any kind of trade, including food."

"In this way, North Country will no longer have to worry about a lack of food."

"And by doing so, you, Prince, won't have to deal with those landlords or Aristocratic Families and can concentrate on developing North Country."

Hearing this, Lu Chen burst into laughter. After laughing for a while, Lu Chen then said, "My older brother is really considerate! To think that he would go to such lengths!"

Seeing that Lu Chen seemed to be in a better mood, Qin Feng finally breathed a sigh of relief. Just when Qin Feng was about to say something else, Lu Chen spoke, "The Crown Prince wouldn't have you speak of benefits alone. Tell me, aside from supporting this Prince's independence, what are the conditions, or rather, what does he want this Prince to do?"

Chapter 648 What Kind of Person is Your Prince?_3

Qin Feng said, "Prince, you are wise. The Crown Prince wants you to publicly support him, and also to send troops to fend off other seigniors at the crucial moment."

Lu Chen's lips curved slightly upward, betraying a charmingly wicked smile.

Before Qin Feng could continue, Lu Chen interjected, "Good, I agree!"

Seeing how quickly Lu Chen had agreed, Qin Feng and the others were momentarily stunned; they had thought the North Prince would demand more conditions, not that he would agree so readily.

Qin Feng asked with some disbelief, "Prince, you really agree?"

Lu Chen said indifferently, "The Crown Prince is my elder brother; of course, I should give him face. Moreover, Great Sum has always followed the principle of primogeniture. After several hundred years of decay in our customs, it's time to return to the right path."

"Besides, the Crown Prince has shown such sincerity—offering treasures and gold, ceding lands, and even presenting such a beautiful woman to me. If I didn't agree, wouldn't I be ungrateful?"

As he spoke, Lu Chen turned to glance at Qin Yuwei standing beside him.

Feeling Lu Chen's gaze, Qin Yuwei couldn't help trembling involuntarily as if she were prey under a beast's watchful eye.

Thinking about her fate from now on, Qin Yuwei felt an immense sadness.

At this moment, Lu Chen suddenly thought of something and then said, "Right, when you go back, tell the Crown Prince to send more beauties to me in the future. Here in North Country, where it's freezing cold and poor, there are no beautiful women to be found."

Qin Feng hastened to say, "Yes, yes, your humble servant will inform the Crown Prince upon returning, to send more beauties to you, Prince."

It was then that Lu Chen waved his hand dismissively, "All right, if there's nothing else, you can all go back and rest."

Qin Feng rose and said, "Thank you, Prince!"

Afterward, Qin Feng led the envoys out of the courtyard and away from the North Prince Mansion. As they left, they all wore radiant smiles—after all, their mission was complete and the North Prince had indeed agreed to the Crown Prince's request.

As long as the North Prince remained content to stay in the North Country and took Lu Yi's side, then upon the Sum Emperor's demise, Lu Yi would likely ascend the throne with ease.

Given some time, Great Sum might eventually wield the same weapons as North Country, and by then, Great Sum could become even more powerful than North Country.

If their plan succeeded, the envoys who had been part of today's mission to North Country would see their status greatly elevated, giving Qin Feng and the others much cause for celebration.

After Qin Feng and the envoys had left the courtyard, Lu Chen ordered the servants of the Prince's Mansion to carry away the chests in the courtyard. Before long, aside from the maids, only Lu Chen, Zhuge Zhongguang, and Qin Yuwei remained.

Ignoring Qin Yuwei, Lu Chen asked Zhuge Zhongguang, "Great Scholar, do you think I should have agreed to the Crown Prince's request?"

Zhuge Zhongguang answered with a smile, "Prince, don't you already have the answer in your heart?"

Although Lu Chen had verbally agreed earlier, Zhuge Zhongguang could tell at a glance that Lu Chen was merely feigning agreement. If Lu Yi truly faced danger necessitating the North Country's troops to march south, Lu Chen would surely seize the opportunity to take the throne for himself during the southward campaign.

At this time, Zhuge Zhongguang continued, "Prince, if there's nothing else, your humble servant will return to attend to state affairs."

With that, Zhuge Zhongguang glanced at Qin Yuwei, knowing that Lu Chen might be preoccupied with important matters next, and hence he did not wish to disturb any further.

Lu Chen replied, "Hmm, very well."

The next moment, Zhuge Zhongguang left the courtyard, leaving only Lu Chen and Qin Yuwei in the company of the maids.

Qin Yuwei became extremely nervous; her hands involuntarily clutched at her dress, uncertain of what was to come.

Lu Chen then said indifferently, "Miss Qin, did you learn how to serve someone properly while you were in the East Palace?"

Hearing this question, Qin Yuwei was momentarily taken aback. She quickly reviewed the recent events and realized Qin Feng had not told the North Prince her surname, so how did he know she was a Qin?

Although curious, Qin Yuwei didn't voice this query. Instead, she answered, "Your Majesty, the female officials of the East Palace have taught this servant."

Ever since Qin Feng had sent her to the East Palace, the female officials had taught her daily how to please men. She had long lost the temperament of the Qin Family's miss and had been forced to learn those things.

Under the instruction of those female officials and though she had not yet practiced, Qin Yuwei was already very familiar with the affairs of men and women.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Good, I will give you an opportunity. If you serve me well tonight, you will be free to move about Yan County in the future, and I can even grant you the status of a concubine."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Qin Yuwei could scarcely believe it was true.

She had been prepared to be confined in the North Prince Mansion for life, but now Lu Chen was willing to let her leave, and though she could only move about in Yan County, it was still far better than lifetime confinement in the North Prince Mansion.

Qin Yuwei immediately said, "Thank you, Prince! This servant will serve you diligently!"

Lu Chen then told the maids, "Take her to bathe and change her clothes."

"Yes, Prince," they replied.

The maids then led Qin Yuwei away.

Lu Chen sat in the courtyard for a while longer before rising and retiring to his study.

As Qin Yuwei bathed, she found her mind wandering. She couldn't shake the feeling that the North Prince was not as she had imagined.

Then, she asked the maids by the pool, "May I ask, what kind of person is your Prince?"

Chapter 649 Qin Yuwei's Illness_1

...

Upon hearing Qin Yuwei's question, the maids by the side of the bath looked at each other hesitantly.

They did not recognize Qin Yuwei, so they did not dare to speak carelessly in her presence.

At this time, the maid who had led Qin Yuwei here spoke to the others, "This young lady is the new wife of the Prince."

After hearing this, the maids finally came to their senses, and one of them said, "So you are the wife of the Prince! What is your family name, Madam?"

Qin Yuwei answered, "Qin."

The maid who had led the way then said, "Madam Qin need not worry. Although there are rumors that the Prince is debauched, in truth, he is merely fond of beauty, and he treats his wives and concubines especially well."

"Now that the Prince has decided to take you in as his concubine, all you have to do is look forward to a life of luxury."

"The Prince's harem is also peaceful, without much backstabbing and scheming, so Madam doesn't need to fear being plotted against."

Upon hearing these words, Qin Yuwei was momentarily stunned. She hadn't expected a maid to dare to comment on the affairs of the North Prince's harem. Although she had just casually asked them what kind of person the North Prince was, she hadn't really expected these maids to have an answer for her.

But the maid not only answered; she even divulged the internal situation of the North Prince Mansion. This indicated that the management of the North Prince's inner court was very lax indeed, allowing maids to discuss matters of the Prince's harem.

Thinking about it this way, perhaps the North Prince was not as fearsome as imagined.

In fact, the atmosphere within the North Prince Mansion's inner court was indeed relatively relaxed. Lu Chen was good to the maids, but ordinary maids did not dare to casually discuss the matters of the North Prince Mansion, only whispering among themselves from time to time.

Qin Yuwei didn't know that the maid who had brought her here was far from simple; the maid was from the Qian Family, which was on very good terms with Lu Chen. Therefore, her status within the Prince's Mansion was relatively high, giving her more audacity.

At this moment, Qin Yuwei said to the maid, "Thank you for telling me all this."

The maid said, "Madam Qin, you're too polite. It's this servant's duty."

Qin Yuwei continued to inquire, "May I ask another question? How many women does the Prince have?"

The maid replied, "That, this servant does not know."

Although the maid knew the number of wives and concubines in the Prince's inner court, in her eyes, their great Prince was so handsome and charming that countless stunning women outside must have had joyful nights with him; thus, she truly did not know how many women the North Prince had.

Hearing the maid say she didn't know, Qin Yuwei did not pursue the question further, but from her response, Qin Yuwei realized the North Prince truly was a promiscuous man; otherwise, even the maids of the Prince's Mansion wouldn't know how many women he had.

For a moment, Qin Yuwei began to worry about herself again. She feared that Lu Chen, after tiring of her, might give her away just like the Crown Prince treated her as a gift for the North Prince.

In this era, a concubine had no significant status and could be given away freely, especially in a Prince's Mansion.

In the households of some Princes, a concubine was merely a tool. If a powerful guest or a visitor came to the Mansion, those Princes would have their concubines attend to the guests, even joining them in bed.

If the guest took a liking, they would simply give the concubine away as a gift.

Therefore, Qin Yuwei did not feel particularly reassured just because she had the status of a concubine; her heart remained uneasy.

Qin Yuwei continued to probe, "Does the Prince have a habit of giving his concubines to others?"

Hearing this question, the maid from the Qian Family instantly understood Qin Yuwei's concern and answered, "The Prince has a very strong possessive attitude toward his women. Once they are his, he does not give them to anyone else. Madam Qin, please be at ease."

Upon hearing this, Qin Yuwei finally breathed a sigh of relief. As long as the North Prince wasn't in the habit of giving his women away randomly, she wouldn't have to fear being treated like an object.

After Qin Yuwei finished her bath and came out from the bathroom, the maids helped her change into a magnificent dress and dressed her up.

Sitting in front of the vanity table, Qin Yuwei looked at her reflection in the mirror, feeling incredibly nervous.

Although the ladies-in-waiting had taught her how to serve someone while she was in the East Palace and had shown her many erotic illustrations, she had never experienced it for real. This was her first time attending to a man.

Inside, Qin Yuwei was still anxious. She feared she would not satisfy Lu Chen. If the North Prince was not pleased with her technique, he might never come to her again. If she failed to secure the North Prince's favor, her fate would be grim.

Time slowly passed.

As evening fell,

Qin Yuwei finally heard the maids outside greeting the North Prince, but Lu Chen did not enter the room immediately.

At that moment, Lu Chen asked the maid at the door, "Has she had tea?"

He was naturally referring to the Dragon and Phoenix Tea, to which the maid promptly responded, "Reporting to the Prince, the lady has already had tea from the Prince's Mansion."

Without further questions, Lu Chen then pushed open the door and entered the room.

At that moment, Qin Yuwei was dressed in a light red gown, sitting by the bed, quiet and gracefully composed, stirring one's emotions.

Head bowed, her hands clenched into fists resting between her legs, her delicate body uncontrollably trembling ever so slightly, she appeared exceedingly nervous.

Lu Chen walked to the bed without hesitation and sat down. He didn't immediately lay hands on Qin Yuwei but instead asked, "After the Qin Family was destroyed, you must have suffered quite a bit, haven't you?"

Hearing this, Qin Yuwei froze.

She hadn't expected Lu Chen to know that she came from the Qin Family.

How did he know?

...

Qin Yuwei raised her head at this point, turning to Lu Chen with a puzzled look, "Prince... Prince, do you know who I am?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "The eldest miss of the Qin Family from the South, I didn't get it wrong, did I?"

Seeing Lu Chen openly revealing her identity, Qin Yuwei felt somewhat at a loss; she had not expected the North Prince to truly be aware of it.

Lu Chen continued, "This is the North Country; even as a member of the Qin Family, you don't have to worry here, no one will lay a finger on you."

"Apart from you, are there any other survivors from your Qin Family?"

Facing this question, Qin Yuwei fell silent.

She didn't know what Lu Chen's purpose was in asking this—was it to find out the remnants of the Qin Family and then annihilate them, or was it just a casual inquiry?

Seeing that Qin Yuwei did not directly answer, Lu Chen, with a smile on his face, said, "If you don't want to say it, then you don't have to."

At this moment, Qin Yuwei said, "They have all changed their names and sought refuge with other Seigniors by now."

Lu Chen asked curiously, "They all know to seek refuge with other Seigniors, so why did you, the Qin Family's eldest miss, run towards the Capital City instead? To seek shelter with Qin Feng? Don't you know that Qin Feng is His Majesty's man?"

Qin Yuwei was silent for a moment, then after a long pause, she said, "This servant contracted a disease and needed to find the Divine Healer for treatment, and since the Divine Healer lives in the Capital City, this servant had no place to hide upon arriving there. So I had no choice but to look for the Capital City's Qin Family, hoping they would protect this servant for a while. I did not expect them to send this servant directly to the Crown Prince."

Hearing Qin Yuwei's answer, Lu Chen said with a laugh, "You are too naive to think that the Capital City's Qin Family would protect you, a remnant of the southern Aristocratic Family."

Upon hearing Lu Chen's words, Qin Yuwei felt immensely ashamed.

Lu Chen then asked, "So was your disease ultimately cured?"

Qin Yuwei replied, "Your Highness, the Crown Prince did not let the Divine Healer treat this servant. Instead, he just had someone grab some medicine from the Divine Healer, and after taking it, this servant felt temporarily better."

No sooner had Qin Yuwei finished speaking than Lu Chen immediately grabbed her wrist. Qin Yuwei instinctively tried to pull back her arm, but Lu Chen was stronger, and she could not retract it.

After seizing Qin Yuwei's wrist, Lu Chen used the Rejuvenating Skill to check her physical condition, and upon examination, he found indeed there were some issues with Qin Yuwei's body.

It seemed like there was a clump of cold qi accumulated in Qin Yuwei's Dantian, which Lu Chen found somewhat incredible; he had not expected Qin Yuwei's Dantian to be so special.

Lu Chen then used the Rejuvenating Skill to treat Qin Yuwei, attempting to dissolve the clump of cold qi.

The next moment, Qin Yuwei felt a warm current entering her body and then converging in her Dantian.

The Rejuvenating Skill was highly effective. In just an instant, the cold qi began to dissipate.

After the cold qi within Qin Yuwei had dispersed, her whole body felt incredibly relaxed.

The next moment, the room became extremely cold, to the point where a layer of ice formed on the floor.

Qin Yuwei could hardly believe it—had her illness really been cured just like that?

What Cultivation Technique had the North Prince used?

Why did it heal her with just a touch from the North Prince?

When the Divine Healer had visited the South, she had also sought his treatment, but even he hadn't been able to remove the cold qi from her body in a short period, whereas the North Prince had managed to do so.

Qin Yuwei was stunned, and after a good while, she came back to her senses and hastily said to Lu Chen, "This servant thanks Your Highness immensely!"

Lu Chen said indifferently, "You are now my woman, and it was only right for me to heal you. Tell me, how did you get the cold qi in your body?"

Hearing this, Qin Yuwei fell silent for a while, as if recalling something.

After a while, she began, "The Qin Family once discovered a small island at sea, which had a structure entirely made of metal. Out of curiosity, I accompanied my family to that island. There, upon entering the metallic construction, I passed through a room where I was attacked by the cold qi inside, and since then, a cluster of cold qi has always existed in my Dantian, which I've never been able to get rid of."

Lu Chen raised his eyebrows slightly.

A metallic construction?

Could it possibly be some kind of cosmic ship or something?

At this moment, something occurred to Lu Chen, and he continued to ask, "Was the material used for the Piercing Cloud Bow and Piercing Cloud Arrow obtained from that island by Prince Lu Shuyun?"

The materials for the Piercing Cloud Bow and Piercing Cloud Arrow were very peculiar, not belonging to this world. Since Qin Yuwei mentioned the presence of an item akin to those from other worlds, Lu Chen naturally linked the materials used for making the Piercing Cloud Bow to that island.

However, Qin Yuwei replied at this time, "This servant is unclear about that. The Qin Family had tried to melt those metals, but no matter the method, it was not successful. Later, when Prince Lu Shuyun heard about this, he mediated on behalf of the Qin Family, and they sold the island to the Wang Family."

Lu Chen thought to himself that the materials for making the Piercing Cloud Bow and Arrow came from the Wang Family, so it seemed likely that these materials were indeed from the metallic structure on that island.

It seems I need to find an opportunity to look at it.

There might be a lot of things I need inside.

Lu Chen continued to ask, "Where is that island located? Do you remember?"

After pondering for a moment, Qin Yuwei answered, "I remember. The Wang Family named the island Fengyin Island and even marked it on the maritime charts. As long as one acquires the Great Sum's maritime charts, one can find the precise location of the island."

Lu Chen thought for a bit and then asked, "In which direction is that island? Tell me its approximate location first."

Chapter 650 Acquiring a Generator_1

Lu Chen wanted to see if the island was far from the North Country, and if it wasn't too distant, he would directly dispatch their ships or have someone from the Dongfang Family pay a visit to the island.

"The island lies to the southeast of Suhai County," Qin Yuwei replied. "When I followed my clan to the island, it took us roughly four days."

Lu Chen frowned, it seemed a bit far.

If a ship were to be dispatched from the North Country and sailed southward, it would need to resupply in the coastal cities of Great Sum. Such a conspicuous move, combined with the current sensitivity among various Seigniors, would certainly be noticed.

After pondering for a moment, Lu Chen asked, "After the Aristocratic Family in the South was annihilated, was the island also occupied by the imperial court?"

"After Sufeng City was captured, I fled to the north," said Qin Yuwei. "I don't know what happened after that."

Lu Chen thought that after the Aristocratic Family's fall, those captives from the Wang Family would have surely divulged some secrets in order to save their lives, so the secret of the island must have been known to the Sum Emperor. He feared that the Sum Emperor had long ago sent people to occupy the island, which was probably now garrisoned with a large number of Great Sum soldiers.

There was no point in sending anyone now.

The best course of action would be to wait until he had claimed the throne and then send someone to assess the situation on the island.

Seeing Lu Chen engrossed in serious thought, Qin Yuwei's mind slightly wandered. At this moment, she found Lu Chen incredibly handsome, charismatic and dashing, especially when he was deep in thought, which stirred the romantic feelings within her.

Qin Yuwei couldn't help but think that becoming the North Prince's woman might not be too bad for herself.

Although rumors spoke of the North Prince's insatiable lust and debauchery, she now thought that with his handsome looks, no woman could resist his temptation. Thus, it must have been those women who seduced him, prompting the unwilling North Prince to engage in acts with them.

Just as Qin Yuwei was thinking this, Lu Chen suddenly turned his head to look at her, and she felt caught in the act of watching him, her face blossoming into a flush of red.

Moreover, when Lu Chen had treated her illness earlier by transferring some warm spiritual power into her, it made her body feel incredibly warm, and even caused her body to heat up more and more, making her feel restless.

Seeing Qin Yuwei's flushed and shy demeanor, Lu Chen's interest piqued, "Those ladies-in-waiting in the East Palace must have taught you quite a few things, right?"

Qin Yuwei nodded, her face red, and whispered a soft "Mhm."

Lu Chen then took off his shoes and lay on the bed, saying to Qin Yuwei, "Now let's see your performance."

Lu Chen was by no means a saint, so naturally, he would gratefully accept the gift of a woman as lovely as Qin Yuwei presenting herself to him.

As Lu Chen lay down, Qin Yuwei seemed a bit lost, even though the ladies-in-waiting had taught her what to do, this was still her first time in practice, her first time serving someone.

Moreover, as a former daughter of an Aristocratic Family who had always lived a life of luxury, the sudden expectation to serve a man filled her with overwhelming shame.

However, the thought that only by pleasing Lu Chen could she stay in the North Prince Mansion, and avoid being sent to the filth of a brothel, spurred her into action.

Qin Yuwei took off her shoes, then extended her slender, jade-like hands to undress Lu Chen.

All the while, Lu Chen lay there watching her from his pillow, doing nothing himself, contemplating whether to have Qin Yuwei become a teacher for his wives and concubines if she proved adept at serving a man.

So he was now assessing Qin Yuwei to see how well she would perform.

Qin Yuwei's movements were extremely gentle, and she quickly disrobed Lu Chen. Seeing that Qin Yuwei was still clothed, Lu Chen said indifferently, "Take off your clothes as well."

Hearing this, Qin Yuwei's face turned even redder, and she softly replied, "Yes, Prince."

She swiftly undid her own dress, baring herself to Lu Chen.

When she looked down and saw certain things, she couldn't help but be startled. The thought that she would only have an easier life after serving the Prince well made Qin Yuwei quickly overcome her fear and began to serve Lu Chen, giving him a massage.

Watching Qin Yuwei's gentle touches, Lu Chen said with a smile, "It seems you really did learn seriously from those women in the East Palace."

Hearing this, Qin Yuwei felt utterly humiliated.

In the past, the Aristocratic Families of the South could manipulate the throne and even oppose the Emperor.

Back then, the young masters and misses of their families had very high statuses, and even some Princes or Seigniors would be very polite in front of them.

But now that her family had been destroyed, to survive, she could only please the North Prince in such a manner.

For a moment, Qin Yuwei felt an overwhelming sense of desolation and sorrow.

She had never imagined that she, a young mistress, would one day be doing these things in front of the North Prince and also be commented on by him.

Although she felt very sad inside, Qin Yuwei did not stop the movements of her hands.

In the time that followed, Qin Yuwei was earnestly massaging Lu Chen, but for someone as vigorous as Lu Chen, Qin Yuwei's efforts were still not up to standard.

Lu Chen promptly turned over, pressing Qin Yuwei beneath him. Qin Yuwei was instantly startled. As she was about to say something, Lu Chen covered her mouth with his hand, and Qin Yuwei could only make muffled sounds.

Lu Chen did not kiss Qin Yuwei; he did not want to taste certain things, but even without a kiss, Qin Yuwei eventually fell.

[Congratulations to the host for gaining a concubine, awarded with generator blueprints and ten sets of generators.]

[Host cultivated affection with the concubine once, Qi Refinement Mantra experience increased... Heart Controlling Skill experience increased by 1000, breaking through to the third layer...]

...

Early morning.

When Qin Yuwei woke up, she found a pair of strong arms tightly embracing her slender waist, and she felt somewhat burdened on her back.

For a moment, she recalled all the events that had transpired the previous day.

Qin Yuwei laid her head down on the pillow as if trying to escape from everything. After a while, she heard the man's voice, "The skills you learned in the East Palace are indeed useful, but you still need more practice."

Hearing this, Qin Yuwei immediately became nervous, unsure whether she had passed Lu Chen's assessment.

While Qin Yuwei was feeling anxious, Lu Chen continued, "From today onwards, you are my concubine. You will reside in this courtyard. After you bathe, have the maid take you to Wind Cloud Court to meet the Princess Consort."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, the stone in Qin Yuwei's heart finally fell.

She had finally passed Lu Chen's assessment, though she felt she hadn't served Lu Chen very well yesterday and that it was mainly Lu Chen who had taken the initiative.

Regardless, she now had a backer for the future, and her illness was gone. If she could continue to live in North Prince Mansion, even if she couldn't return to her previous life in the South, it was still better than being destitute and adrift.

Unlike usual, Lu Chen didn't linger in bed. After bathing and changing his clothes, he headed for the Hall of Political Affairs. There was a minor court session today, and he wouldn't postpone it for a woman.

At the minor court session, officials reported on the situation in various counties of North Country this year, and Lu Chen listened attentively.

When all the officials had finished their reports, Lu Chen's gaze fell on the official from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture was a newly added department, created by Lu Chen to rapidly promote high-yield crops so that North Country would no longer be constrained by food shortages.

Lu Chen asked, "How is the promotion of crops like potatoes and sweet potatoes going?"

The Minister of Agriculture immediately replied, "Your Highness, according to the current progress, high-yield crops will be comprehensively promoted across North Country next year. By then, the common people of North Country will no longer have to worry about filling their bellies."

Hearing the Minister of Agriculture's response, Lu Chen smiled slightly; it seemed the promotion of these crops was happening much faster than he had expected.

Good, when autumn comes next year, he would lead troops to the South.

Lu Chen then inquired about other governmental affairs, and about two hours later, the minor court session concluded. He returned to North Prince Mansion and was just about to go to his study when Lin Wanyun suddenly called out to him from behind.

"Chen'er... Chen'er..."

Hearing Lin Wanyun's voice, Lu Chen turned around and saw Lin Wanyun's mature and charming cheeks slightly flushed, looking somewhat shy.

Although Lin Wanyun had followed Chu Yuqin in calling Lu Chen "Chen'er," she still wasn't used to the term. Having intimate relations with this little rascal made it especially strange for her to call him "Chen'er," yet Lu Chen insisted, so she had no choice but to address him that way.

Lu Chen asked, "Aunt Yun, what's the matter?"

Lin Wanyun took out a letter and handed it to Lu Chen.

"Rongrong has written; she will be returning to the Prince's Mansion in a few days."

At these words, Lu Chen paused, then quickly took the letter from Lin Wanyun's hand, opened the envelope, and began to read intently.

Just thinking of Chen Wanrong's graceful figure, her cool demeanor, and her stunning beauty, Lu Chen felt a stir in his heart.

But he soon suppressed his inner agitation and smilingly said to Lin Wanyun, "Aunt Yun, I understand."

"I have other matters to attend to; I'll go to the study now."

Lin Wanyun said, "Alright, go ahead."

Lu Chen then turned and headed for the study. Watching his retreating figure, Lin Wanyun sighed softly.

It wasn't long after Lu Chen arrived in his study that Mo Xing came in.

"Greetings, Your Majesty!"

Lu Chen gave a noncommittal grunt and nodded, his gaze never leaving the blueprints in his hands, examining them closely.

Mo Xing was curious about what Lu Chen was studying.

Just as Mo Xing was about to ask what Lu Chen wanted him to do, Lu Chen spoke, "The production process for the steam locomotive is now mature. From now on, others will take care of manufacturing the locomotives and laying the tracks. I have a more important task for you."

Mo Xing was momentarily stunned. A more important task?

Lu Chen then handed the blueprints to Mo Xing, who took them and began to study them intently. After a while, Mo Xing asked, puzzled, "Your Majesty, what is this?"

Lu Chen replied, "These are the blueprints for an electric generator."

Mo Xing: "???"

It was the first time Mo Xing had heard the words "electric generator," and he had no idea what its use was.

The corners of Lu Chen's mouth lifted slightly, and then he explained, "This is a machine capable of generating and controlling lightning."

With that declaration, Mo Xing was completely astonished.

Control lightning?

He never even dared to dream of such a thing before. To them, lightning was synonymous with destruction, and throughout history, people feared the lightning in the sky, linking it to punishment for bad deeds, like the saying 'struck by lightning.'

Mo Xing had not imagined that a machine capable of controlling lightning could exist in this world.

If such a machine could be invented...

Wait a minute, even if this machine was invented, what use would it have?

Could it be used as a weapon?

Like releasing lightning to attack enemies or something like that?