

G E D 291

Chapter 291: The Feng Clan

“Of course we can’t imagine it. She grew up practicing it.”

“What then? What happened after that?” Zuo Qingyu asked eagerly.

“Well... heh...” Yan Yan gave them a mysterious smile and paused for effect.

By now, everyone in the restaurant was astonished by what Yan Yan had revealed!

Many young ladies were jealous of Feng Wu for her previous engagement to Jun Linyuan and would throw mud at her whenever they had a chance. Guys, on the other hand, had a pretty good impression of Feng Wu and often pitied her for what she went through.

But if what Yan Yan said was true... Feng Wu was a cripple as well as an idiot for losing her head over love. There was nothing good they could say about her anymore!

Holding Yan Yan’s arm, Zuo Qingyu pressed, “Tell us, what happened after that? Did His Royal Highness throw her out? That had to be what happened, right?”

Yan Yan said ambiguously, “Do you think with His Royal Highness’s temperament, he would cut her loose that easily?”

“Wow —” The restaurant erupted in astonishment!

The longer Yan Yan held back, the more curious they became!

Everyone loved good gossip and more girls than one could count were in love with Jun Linyuan. This piece of information was so arresting that it spread like wildfire!

It started in the restaurant, but before long, it took wings and flew to all corners of the imperial capital.

“Have you heard? Feng Wu is so in love with the crown prince that she shamelessly tried to climb into bed with His Royal Highness!”

“Really?”

“Of course! Young Lord Feng saw it with his own eyes! It can’t be any more true!”

“This Feng Wu... She’s disgusting! Why hasn’t she died already?!”

—

The rumor spread at a speed faster than one could imagine.

It reached the Feng clan house before Feng Wu did.

The Feng clan.

The current head of the clan was the old Mrs Feng, Feng Wu’s grandmother.

After the old Master Feng, Feng Wu's grandfather, walked out on the clan, old Mrs Feng took over the position as head of the clan. She was distant, serious, magisterial, and not someone one could get along with easily.

Old Mrs Feng had three sons. Feng Yanfeng, the eldest son, had two sons and two daughters. And the old lady's second son was Feng Wu's father.

Feng Wu's irresponsible dad disappeared before Feng Xiaoqi was born and hadn't been heard from ever since.

Feng Yanfeng, Feng Wu's eldest uncle, had two sons, Feng Yiran and Feng Yier, and two daughters, Feng Yi and Feng Liu.

Feng Wu and Feng Xiaoqi were the fifth girl and seventh boy respectively in their clan generation.

The other unmentioned children were all Feng Wu's third uncle's offspring. However, this uncle lived with his entire family in another city where he worked, so there weren't that many people living in the Feng Manor in the imperial capital at the moment.

In the main hall.

"Mother, that's what we've heard so far..." Lady Wang, Feng Yanfeng's wife, was standing next to the old lady and informing the latter about all the rumors on the street.

The old lady had thick eyebrows that were pointed at the end, which looked like a pair of sharp blades when she frowned, making those around her shudder.

She was a tough lady who was even harder on herself than on others.

As the string of beads turned in her hand, the old lady's eyes flickered grimly.

"She's not even here yet and we're already getting such rumors! What will happen when she arrives? Was this what she had in mind? To bring shame on all her sisters?" There was no warmth in the old lady's voice!

Despite having been around the old lady for so many years, Lady Wang still got the jitters when the old lady straightened her face.

"She's not here yet. Maybe it's all just a misunderstanding..." Lady Wang said in a seemingly kind voice.

However, the old lady only snickered. "Misunderstanding? If that's the case, it only proves how stupid she is! Unlike everyone else, she's getting more foolish as she grows!"

Just then —

Chapter 292: Keeping Her Family Safe

Lady Wang gloated. However, she had her head lowered, which prevented anyone else from seeing the mocking smile on her face.

After wiping the sneer off her face, Lady Wang said mildly, "Mother, I think Xiao Wu knows how to handle something like this. She's a well-behaved and decent girl..."

However, the old lady cut her off with a snort. "Well-behaved? No such rumor would spread if she really were well-behaved!"

"Maybe someone made it up out of jealousy..."

"Heh —" The old lady smirked. "Jealous of her? What for? What does she have now that's worth that kind of attention?"

Before Lady Wang could say another word, the old lady waved at her. "You can stop trying to make excuses for her!"

Lady Wang seemed reluctant to do as she was told, but she nodded in the end.

However, a smile flickered in her lowered eyes.

Feng Wu, the old lady is prejudiced by her first impressions already. I'd like to see you talk your way out of this!

Just then, Feng Wu's carriage arrived outside the Feng Manor.

As one of the nine major families of the imperial capital, the Feng clan was able to maintain its appearance, despite its declining status in recent years.

The lofty walls and awe-inspiring brown gate reminded one of a colossus!

A carved stone golden flaming phoenix from ancient times was set on top of the wall with the head of the phoenix right above the gate!

The bird's eyes were narrowed slightly, and no matter where one stood, they could feel those eyes on them. Many who passed through this gate felt their blood curdle under the gaze of those eyes!

The gate was tightly shut and there was no sign that it was going to open.

The plain carriage entered through the side gate and carried on along a narrow path paved with bluestone.

The surface of the path was uneven and the ride became quite bumpy.

The beautiful lady looked pleadingly at Feng Wu. She hadn't forgotten what happened five years ago, which still made her tremble in great trepidation. She looked as helpless as a puppy.

Feng Wu took the lady's thin arm and smiled. "Mum, don't worry. I got you."

That was always what she said when she comforted her mother.

The lady gradually calmed down and looked less frightened. "Yes. Xiao Wu is here. I'm not afraid."

Feng Wu smiled bitterly. The imperial capital was a place filled with sudden and perplexing changes, and as a mere Level 9 Spiritual Master, she was simply too weak to keep her mother safe.

Feng Wu desperately hoped that she could get stronger soon, so that she could keep her family safe.

She then turned her thoughts to her younger brother. She wondered how Feng Xiaoqi was doing after Jun Linyuan took him away. Was he living comfortably? Had anyone given him a hard time? Would he be abused?

While Feng Wu was lost in all the distracting thoughts, the carriage took a turn along the path and entered the second gate of the manor.

It stopped abruptly after about 15 minutes!

Feng Liu's arrogant voice rang out. "Feng Wu, you're home! Time to get out of the carriage!"

Interrupted, Feng Wu stopped her train of thought and came back to reality.

She jumped out of the carriage first.

She moved as swift as a spiritual swallow and Feng Liu was sick with jealousy as she stared at Feng Wu's slim figure and her graceful movements!

Despite her abhorrence, Feng Liu had to admit that even without showing her face, Feng Wu was able to attract a lot of attention with that slender body of hers alone! That was so unfair!

Chapter 293: Useless! Useless! Useless!

However —

Feng Liu looked at Feng Wu expectantly, too excited to even blink.

She wanted to see the look on Feng Wu's face when the latter realized that her home had been taken away!

Feng Liu had been looking forward to this moment since last night, which kept her turning and tossing in bed.

However, Feng Wu's first reaction when she got out of the carriage wasn't to look around. Instead, she turned around to help her graceful and delicate mother down.

"Ah!"

Qiuling turned out to be the first to cry out. "What's this place? Why are we here? What happened?!"

Here we go! Feng Liu looked at Feng Wu in excitement. She didn't want to miss a thing!

After helping her mother out of the carriage and making sure that the latter was steady on her feet, Feng Wu turned around to examine the place.

It was a dilapidated courtyard.

The yard was overgrown with weeds and the houses were old and shabby. Even the walls were cracked.

The roof tiles were broken in many places and the holes had only been filled with thatch.

Feng Wu remembered this courtyard.

Many years ago, this courtyard was where her grandfather's crazy younger brother lived.

The courtyard had been struck by a thunderbolt once, which made the others deem it inauspicious. No one lived here after the old man went missing and the place thus became deserted.

Were they going to make them live here now?

Granny Zhao looked displeased. "Why are we stopping here? Our Flower Butterfly Yard is still way up ahead."

Caiyue, Feng Liu's head chambermaid, tittered. "Granny Zhao, have you forgotten? Flower Butterfly Yard is Miss Liu's residence now. Why are you calling it yours?"

Both Granny Zhao's and Qiuling's eyes widened in disbelief!

Granny Zhao flared up. "Yours? How can it be yours? Flower Butterfly Yard belongs to the second branch of the Feng clan and that was the old Mrs Feng's order. You can't just take it away like this! No way! I'm going to ask the old lady myself!"

Qiuling couldn't hold back her anger either. Clenching her fists, she protested, "That's just outrageous! You're robbing us of our house! We'll see what the old lady has to say about this!"

Feng Liu was elated to see how pissed Granny Zhao and Qiuling were. However, to her disappointment, Feng Wu's face remained impassive the whole time and didn't look disturbed at all.

Why could she remain so calm when her home had been taken away?

Displeased with Feng Wu's reaction, Feng Liu snorted. "Forget about Flower Butterfly Yard. You're lucky to even have a roof over your heads. Who the hell do you think you are? You're just freeloaders that are of no use to the Feng clan!"

Feng Wu kept her calm gaze on Feng Liu, but something cold quickly flickered in her eyes.

Feng Liu darted a glance at Feng Wu in satisfaction. "Why? Are you unhappy to hear that? You're a cripple and that's a fact. You should know your place by now. You've become useless and you'll stay that way forever! Useless! Useless! Useless!"

Feng Wu clenched her fists under her long sleeves!

Useless? We'll see about that.

With her current ability, she could send Feng Liu in the air with one strike. The girl would spit out blood and would have to stay in bed for three months. However —

Looking at her delicate mother next to her... Feng Wu reminded herself that she wasn't alone now. She had responsibilities and she had to tolerate the unfair treatment.

She had waited for five years; she didn't mind waiting a little longer.

Feng Wu only smiled. "Feng Liu, you look so unbridled."

"Unbridled? Hahaha, my dear sister, I like that word."

Feng Liu spoke slowly and her expression turned into a grim sneer.

Chapter 294: Outrageous!

Lowering her voice, Feng Liu whispered in Feng Wu's ear, "For everything you've done to me during the journey, I'll pay you back a hundred times in the days to come!"

Feng Wu smiled. "I'm looking forward to it."

Feng Liu clenched her fists! That devil-may-care tone was so frustrating!

"You are? Wait and see!" Feng Liu stormed off!

She decided that she was going to draw up a plan to periodically abuse Feng Wu. She would come up with something small every day, and every month, she would set a mid-term goal. Her ultimate goal was to make Feng Wu live in hell!

Feng Wu's family looked at one another in bewilderment after Feng Liu left.

"Miss Wu —" Qiuling said with a long face. "This is unacceptable. How can they make us live in such conditions? We're one of the branches of the family..."

Granny Zhao was also furious. "Miss Wu, I'm going to see the old lady now and I'll ask her about this..."

Feng Wu only smiled. "Be patient."

"Miss Wu —" Patient? How could they be patient?!

"Start cleaning up the place." Feng Wu gave a succinct instruction.

"But —" Feng Wu cut Qiuling off.

"Do you think the old lady doesn't know about this?" Feng Wu snickered. "That tough old lady who needs to control everything, let other people make the decision for her? Do you think that's what happened?"

"The old lady..." Qiuling cried out in surprise.

Back then, the old lady couldn't have been any more affectionate toward Miss Wu. She doted on this granddaughter and had all the resources of the Feng clan ready at Miss Wu's disposal. But now...

"You do realize that I'm not really useless, right?" Feng Wu smiled. "The pendulum swings both ways; let's just wait and see."

Everyone was enlightened by Feng Wu's words.

That was true!

Their mistress was awesome. She had reached Level 9 of the Spiritual Master stage in a few months after she resumed her cultivation!

By the standard of education in the empire, Miss Wu, a girl of 13, was equivalent to an intermediate school graduate, and was already qualified to apply to the Imperial College!

Everyone was relieved at the thought.

They could barely contain their excitement at the thought of all the embarrassed faces out there once everyone else learned that Miss Wu had recovered her talents. They felt like jumping around in excitement!

“Yes! That’s right. I can’t wait to see the looks on their faces! It’ll be so much fun!”

After regaining peace of mind, Granny Zhao and Qiuling were full of vigor again. They went off to pull up the weeds, repair the roof, and dust the rooms.

After leaving the courtyard, Feng Liu went directly to Lady Wang’s Flying Snow Building with a bunch of maids and nannies trailing behind her.

“Mum! Mum!” Feng Liu threw herself at Lady Wang like a butterfly. Holding her mother’s arm, she said in a cloying voice, “Mum, guess where I was just now?”

Lady Wang had just come back from the old lady’s Conscience Hall. Seeing how happy Feng Liu was, she tapped her spoiled daughter lightly on her forehead. “You were with Feng Wu?”

“Mum, why are you so clever? You really are the best mother in the world —” Feng Liu was a spoiled little girl around her mother.

Lady Wang smiled. “How’s that family doing?”

“Hahaha —” Feng Liu guffawed. “We had them enter through the side gate when they arrived, and the main gate wasn’t even open. Then, we led them all the way to that shabby Fallen Star Yard.”

Chapter 295: Shocked!

“Hahaha! Fallen Star Yard! Mum, don’t you think that’s the perfect name for Feng Wu?”

What had once been the brightest of the imperial capital had fallen and had lain in the dust ever since.

Lady Wang poked Feng Liu lightly in her forehead. “Keep your voice down.”

Feng Liu couldn’t care less. “Why should I? I can laugh as loud as I want and there’s nothing she can do about it. Plus, so what if she hears me? What can that cripple do to me now? I can strike her down with a single slap! Not only am I laughing right now, I did so right in her face.”

“And what was her reaction?” Something flickered in Lady Wang’s eyes.

“What can she possibly do? She might look all calm, but she must have been all furious inside. There’s nothing she can do to me, so she had to swallow the humiliation. Hahaha, mum, you have no idea how sorry Feng Wu looked. Who would have thought that she was so brilliant just five years ago?”

Back then, Feng Wu’s gaze had been so sharp that one glance from her was enough to make Feng Liu shudder.

“Is she that helpless now?” Lady Wang asked in a seemingly casual tone.

“Of course! Come, mum. I’ll show you what a sorry state they’re in now.” Feng Liu then dragged Lady Wang to Fallen Star Yard.

Feng Liu couldn’t hold back her excitement on the way. “Fallen Star Yard has been deserted for so long and the weeds are about as tall as I am. There are snakes, rats, and insects everywhere, and it’s so remote. Isn’t Feng Wu’s little mother a coward and a neat freak? I’d like to see her live there!”

Feng Liu was confident that Feng Wu had been putting on an act as a tough girl – she definitely started crying the moment Feng Liu turned to leave.

The door to Fallen Star Yard was closed tight, as if it was shutting out the outside world.

“Mum, let’s open the door quietly. Feng Wu will be caught by surprise and we’ll see how sorry she looks. Hahaha —”

After that, Feng Liu let go of Lady Wang’s hand, ran up to the door, and kicked it!

Crack —

The wooden door was already rotten and Feng Liu’s foot got stuck in the hole she made.

Before she could draw her foot back, the plank in the door fell forward at the momentum!

And it took Feng Liu with it!

Flustered, Feng Liu reached out to grab Caiyue!

Poor Caiyue. She could have easily stopped Feng Liu from falling, but she seemed to have stepped on something and lost her footing. Immediately —

Both girls fell forward together —

“Miss Liu!”

All the maids and nannies were exasperated and they tried their best to stop Feng Liu from falling. But —

They were too late!

Feng Liu fell onto the door face first and she had never looked more sorry.

The maids and nannies behind her all seemed to slip and everyone fell forward. Everything happened so fast that it looked like they had been pulled forward by an invisible string.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

Lady Wang had come with a large entourage, which consisted of as many as a dozen maids and nannies!

And all twelve people fell onto Feng Liu —

And they crashed down hard!

Bang!

One body smashed onto Feng Liu.

That hurt —

Thud, thud, thud —

Another eleven followed and Feng Liu nearly burst into tears!

Behind them, Lady Wang watched in disbelief...

She was shocked!

Chapter 296: The Resourceful Feng Wu

Lady Wang watched this with a gaping mouth.

Feng Liu had dragged her here to have a good laugh at Feng Wu's branch of the family. However, they had become jokes themselves before even setting foot in Feng Wu's yard... Lady Wang blushed profusely. This was so embarrassing...

Hiding behind the door, Qiuling almost burst out laughing when she saw the sorry state Feng Liu and her minions were in. She put her hands over her mouth immediately to muffle her laughter.

Miss Wu was so smart and the grumpy Miss Liu looked like an idiot in comparison.

Hearing the noise, Feng Wu and her family came out, looking surprised.

Feng Wu guffawed inwardly when she saw the farce outside, but she only reacted with a frown. "Why is everyone falling over everyone else? Feng Liu, what did you do to my door?"

Feng Liu heard this when her maids and nannies were rushing over to help her to her feet.

Seeing what an embarrassing fool she had made of herself, Feng Liu was furious. She pointed at Feng Wu with a trembling finger and couldn't think of what to say. "You... you..."

Feng Wu frowned. "I admit that you were very rude earlier, but I really didn't expect you to apologize with a kowtow."

Feng Liu stammered. "You... you... Feng Wu!"

Feng Wu blinked her pretty black eyes, which shone like clear water. She looked perfectly innocent as she said, "Why, are you not here to apologize?"

Seeing this, Lady Wang shook her head inwardly.

She had considered Feng Liu a smart girl, but that was when the girl was on her own. When Feng Wu was around, Feng Liu's inferiority was so apparent that it was cruel to try and compare them.

As Feng Liu's mother, Lady Wang obviously didn't want to see her own daughter humiliated like this. Hence, she entered the courtyard at a graceful gait, with her maids at her elbows.

Lady Wang put on the warmest smile, looking all kind and gracious. She then said to Feng Wu, "Xiao Wu, your sister was so happy and wanted to see you as soon as possible. She was in such a hurry that she bumped into your door accidentally. How careless of her..."

Lady Wang's tone was as warm as her smile and she held Feng Wu's slim arm as she walked, looking all affectionate. "Xiao Wu, the two of you used to enjoy rough and tumble play when you were little. I see that the habit hasn't changed after five years, which says a lot about how close the two of you still are, despite those five years. I'm so glad."

Feng Wu darted a glance at Lady Wang with a half-smile.

Lady Wang was nothing like her simple-minded daughter. Behind that benevolent and gentle smile, she had the heart of a wolf. She was someone who harbored a serpent in her bosom and had a habit of stabbing others in the back. The lady was as cunning as an old fox.

Without so much as batting an eyelash, she had turned Feng Liu's boorish behavior into an expression of sisterly love. That way, no one would be able to criticize Feng Liu for it if word got out... Lady Wang had taken some painstaking effort to keep Feng Liu out of trouble.

Lady Wang was displeased by Feng Wu's silent smile. She felt as if the girl had seen through her right away in spite of her carefully prepared performance.

This was why she had disliked Feng Wu ever since the girl was little, for the girl's knowing black eyes seemed to be able to see through all the plots and hypocritical acts in the world.

Lady Wang could no longer keep up her performance. Letting go of Feng Wu's hand, she took the beautiful lady's hand instead and said in an affectionate voice, "Sister-in-law, it's been years since we last met. How have you been? You look so thin... Don't worry. Now that you're back, everything will be fine."

Chapter 297: The Old Fox

The beautiful lady obviously didn't like Lady Wang. Fear flickered in her limpid eyes and she tried her best to draw her hand back.

However, Lady Wang's grip was very tight.

The lady was on the verge of tears. She turned to Feng Wu and pleaded with her eyes.

Feng Wu went up to them and took Lady Wang by the wrist. "We're back now and everything's going to be fine? My dear aunt, if that's the case, can we perhaps have our Flower Butterfly Yard back?"

The smile froze on Lady Wang's face. This was exactly why she didn't like Feng Wu. The kid would always disregard the feelings of others and get right to the point, embarrassing everyone.

Before Lady Wang could reply, Feng Liu snorted. "I've been living in Flower Butterfly Yard for five years and it's mine. Why should we give it to you? You people are robbers! You want to rob me of my home as soon as you come back!"

“Robbers? I finally know what ‘a robber acts like a cop’ means.” Feng Wu gave her a half-smile.

“You —”

Seeing that Feng Liu was going to fight with Feng Wu again, Lady Wang smacked her forehead. Why did her daughter get agitated so easily?

She had no choice but to intervene. “Xiao Wu, I know Flower Butterfly Yard used to belong to your branch of the family, but someone else must have lived there before you moved in. So technically, it isn’t yours.

“Moreover, you were crippled, your brother became seriously ill, your mother lost her mind, and your father went missing... all this made your grandmother think that the house was cursed and would only bring bad luck to the family. She wanted to set fire to it. Xiao Liu stepped out then, and bravely said that she would live there and turn bad luck into good. And she was right. The Feng clan has been living peacefully for the last five years. Everything’s been going well and there hasn’t been any misfortune.”

Lady Wang spoke in her gentle voice. She knew perfectly when to pause, when to stress her words, and when to lower her pitch. She was an expert storyteller, which was what her husband loved the most about her.

She then turned to Feng Wu with an aggrieved look on her face. “Xiao Wu, you’re talking about Xiao Liu taking your house, but she’s actually doing you a great favor by removing all the ill fortune for you. You don’t have to thank her for it, but I’m really sad to hear you misunderstand her like this...”

Feng Liu stared at her mother with an open mouth.

That was incredible!

Her dear mother had turned Feng Liu’s occupation of Feng Wu’s property into an act of averting disaster, which was practically calling black white. That way, Feng Liu could keep Flower Butterfly Yard, and not only couldn’t Feng Wu accuse her of it, she had to thank her... *Mother, you’re so clever!*

The beautiful lady was flustered and sweat covered her smooth forehead. “No! No! That’s not true!”

Feng Liu scoffed at Feng Wu. Could her mother say anything else apart from “no”?

Feng Wu darted a glance at Feng Liu. *So what? My mother is beautiful.*

Feng Liu was speechless.

Feng Wu then gave Lady Wang a half-smile. “So, you’re saying that Flower Butterfly Yard is ominous. Is that it?”

“That’s right,” said Lady Wang. “Even now, snakes and rats still crawl in every now and then even after your sister moved in... That’s how unpleasant the place is. Xiao Wu, you’ve lost your cultivation, and your mother is... I’m really doing this for your own good. That house is not for you.”

“I see.” Feng Wu smirked. “Is a shabby yard like this the only thing for us, then?”

Chapter 298: Aunt, How Kind of You

“The tables and chairs all have parts missing and the plates are all cracked. Aunt, you’re the one who manages the household affairs in this manor, aren’t you? Is this how you do your job? Maybe I should go talk to my uncle.”

Feng Wu’s uncle — Lady Wang’s husband — wasn’t known for rectitude, but he cared about his reputation above all else, and Feng Wu knew exactly how to manipulate him.

Lady Wang knew Feng Yanfeng’s temperament only too well. She had no choice but to squeeze a reply out through gritted teeth. “There’s really no need to mention those things. I was going to have them changed for you later. Xiao Wu, what kind of evil person do you take me for? Do you think I’ll mistreat your family?”

Feng Wu’s bright eyes met Lady Wang’s gaze and she smiled knowingly at the latter.

Lady Wang almost gave up on her act every time she saw that look in Feng Wu’s eyes.

“And —” Lady Wang went on with her performance, “You shouldn’t have done all this dirty work of weeding and mending the roof yourself. I brought people here with me just for that. You should have waited for me.”

Lady Wang heaved a deep sigh and looked at Feng Wu with pity. “You must have gotten used to all the hardship out there if you’re doing everything yourself. We’re a noble family. Crippled or not, you’re still a young lady of the Feng family. Someone with your distinguished status shouldn’t never dirty your hands with hard labor like this.”

She then turned to scold the beautiful lady. “How can you raise a daughter of the Feng clan into a wild girl like this? Mother is going to reproach you if she learns about this!”

Lady Wang was fuming inside.

How could she not?

She and Feng Liu had planned to see Feng Wu and her family crying their eyes out. However, Feng Liu had turned herself into a laughingstock before even setting foot in the yard, giving Feng Wu a chance to jeer at her. After they entered the courtyard, they saw that not only wasn’t the family crying, they had even cleaned up the shabby Fallen Star Yard.

Instead, Lady Wang had been taunted by Feng Wu over and over again until the former promised to send them the necessities... Her original plan had been to stall until Feng Wu pleaded with her in tears!

Feng Wu smiled at Lady Wang. “Aunt, you’re mistaken.”

“Surely not. How adorable you used to be. Look at how rough you are now!”

Feng Wu smiled. “Aunt, I see you care for me a lot.”

“Of course I do. Don’t you remember? I always treated you like one of my own.”

That was true.

Back when Feng Wu was the little genius, her aunt had indeed been very nice to her and took care of every aspect of her life. However, once she fell...

Feng Wu smiled again. "Aunt, did you bring all these people here to help us tidy up Fallen Star Yard?"

"Of course. I could never bring myself to see you do everything on your own. Look at you. Your face is smeared with dirt." Lady Wang took out her handkerchief, wanting to wipe Feng Wu's face for her.

Feng Wu smiled at her. "I guess I should thank you in advance, then."

"What?"

Lady Wang was baffled.

Feng Wu opened a door, revealing the filthy room within. "Your people will have a lot of work to do."

The room was lit up by the light coming in through the window.

They could see everything: the damp floor, the cracked walls... and a rat scuttling away.

The yard was so clean, and Feng Wu had mentioned broken plates...

Chapter 299: Feng Wu, You Really Are...

Lady Wang thought that Feng Wu had finished tidying up the whole place, but as it turned out... The rooms had remained untouched!

A faint smile emerged on Feng Wu's face. "Aunt, you look surprised... Are you trying to figure out if there's another empty courtyard that we can move into?"

Lady Wang was rendered speechless. She then gave Feng Wu a wry smile. "You're making fun of your aunt here. We would never have let you settle down here if there was another empty courtyard."

"So?" Feng Wu asked casually.

"Well, I was just thinking about how many people I should send over to clean the place for you, since it's so dirty here."

Feng Wu smiled. "What's there to think about? You've brought over a dozen servants with you, haven't you? They'll suffice."

It wasn't that Lady Wang couldn't bear to see her servants get their hands dirty; it was just that she felt so defeated.

She thought she would be a gloating onlooker, but as it turned out, it was Feng Wu who was having all the fun. Despite her unwillingness, Lady Wang had to admit her defeat in this first round.

Furthermore, she had made all these grand promises, and she would only humiliate herself further by going back on her word. Lady Wang had no choice but to instruct her servants to start cleaning.

As for herself, she made up some random excuse and left with Feng Liu shortly afterward.

Before she left, she winked at Granny Gui. As Lady Wang's head chambermaid, Granny Gui took the hint right away and smiled knowingly.

Miss Wu had forced them to do hard labor for her; the young lady was biting off more than she could chew!

Granny Gui and the others spared no effort in tidying up the place, for they had to keep up their superficial charm.

As for what they did when no one was looking, that was a completely different story.

Fallen Star Yard was cleaned up in no time and all the daily necessities were sent over. Lady Wang even ordered the broken plank in the door to be replaced.

After all, it was a great concern for her.

She worried that other people might ask about Fallen Star Yard's missing door, and when that happened, Feng Wu might take the opportunity to vividly describe what had happened today, which would turn Feng Liu into a laughingstock.

Flying Snow Building.

Feng Liu sat angrily on a chaise longue and glared at Lady Wang. "Didn't we say that we were going to make them suffer? Why did you send all those things to them? And why did you let Granny Gui and the others help her? Feng Wu isn't worth it!"

Lady Wang looked at Feng Liu in resignation. "After five years, Feng Wu is still useless cultivation-wise, but she's still the same genius in all other aspects. Xiao Liu, you can't beat her."

"What?!" Feng Liu bolted up and glowered at her mother. "Mum, how can you say such things about your daughter? Are you comparing me with that useless girl? You're humiliating me! Why can't I beat her?"

Feng Liu was so angry! Her own mother was looking down on her!

Lady Wang rubbed her forehead and felt that she was getting a headache. "You..."

Just then, Granny Gui came back with the other servants, their clothes all smeared with dirt.

Lady Wang sent them away to clean up.

After briefly cleaning herself up, Granny Gui came back in.

"All done?" Lady Wang held a white porcelain cup in her hands, verdant green tea leaves floating in the water. A ruby ring twinkled on her little finger.

"Yes." Granny Gui gloated. "I buried it in a corner when they weren't looking. That family won't see it coming."

Lady Wang smiled in satisfaction. "Feng Wu, you really —"

Chapter 300: Restrain Yourself, Keep a Low Profile, and Maintain Your Composure

“She brought it on herself.”

“That’s so true.” Granny Gui beamed at her mistress. “Miss Wu made us stay behind to work for her, but she’s forgotten that there’s no such thing as a free lunch.”

“What are you talking about?” Feng Liu was at a loss. “I don’t understand.”

“It’s fine. Xiao Liu, didn’t you want to see that branch of the family make a fool of themselves?” Lady Wang smiled in a careless way.

“But mum, didn’t your scheme turn into a fiasco and Feng Wu forced you to do her bidding?” Feng Liu blurted out the truth, which gave her mother a phantom headache.

While Lady Wang rubbed her forehead in resignation, Granny Gui smiled at Feng Liu. “Miss Liu, you’ll see what this is about tomorrow morning. It’ll be a great show over there in that branch, so make sure you get up early to watch it.”

Feng Liu’s eyes lit up as bright as stars. “Are you sure?!”

“You can take my word for it.” Granny Gui gloated. She had buried that thing herself, while putting some others in various spots. There was no escape for Feng Wu.

Lady Wang looked out the window at the clear blue sky, her eyes glinting like sharp blades.

That family should have stayed in the border city and lived out the rest of their days as good-for-nothings, but they just had to come back to the imperial capital to be humiliated. Everyone would admit that they had it coming!

Fallen Star Yard.

Qiuling couldn’t stop smiling after Granny Gui and the other servants left.

“I thought that we would never be able to make this Fallen Star Yard habitable. Thanks to Lady Wang, we have everything we need now.” Qiuling smiled into her palm. “She was here to have a good laugh at us, wasn’t she? I bet she’s so pissed right now.”

Granny Zhao cast a stern look at Qiuling. “Have you forgotten everything I taught you? Restrain yourself, keep a low profile, and maintain your composure.”

“Alright —” Qiuling massaged her cheeks, which were sore from all the grinning. “I’m just too happy to see Lady Wang reap what she sowed.”

“It’s still too early to say that.” Granny Zhao gave Qiuling a meaningful look, then turned to Feng Wu.

“Miss Wu, when Qiulan, Lady Wang’s chambermaid, struck up a conversation with me as a distraction, I saw Granny Gui bury something herself.”

Qiuling was surprised. “What did she bury?”

How come she had no idea?

Granny Zhao glared at Qiuling. “You were too absorbed in taking pleasure in their little misfortune to notice anything else. Do you have any idea how many people are plotting against Miss Wu and using the most covert schemes? You’re so careless. How can I leave Miss Wu in your care?”

Feng Wu only watched as Granny Zhao excoriated Qiuling and didn’t intervene.

Veterans were always more capable than recruits. Granny Zhao had noticed a small detail like this when Qiuling had missed it, which said a lot.

Qiuling was warmhearted and meticulous in taking care of Feng Wu’s daily needs, but she was nothing like Granny Zhao when it came to guarding against the harm others might do them.

And this was just the beginning.

The imperial capital was an ever-changing city, and schemes and plots were bound to come at them nonstop. Feng Wu would rather that Qiuling was scolded and she learned to be cautious now than have her come to grief in the future.

Hence, Feng Wu said nothing. She only went to the yard and dug out what Granny Gui had buried.

Seeing that Granny Zhao was telling the truth, Qiuling blanched. She hadn’t noticed anything... If her mistress had really fallen victim to this...

Qiuling burst into tears.

Feng Wu was amused. “Don’t cry, you poor girl. Just be more careful in the future. Everyone has to learn along the way. Use your brain, that’s all.”