

Gold Chapter 571

Fields of Gold Chapter 571

The location of the horse breeding operation had been very carefully chosen. It was within a valley. During the autumn, the area was protected from the chilly, biting winds on all four sides, so the grass here was especially green and tender. A small pure creek criss-crossed its way through the area and there were a few spirited horses leisurely eating grass by the side of the water with their tails idly swishing.

Yu Xiaocao stood on the soft as carpet grass and next to her was a pure date-red horse that was gently butting her arm with her head from time to time. In the past, when Little Red had been sent to this stud farm, she had already been pregnant for four to five months. It had been almost half a year since she last saw her master. She used her pair of bright, watery eyes to stare at her master in an aggrieved manner, as if she was trying to ask why she had been abandoned for so long.

However, at this time, Xiaocao's attention was taken up entirely by a little black colt who was next to Little Red. The little fellow, who hadn't reached three months in age yet, looked quite sturdy and he had graceful and handsome lines.

Perhaps it was because Xiaocao's body gave off the scent of mystic-stone water, but this usually arrogant and proud little colt wasn't the least bit afraid of this new stranger. In fact, he pushed away his mother, Little Red, and stretched out his neck to touch Xiaocao. His pair of large, limpid eyes curiously regarded this strange human in front of it.

Xiaocao retrieved a piece of rock sugar from her embroidered pouch and dipped it into some mystic-stone water before delivering it in front of the little fellow's face. The little black colt's eyes immediately lit up with interest. This was the tantalizing smell that was in his food every day and it was more irresistible than oats and bean fodder. How could the little horse possibly reject such delicious smelling food? However, by the time he reached his head forward, a long tongue curled forward, around the sugar lump, and the tasty snack in front of him had disappeared!

The little black colt stood there stupidly for a second and then raised his head. He discovered that the owner of that tongue was his own beloved mother! Wah wah wah... The other foals had mothers who truly loved their children. Every day, those mares would use their tongues to help wash their offsprings' fur. However, his mother, other than trying to steal food from him, was like a stranger. No! She was even worse than a stranger.

Whenever he tried to get closer to his mother, his mother would always step away in disdain. Every day, when it was time for him to drink milk, if it weren't for the farm hands doing their best to placate his mother, then he would have long starved to death.

Fortunately, when he got a little bit older, the grooms added food for him. However, whenever it was time to eat, his mother would run over and try to steal his food. The stable hands saw how pitiful he was, so they would always add some more for him later. As he was small, he ate at a slower pace. Thus, when his mother finished eating the food she had stolen, she would always run over to eat his share again.

Wah wah wah...now it was the same again! His mother had stolen that sweet-smelling piece of candy from that human little girl from him! Was he not his mother's true son? He must have been picked up from the side of the road, wah wah wah...

The little black colt's jet black eyes seemed to be shining with wet tears as he wretchedly watched as Little Red chewed on the lump of rock candy with relish. He looked quite pitiful and pathetic at this moment!

Little Red truly didn't like that black furred son of hers. If she hadn't lost control of herself and allowed Fierce Wind to take advantage of her, she wouldn't have gotten pregnant with this fellow and been sent to this godforsaken place, in the middle of nowhere, as a result.

What was wrong with eating his fodder? After all, when she was by her master's side, she ate delicious foods and drank delicious water every day. All of her meals then were more delicious than this little fellow's snacks. She had eaten so many sugar lumps that she had almost gotten sick of them!

Hmph! If it wasn't for this little fellow, she wouldn't have had her job snatched away by that stupid white horse and would still be her master's primary steed! Instead, she was banished to this tiny, boring area and was sentenced to eat tasteless grass and fodder all day. This son of hers was complaining even though she ate just a single piece of his snack. Clearly, he wasn't a filial child!

Yu Xiaocao knew that Little Red had been spoiled rotten by her and was very particular about her food. In the past, when she fed Little Red and Fierce Wind together, Little Red also insisted on snatching away Fierce Wind's portion but she also didn't want to let her own share go to waste. Thus, the little red horse often ate until she was bloated. Fierce Wind, on the other hand, usually had to go half hungry.

However, she didn't expect that this horse was still clueless after becoming a mother and had started to fight for favor and food with her own child. Xiaocao took out another piece of candy and dipped it into some mystic-stone water before giving it to Little Red. Only then did Little Red relax—the master still loved her. She knew that she liked to eat candy and had especially brought more over.

Little Red happily ate the piece of rock sugar from her master's hand and even licked all of the mystic-stone water from her master's hand clean with her tongue. Now that she was satisfied, when the master attempted to give another piece of candy to her son, she didn't try to snatch it away from the younger horse. The master's embroidered pouch was chock full of rock candy and she wasn't so short-sighted to make her master upset and end up losing more in the end.

The little colt was finally able to taste the sweet-smelling candy and he closed his eyes in bliss. The candy was so delicious and was a hundred times more tasty than the ones that the farm hands would occasionally give him! His mother had said that the person in front of him, the little girl who fed him the candy, was her master. His mother's master was naturally his own master ah! If he recognized her as his master, wouldn't that mean, in the future, he would get more tasty sugar to eat? As he thought about it, the little fellow's eyes shined with admiration as he looked at his new master.

After Zhu Junyang had heard the reports from the steward in charge of the stud farm, he came over. Behind him was the strong and sturdy Fierce Wind. It had been a long time since Fierce Wind had last seen his wife, Little Red, so he eagerly trotted over and used his neck to rub against Little Red in a very intimate and affectionate manner. Little Red, on the other hand, had no interest in the fellow. In fact, she even twisted her head around and bit at his ears until she drew blood. The criminal who had sent her away to this godforsaken place was him! In the future, she was not going to be nice to him at all!

Xiaocao carefully inspected the little colt. The colt was like a mini-version Fierce Wind! She took advantage of the fact that Little Red was being distracted by Fierce Wind and began to get closer to this little fellow.

The horse breeder had said that the little fellow was still young but had the same arrogant temperament as his father. Other than his personal assigned groom, no one else was allowed to get close to him. Every time the stud farm's veterinarian came around to inspect him, they needed to expend a lot of effort for this fellow to cooperate. Later on, they discovered that as long as they gave him some of that special fodder, this little colt would obediently allow them to do whatever they needed to do.

Truly this fellow resembled his mother as they were both little foodies. Xiaocao took out another sugar cube while the little colt watched her avidly. Then, when she was adding some mystic-stone water to it,

the little fellow even stretched his head over and used his tongue to drink the water out of the pouch with a satisfied expression on his face!

Xiaocao hugged the little horse's neck. The colt was so small and was even smaller than Little Red when she first got her. However, it wasn't surprising as the horse had only been born about three months ago. The reason why he was able to grow so fast and so strong was probably related to the special fodder that she had sent over here under Royal Prince Yang's name, right?

After Little Red was done having her tantrum with Fierce Wind, she noticed that her son was currently being groomed by her master and felt jealousy rise. She rushed over and pushed her son away before stretching her head forward towards her master. Xiaocao felt helpless at the sight of her horse's jealous actions and could only first groom this jealous vat of vinegar's sleek and soft fur first to sooth her feelings.

Zhu Junyang burst into laughter when he saw this, "Little Red is still so strong-willed. Look, Fierce Wind has been injured from head to toe from her tantrum but he's not even willing to bare his teeth at her. Everyone says that a horse takes after his master's temperament. This prince's horse treats his wife so well, so clearly he took lessons from this prince!"

"Pffftt—" Yu Xiaocao comforted Little Red as she interacted with the little black colt. However, she didn't forget to rebuke the self-satisfied man in front of her, "Are you sure you want to compare yourself to Fierce Wind? Are you sure you're as good tempered as Fierce Wind?"

"When has this prince ever been bad tempered in front of you? All of the rumors in the capital say that this prince is a scary beast but, in front of you, I act like a gentle little rabbit! I have never had a temper tantrum or threatened force against you!" He paused for a moment and then a mischievous smile crossed his face as he slyly said, "If you don't believe me, then you can also bite this prince a few times. That way you can test just how good tempered I am, right?"

Yu Xiaocao watched as that shameless fellow scuttled over with his lips pouted. Her face felt hot and she glared at him furiously as she snarled, "There is one thing that makes you and Fierce Wind quite similar!"

"Ah? What part?" This was one of the only times when that annoying eyesore, Chief Steward Su, wasn't around, so Zhu Junyang took advantage of the other man's absence to monopolize the little lass. He pecked at her red, alluring lips a few times and only backed off once she angrily glared at him.

Yu Xiaocao retreated a couple of steps as she used the back of her hand to wipe her mouth. She glowered at him and hatefully said, "You're both incredibly shameless and clingy to the extreme. Brazenly shameless!!"

"Everyone always says a fierce woman is afraid of a clingy man. If this prince wasn't more forward, when would I ever be able to hug the beauty, eh?" Zhu Junyang was usually quite cold and aloof in front of others, but in private he was quite sloppy and sappy. If his subordinates could see him now, they would have absolutely thought that some evil, perverted spirit had entered his body and started controlling him.

Yu Xiaocao coldly huffed and stamped her feet helplessly on the grassy ground. Behind her were two horses, one large and one small, and then another one also came over. It was Fierce Wind, who was begging for favor. If a stranger was here now, they would have thought that the stud farm had an additional groom in the form of a young girl!

"Cao'er, let me remind you that you will be sixteen next year ah!" Zhu Junyang threw a charming look at the little lass in an attempt to change the topic to his liking.

Yu Xiaocao pretended to not understand what he was trying to hint at and casually replied, "That's right ah! I'll be older by a year again!"

Zhu Junyang saw that she was deliberately making things difficult and decided to directly address the issue at hand, "Just look, don't you think this prince should have my lady mother start preparing for the three letters and six rites?"

"Wouldn't starting to prepare now be a bit too early? Didn't we agree to go with the imperial court's suggestion to only marry when I turn eighteen?" Yu Xiaocao continued to bait him. In actuality, after all these years of observation and testing, Yu Xiaocao had already accepted this man in front of her. In addition, she felt like she was discovering more and more good things about him every day.

One of his good points was that if she married him, he wouldn't expect her to act like the typical virtuous wife like the other old fossils in this era. Other men expected their wives to spend almost all of their time in the one mu or so of land in the back courtyard, managing the household and children. Zhu Junyang, on the other hand, had directly said that she could do whatever she wanted to do after she married him. He didn't expect her to change at all.

The second good point was that he was very lenient and accepting of her, and this was something very important to her. After all, her ways of thinking and interacting with the world were very different from the other people living in this ancient era. Regardless of what shocking things she did or scandalous things she said, he always reacted the same: with a raised eyebrow and a rueful smile.

Fields of Gold Chapter 572

With Zhu Junyang's observation skills, it would be highly unlikely that he didn't sense that there was a big secret that she was hiding, but he always respected her privacy. He never tried to ask her or chase her about this secret. Sometimes, he would even do something to help protect her and create a smokescreen. His actions truly touched her.

Perhaps this was the true reason why she had accepted him. Naturally, the fact that Zhu Junyang had fallen head over heels for her first and chased after her wholeheartedly also played a large role in decreasing the defenses around her heart.

“Lass, you couldn't have forgotten right? Two years ago, you once told me that, once you turn sixteen, this prince could propose marriage to you! This prince has thought about it. We'll first settle our engagement and once all of the ceremonies surrounding that are done, you should be around eighteen. At that time, we can get married...” As he got to this point, Zhu Junyang acted as if he was already in his red wedding clothes, escorting his bride, who was also clothed entirely in her wedding attire. His whole face lit up with exuberant happiness and it made his handsome face seem even more attractive and bewitching.

Yu Xiaocao felt her heart itch and thump at the sight of those phoenix eyes filled with pure joy. Her lips curved up into a mischievous smile as she deliberately pasted on a befuddled look on her face, “What? Did I ever say that before? That can't be right, you must have come up with that yourself. You're the big bad wolf trying to trick Little Red Riding Hood!”

Zhu Junyang narrowed his phoenix eyes and looked at her with a faint smile on his face as he went forward a couple steps. His voice deepened in a magnetizing manner as he said, “Oh? You don't remember? How about this prince help you jog your memory, eh?”

“No...no need ah!” With such an attractive handsome face in front of her, Xiaocao unconsciously retreated a couple of steps. She felt like her mouth had suddenly turned dry and she couldn't help but swallow some saliva involuntarily. Bewitching beauties caused the downfall of people; this fact was true!

Zhu Junyang, on the other hand, had no desire to let go of such a rare opportunity to be with her alone. Thus, he naturally wouldn't let this little lass, who was always provoking him, go that easily. His voice became a bit hoarse, which added an attractive quality to it, "But, this big bad wolf is hungry now and wants to eat Little Red Riding Hood. What should I do?"

"Little Red Riding Hood absolutely refuses!" Yu Xiaocao seemed to have thought of something as a blush crept up onto her face like the glow from a sunset. Her adorable little pink tongue involuntarily licked the edges of her bright red lips.

Zhu Junyang's throat moved a bit and the tiny fire within him ignited with a raging roar. He groaned quietly, "You're the one who's tempting me..."

Yu Xiaocao suddenly felt her waist being embraced by a certain someone's large hand and her body just followed that hand to be smooched against a certain someone's chest. Her eyes opened wide and she could only see a figure briefly flash before her small mouth had been captured by a warm and soft object. Hot, steamy breath hit her face and she felt her cheeks flush with heat. Her large, doe-like eyes glittered with a bashful light as she looked into Zhu Junyang's phoenix eyes, which were half-closed in pleasure.

"Close your eyes..." The warmth on her lips disappeared for a second and the eyes of the man in front of her shined with good humor. She felt her heart tremble and she obediently closed her eyes. Because of that, she was much more aware of the sensations that followed.

The barrier of her red lips were easily bypassed by a lively tongue. Zhu Junyang's tongue entered her mouth and began to oppressively ravage her tongue and conquer the territory inside. They entwined together into a tantalizing dance and Yu Xiaocao started to feel her head spinning from breathlessness.

Zhu Junyang sucked, nibbled, licked, and devoured her lips...the two of them were linked passionately between their lips and Yu Xiaocao clearly felt her delicate small body being embraced strongly against Zhu Junyang's tall and study figure. His large, warm hand gently stroked her back, causing involuntary shivers to cascade down her body. Her legs began to buckle and weaken under his ministrations.

Just as the two of them were growing drunk on their kisses and were heading towards a mindless state, suddenly, a horse's head appeared between the two of them and interrupted their session. The horse's hot and humid breath steamed over their faces and Zhu Junyang opened his eyes to see a pair of black curious eyes staring at him. He almost couldn't resist the urge to smack that big red horse's face far away!

Apparently, when Little Red saw that the master she had waited to see for so long being preoccupied by Fierce Wind's master, she became quite upset and deliberately thrust her face between the two of them to fight for favor! Xiaocao, who finally regained her senses, felt her face flush red when she saw her horse looking at her inquisitively. She hurriedly retreated a few steps and hugged Little Red's neck while she buried her face into the horse's neck.

As for the little black colt, who had been ignored this entire time, he also squeezed forward and shoved his adorable little head into Xiaocao's chest—'Mother's master's body smells so good. I really want to lick at her!'

All of the lingering affection between the two had been rudely interrupted by these two horses. Zhu Junyang inwardly let out a long sigh and then glared at his own steed—'What a useless fellow, you can't even keep your own wife in check! She completely ruined this prince's plans. In the future, it looks like I'll have to change out your good fodder for the ordinary!'

Fierce Wind expressed his innocence. He was also very aggrieved, alright? Couldn't the prince see that his entire head had been savaged by his wife and was now bloody? His beautiful ears had also been ravaged, but his master not only didn't pity him but also glared at him. Wasn't this just sentencing this horse to death?

Zhu Junyang gazed at his future little wife, who was gently stroking the young colt. Her small delicate body seemed to be glowing under the autumn sun, and she looked simultaneously indolent and delicate. Her large almond-shaped eyes were slightly closed in pleasure and her bright red lips, which had just been thoroughly kissed by him, were curved up into a sweet smile. Her entire body seemed to be lit up from within, making her seem like a delicately carved jade statue. Although his future little wife wasn't the most stunning beauty he had ever seen, he felt like the more he looked at her, the more he liked her. He felt his heart begin to throb again.

"Commander Liu said that there is a herd of wild horses here and there should be some good quality horses that are usually hard to find within them. Do you want to go take a look?" Zhu Junyang deeply treasured this time alone with his little lass, and wanted to take her around so she could enjoy the scenery. Naturally, if the little lass would ride pillion with him as well, he would be even more happy.

A herd of wild horses? As expected, his proposal had stoked Xiaocao's interest. As Xiaocao was about to mount her white horse, she discovered that her clothing was being pulled back by something. When she turned her head around, she saw Little Red looking pitifully at her as if she was trying to say, "Master, do

you really not want Little Red anymore ah?" Then, the red horse revealed a fierce expression at the white horse, "The master is mine, go scam!"

"You just gave birth to the baby not long ago, are you sure you're completely recovered?" Yu Xiaocao stroked Little Red's head as she asked in concern.

Little Red ran around a few times and then rushed back. Her actions were clear, "Master, Little Red is quite well, let's run with the wind ah!"

Xiaocao took the tack off of the white horse and then put them all back onto Little Red. Suddenly, she saw the little black colt, staring foolishly at them. She couldn't help but ask, "Little Red, your baby is still small, don't you want to spend some time with him?"

Little Red snorted in disdain and glanced faintly at her son and then looked away, pretending as if she hadn't seen anything. The little black colt wasn't sad that his mother was leaving. In fact, he was sad because he didn't want Xiaocao to go. Usually, Little Red didn't do much else with her son besides trying to steal his special fodder. Thus, the little black colt had already gotten used to the cold treatment from his mother and didn't care anymore. Although he was small, he was quite independent now!

Xiaocao turned and fed the little fellow another piece of candy. She stroked his neck and comforted him, "Go play by yourself for a bit. We will be back soon. When we come back, I'll give you more delicious things to eat!"

In a moment of carelessness, she had taken out the thing that the little glutton liked the most. However, it was quite effective. When the little colt heard the words 'delicious things to eat', he no longer clung onto them and obediently watched as the two humans rode off in the distance. Only then did he start to stroll leisurely on the fields. From time to time, he would lower his head to nibble a bit on the grass. However, he would always spit the mouthful out in disdain— he needed to leave some space in his stomach for when his mother's master came back with more delicious food!

The two of them galloped swiftly across the plains and enjoyed the feeling of flying through the air. Before long, they came out of the small ravine and arrived at the top of a small hill. Further down was a lush, green, deep valley. The climate inside this area was the same as that mountainous ravine near where Xiaocao lived. A clear, gurgling stream wound through it and there was an abundance of dark green grass that reached knee height. From time to time, they could hear the startled cries of marmots and wild hares as they fled away from the horses' hooves.

“Did you say that the wild horse herd was in this valley? They chose a good place to live ah!” Yu Xiaocao sat on horseback and looked all around this area. With bright and lush greenery all around, she immediately felt her spirits rise.

“That's why they say that animals are quite sensitive ah!” Zhu Junyang agreed with her and pointed in a direction, “It's rumored that the herd of wild horses were first discovered over there. If we're lucky today, we might be able to come across them!”

Yu Xiaocao suddenly started to grin mischievously and then spoke her outrageous thought, “The leader of the wild horses must be a stallion, right? Do you think if we use Little Red as a beauty trap that we'd be able to seduce that stallion over?”

“Ah...” Zhu Junyang really didn't know what to say. However, this shameless fellow soon smiled brightly and seriously said, “If it were this prince and you came out, I would definitely obediently follow you after being seduced!”

Yu Xiaocao glared at him and growled, “Shameless, not even a little bit shy!”

“However, I heard from the horse tamers say that there truly was a time when a wild horse snuck into our herd here and mated with one of the mares. His offspring was quite a piece of horseflesh!”

Fierce Wind, who was being ridden by Zhu Junyang, unhappily whinnied, “You want this horse's little wife to go seduce another stallion? Do you have any shame left? This horse vehemently objects to this plan, absolutely object!!” Zhu Junyang placated his beloved steed and continued to head into the valley. Without Xiaocao prompting her, Little Red followed closely from behind.

Evidently, fortune was on their side today. Before long, a herd of wild horses appeared before their eyes. The horses all had their heads down as they leisurely ate grass. There had to be around thirty to forty horses in this herd, so this was considered to be quite a large group of wild horses.

“Wow! That white horse is so beautiful ah! It's even better than my white horse, Treading Snow!” Yu Xiaocao's eyesight was quite keen and she pointed out a wild horse who didn't have a single hair out of place. Its fur was a gleaming, snow white, so she couldn't help but exclaim in astonishment and appreciation.

Although she didn't know much about horses, she could tell that this white horse, that didn't seem to have a single flaw apparent on its body, was a superior animal. Every line of its body could be seen and healthy muscle bunched out from underneath its fur.

“The horse that you're talking about should be the head stallion of this wild herd! If you don't believe me, just look!” Zhu Junyang suddenly whistled shrilly, which echoed loudly throughout the valley.

That white horse immediately raised its head and let out a loud, ear-piercing whinny which resounded throughout the valley. The other horses who heard this noise quickly stopped eating and all ran in one direction down the valley.

Fields of Gold Chapter 573

The herd of horses bunched together and took off like the wind. Their long manes and tails billowed in the wind and they galloped off, one after another, sweeping off into the distance. They moved as one large group as they fled quickly. It was a moving sight that was both powerful and beautiful at the same time and also incredibly majestic.

The flawlessly white head horse stampeded off with its long hair flying gloriously in the air. It made a magnificent figure as it arced through the air like a homing pigeon and gracefully swept away like a petrel. It easily took the lead position of the herd as the group thundered away on the grassy valley.

“Zhu Junyang, you scared off all of the horses!!” Yu Xiaocao pouted and angrily glared at the offender as she cried out indignantly.

Zhu Junyang stretched out a long arm and brought the little lass, who was full of anger, from Little Red to ride in front of him. They headed in the direction where the horses fled as he laughed, “Little lass, do you truly believe that we would easily be able to capture that head stallion today?”

“Why wouldn't we be able to?” Yu Xiaocao rubbed at the sugar lumps in her embroidered pouch. She had her golden finger ah! She was quite sure that the horse wouldn't be able to resist taking the bait. Even if the head stallion was smart enough to resist the lure, that didn't mean the other wild horses in the herd would be able to.

Zhu Junyang pinched her small nose and chuckled, "For something like this, shouldn't we go back and discuss it first? After all, taming and capturing a wild horse isn't something that happens in a day. You need to give me some time to prepare..."

Yu Xiaocao silently digested his words. She realized that he was afraid that other people would start suspecting her if this had happened and felt a bit ashamed. Now that she thought more about this, she had been quite lucky these past few years. She hadn't encountered any people who noticed anything and tried to investigate more into her. Otherwise, she wasn't sure that she'd be able to keep her secret for this long.

In the last two years, she hadn't needed to keep a low profile. With the emperor in front and Zhu Junyang behind keeping her safe, she had become more and more blatant in her usage of her golden finger. Perhaps, during a time when she was unaware, trouble had already come knocking but had been pushed or scared away by a certain someone! After all, Royal Prince Yang's prestige and reputation were quite effective in the capital!

"Alright then! You can go back and think of a good idea while I come up with a few different types of bait to see if we can lure that white horse over. When the moment comes, I'm sure the trap we set will be impossible for it to come out of!" As she spoke, the little lass became excited and exhilarated again. Her intuition told her that the white stallion was absolutely a superior quality animal, on par with Fierce Wind. The stud farm required such a good specimen!

The two of them galloped in the front while Little Red easily kept up with them from behind. Before long, they arrived at a set of buildings on the stud farm. These buildings had a special little courtyard built into it that had been prepared to allow them a place to rest. Although it was a simple dwelling, it was quite clean and comfy. The rooms even had a bunch of kang beds in them, and, in the winter, they would definitely keep the dwelling warm and give it a sense of home.

The hundred or so soldiers from the firearms camps that Zhu Junyang brought along had already been situated in the barracks in the back. Head Steward Liu and Hou Xiaoliang had already gone into the small courtyard residence and ordered the servants there to stow away their luggage and do some cleaning. Yu Xiaocao's four personal maidservants were currently busying away in making the meal.

"Young Miss, you've come back? There was a little horse outside that was hanging around for a long time and had just been led away by one of the trainers here. The little horse doesn't seem to be afraid of people and it kept trying to stick its face into this servant's pouch ah! How did it know that this servant keeps snacks in my pouch?"

As soon as Yingchun saw that her mistress had come back, she came forward and chattered away in welcome. Every time she came out with the young miss, she was always able to encounter interesting and novel things. Thus, whenever there was a trip to be had, she was always very energetic and diligent as she was afraid of being left behind. Wutong, on the other hand, carefully glanced at her young miss and discovered that nothing seemed to be amiss. Only then did she let out a quiet sigh in relief.

However, how could her tiny movement escape Zhu Junyang's keen senses? He raised his eyebrows——his little lass's maids were getting harder and harder to fool as time went on! However, he was confident in his ability to steal a few affections here and there away from these guardian devils.

“A little horse?” Yu Xiaocao couldn't help but laugh as she asked, “Was it a black little horse? Not very tall but seems very smart ah?”

“That's right ah! Young Miss, you've also encountered this horse before?” Yingchun looked behind Xiaocao and saw a red horse that she hadn't seen for some time. She smiled, “Little Red? It's been a long time! Young Miss, will Little Red be able to come back with us this time?”

Little Red also perked up her ears as if she was very interested in this topic. Although the lands here were full of lush, green grass and she could gallop to her heart's content, she still preferred to stay by her master's side. Her master always gave her delicious foods to eat every day, not like these people, who only gave that little black thing preferential treatment. If she wanted to eat something good, she even needed to steal from him. Such a downgrade!

Yu Xiaocao stroked Little Red's neck and fed her a soothing pill as she said, “Mhm, when we go back, Little Red will naturally come with us! The little horse you saw earlier is Little Red's son. Isn't he quite handsome ah?”

She had a proud and happy expression on her face. Little Red had been raised by her since she was young. If in her past life she had taken her pets to be her sons, then Little Red was her daughter now. Thus, her daughter's son was her grandson ah! Although she was a bit young to become a grandmother, she was still quite proud of the fact that her grandson was so handsome and lively!

“Little Red's son ah! Aiya, if I had known earlier, I wouldn't have let that horse trainer take him away. Wasn't all of the horse fodder we brought along for his sake ah?” Yingchun exclaimed in exasperation and was a bit regretful that she hadn't spent more time with the little fellow.

“Young Miss, does Little Red's son have a name yet? Will he also be coming back with us to the capital?” Yingchun helped her master to wash up while she chirped away incessantly like a skylark.

“The little fellow looks like Fierce Wind and is black from head to toe. I think the name 'Black Whirlwind' will fit him quite well! What do you think?” As the 'grandmother' in this relationship, choosing a name for the horse was naturally her duty.

Zhu Junyang, whose opinion had just been asked, had always thought that her naming conventions for things were quite dull. She gave names like 'Little Red', 'Little Black', and 'Little White'...in the future, this little colt was destined to become one of the best horses in the empire. He was truly afraid that, in a moment of hot-headedness, she would also give him a 'simple and common' name to this horse.

As soon as he heard 'Black Whirlwind' being proposed as a name, he immediately nodded his head in agreement. Out of all of the names that the little lass had come up with, this had to be the best one yet! However, he would have never expected that the lass had gotten this name by purloining it from someone's book !

“Mhm, this name is very suitable and quite fitting!” Zhu Junyang gave his evaluation.

The little lass huffed arrogantly and said, “Obviously. When have I ever chosen a name that's not fitting?”

Zhu Junyang glanced in the direction of Little Red and stated, “Eh? Is that so ah?”

Yu Xiaocao immediately scowled and glared at him angrily. She used her foot to kick at a certain someone's ankle and then huffily left to go eat. Earlier, when they were galloping their horses on the plain, she had lost track of time accidentally. By the time they got back, it was mid-afternoon and her stomach was rumbling in hunger. On the way back, she had even secretly eaten a piece of rock candy from the pouch she used to feed the horses. This maltose candy was actually made by her and she used malt and mystic-stone water as the raw ingredients. Naturally, it was very tasty!

“Master, what do you plan on doing with the three people in the guest courtyard?” After they finished eating their late noon meal, Commander Liu seriously asked Zhu Junyang for his opinion.

Zhu Junyang raised his eyes and looked at him while he blandly asked, "What is it? Something is off?"

Commander Liu had a slightly angry expression on his face as he growled out, "Master, you told me to carefully observe these three people, so I sent Li Zhan, who is good at disguising himself and making discreet inquiries, to keep an eye on them. I didn't expect to find out that those three people aren't actually citizens of the Great Ming Empire and instead are from the Tuha'erhanbu tribe! The other two call the one who looks like the master 'Great King'. The other two are named Ajige and Dela Citeng, and they seem to be his trusted aides. Master, for these three people to enter our Central Plains, they must have ulterior motives! In addition, it must not be for a small reason!! This subordinate asks permission to bring a few people over so we can take them for prisoners!"

Tuha'erhanbu tribe's Great King Yelu Rong? The rulers of the Khitan tribes always had the surname of 'Xiao'. Since he had introduced himself as 'Xiao Rong', it meant that he wasn't trying to deceive them. As for Ajige and Dela Citeng, one of them was the current Wise Teacher of the State while the other was a famous general who was well known to be good at fighting. With them here, that basically made it obvious what Yelu Rong's identity was!

Although the Tuha'erhanbu tribe was a more subdued tribe, Zhu Junyang still knew them like the back of his own hand as he had once led troops as a high-ranking military official. There were only two reasons why the Great King of the Tuha'erhanbu tribe would sneak into their borders, which was a very dangerous thing for him to do. He was either pretending to be injured in order to get closer to his objective, or they had an internal incident in the tribe, leading him to secretly flee into the Great Ming borders.

When they had encountered these three men, if he, Zhu Junyang, hadn't lifted a hand to help them, it was likely those three would be dead now. As the Great King, Yelu Rong absolutely wouldn't risk his own life to that extent in order to finish a mission. Thus, it was very likely that there was internal strife in his own tribe!

"No need to hurry! Commander Liu, take a few people to secretly leave the border and make some inquiries on what is happening with that tribe. If it truly is what this prince suspects, then the Tuha'erhanbu tribe will soon make their own moves next!" Zhu Junyang smiled craftily like a fox, which made chills run down Commander Liu's body.

Like that, Xiao Rong and his two advisors were left by themselves in the guest courtyard. Every day, the guest courtyard was always sent delicious foods and drinks for them to enjoy. Furthermore, they even

had a highly skilled doctor tending to their wounds. The servants in the courtyard were also extremely polite and treated them with utmost courtesy. Xiao Rong had already come up with the idea to become allies with the Great Ming. The only thing he was missing was the chance to broadcast his good will to Zhu Junyang. However, by the time their wounds were completely healed, he still hadn't had the opportunity to meet up with the prince.

Every time they asked the servants in the guest courtyard about their master's whereabouts, the servants always said the same excuse, 'The master is currently trapping a wild horse herd for the farm,' to diplomatically hint that their master was too busy to see them.

In actuality, this wasn't a complete lie. Zhu Junyang had been spending most of his days with his subordinates coming up with a special method to catch these wild horses. Furthermore, they had come up with a perfect strategy. Naturally, this strategy relied heavily on Xiaocao's special 'bait'.

The so-called 'bait' was merely a cake that was made with a special oat and bean mixture that had some mystic-stone water added to it. In order to fool other people, Xiaocao also especially added a few uncommon herbs to this 'bait'. Furthermore, her finished 'bait' was tested on the horses at the stud farm.

Fields of Gold Chapter 574

The little black colt, who had just received the name of 'Black Whirlwind', soon became a frequent visitor at the stud farm's courtyard. Xiaocao's and Zhu Junyang's people all knew that he was the son of Little Red and were very lenient towards him. The servants working there had already known that he was the most promising foal they had at the farm, but now they were even more caring around him.

The little fellow went in and out of the courtyard all of the time and he often headed into the inner courtyard's makeshift pharmacy. In fact, he was almost there every day because he was gluttonous and knew that the back courtyard had delicious food. The food there was even more delicious than the extra snacks he was given at the stables.

Today, Yu Xiaocao was carrying a basket full of 'bait' that emitted the alluring fragrance of spiritual energy. As soon as she exited the inner courtyard, she encountered 'Black Whirlwind'. The little colt's dark eyes immediately lit up and he scrambled over, stretching out his mouth towards the contents of the basket—tasty snacks, he wanted some!

Yu Xiaocao pushed at the little fellow's head but wasn't able to push him away. This little guy was extremely shameless and knew everyone favored and pitied him. He knew how to sell his cuteness and

used his large, limpid eyes to look anxiously at her, showing that he was feeling a bit aggrieved. His pitiful act instantly conquered Xiaocao.

She took out a piece of 'bait' that was about the size of a child's fist and had Yingchun feed it to the little fellow. Yu Xiaocao lifted the basket and continued to walk in the direction of the stud farm. For the past few days, other than clinging onto her, Zhu Junyang spent the rest of his time at the stud farm, which clearly showed how much importance he placed on this farm.

Zhu Junyang was currently discussing matters with the veterinarian and helping the man inspect a horse. When he saw her come over, he fixed his clothing and took the basket from her hands while he quietly asked, "Do you have confidence in this 'bait'?"

"Naturally! The Yu's products are all top quality. In addition, I added some smoketree that the horses like and a few herbs to it that will increase the flavor of the smoketree to its peak. The horses in this paddock should all be able to smell this bait!" Yu Xiaocao knew that he was deliberately asked this question in front of the vet and the other grooms in the farm. She pretended to not notice that she had inadvertently leaked the ingredients of this bait.

When the vet and the grooms in the area saw that their master and future mistress weren't trying to hide the contents of the bait from them, they felt incredibly gratified within their hearts. In their hearts, Royal Prince Yang had risen a few more levels.

Zhu Junyang transferred the basket in his hands to Commander Liu. He somewhat anxiously and emotionally shouted at one of his aides, "Zhang Qun, go experiment to see just how far this bait can attract horses. If there's no problems with it, tomorrow we'll start to capture some wild horses! That herd of wild horses has some great quality stallions in there. If we're able to catch around seven to eight of them, then our stud farm won't have to worry about having enough prime studs in the future!"

Yu Xiaocao stood at the side and faintly smiled as she watched them busting around. Then, she glanced at the stables behind them and noticed that there were three young horses that looked a bit listless. After looking at the clearly worried vet, she could easily tell that there was something wrong with these three horses. No wonder Zhu Junyang always ran here these past few days. He now regarded the stud farm with more importance than her. Yu Xiaocao didn't want to admit that she felt a bit jealous about this.

She stepped closer to the stables and seemed to just idly stroll by the mangers. With her right arm, which had the multi-colored stone strung on it, she just seemed to barely pass by the fodder within

those mangers. However, if someone was paying attention to the hay and oats inside them, they would have noticed that they now looked a bit more tender and appetizing!

“Your Highness, the stables are dirty, please stay away...” Commander Liu didn't get to finish his sentence when Yu Xiaocao entered the stables. He watched as she used one hand to gently stroke one of the sick horses and had an expression full of pity on her face.

Zhu Junyang stepped forward and picked up a dipper full of water and held it in front of Yu Xiaocao. He gave her a meaningful glance and Yu Xiaocao seemed to understand his hint. She brushed her hand across the ladle and smiled brilliantly at him.

In other people's eyes, the actions between the two seemed quite flirtatious in nature. The vet, who was a skinny old man, even deliberately turned his face away in an awkward manner. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw that the royal prince was offering the dipper full of water towards one of the sick horses and he reminded the prince, “Your Highness, this horse hasn't eaten or drunken any water for the past three days...”

Before he could finish his sentence, his eyes widened in shock when he saw the sick horse, that almost couldn't stand steady on its feet, energetically shove its mouth into the ladle. It guzzled the water down in one gulp. Ahem ahem! Wasn't this slapping his own face ah? However, the awkward expression on the vet's face also held a gratified smile. The fact that the horse was willing to drink water meant that its illness was taking a better turn.

Last year, when the stud farm was just being established, they invited Doctor Wang, who was a very famous veterinarian, to work there by offering him a lot of money. It could be said that he had been with the farm from its start and known what sort of difficulties it had gone through to get to its current expanse. Step by step, they had built up the farm with his help. Doctor Wang was able to recite the character quirks of every single horse living at the farm. In fact, every foal that he had helped to birth was like his own child and he cared for them very deeply.

Consequently, whenever any horse got ill, he was the most anxious out of all of them and did his very best to help them get better. If he came across any he couldn't heal, he hurt the most out of everybody! This energetic little old man had no sons or daughters of his own and considered the stud farm to be his own home and the horses here to be his own children.

Thus, when these two horses revealed the signs of sickness, he spent a lot of time observing them, diagnosing them, treating them...if it was under ordinary circumstances, these horses should have at

least stabilized and gotten slightly better. However, in front of Royal Prince Yang, he had failed! Not only did the original two horses not get better but there were also other horses now showing the signs of sickness.

Was it a contagious illness? Could it be...they had come across the hard to treat horse plague? How could it be ah? All of their symptoms were not related to the horse plague, but why weren't they getting better?

“Eh? Red Clouds is finally willing to drink water!!” Doctor Wang hurriedly squeezed through and pushed Xiaocao, who was crouching next to Zhu Junyang, aside. If it weren't for Zhu Junyang being swift of hand, the little lass likely would have fallen face first into a pile of nearby hay.

Zhu Junyang's phoenix eyes flashed with a cold light and it caused all of the other people around them to shiver in fear. However, Doctor Wang, who only had his head filled with thoughts about the sick horses, was completely oblivious to the prince's change in demeanor. Yu Xiaocao muffled her laughter—Apparently, there were even times when Royal Prince Yang's aura had no effect?

Zhu Junyang smiled helplessly at her and knocked a finger on her head. He ignored her angry response and asked Doctor Wang, “Vet, can this horse still be saved?”

“It can! It absolutely can get better!!” Doctor Wang seemed extremely excited. Red Clouds' condition now looked much better compared to how it seemed earlier that morning. Furthermore, the horse seemed interested in eating now too, “Quickly! Quickly bring some nutritious hay and fodder over!”

The special fodder had been brought over from the far away capital and it was usually used to add some nutrition to the foals who had just been born. Sometimes, in order to help the sick horses get better faster, they would also be given a portion.

“Let me feed the horse?” Yu Xiaocao took the fodder from the staff in passing. Her pale hand, which seemed as bright as jade, seemed to inadvertently flip the special food around a few times.

Doctor Wang frowned a bit and snatched the food over, not even caring that he was being rude to a royal princess. He grumbled quietly, “This special fodder is for the horses to eat, not to play with!”

Commander Liu saw this crabby old man was being a bit unreasonable and hurriedly helped him to smooth the situation, “Your Highness, Doctor Wang has a straightforward personality and doesn't always think before he speaks. Please don't take it to heart!”

“Not a big deal, he's only worried over the horses after all! The stud farm lacks people like him, who care about the horses wholeheartedly!” Yu Xiaocao rubbed at her nose a bit self-consciously. In any case, when she had turned the fodder over twice it had given enough time for the little divine stone to infuse some spiritual energy into it. The horse should get better faster after eating it, right?

“Commander Liu, do we have a deep well here at the stud farm? Do the horses drink well water or water from the creek?” Yu Xiaocao noticed that this red horse, which sort of resembled Little Red, had already started eating and pretended to just casually ask this question.

Commander Liu pointedly looked at the grooms who were standing by the side. One of the fellows immediately replied, “The well at the farm has just been drilled, but the water from it is not of very good quality. The stream that runs through the pasture has water that comes from the snowmelt in the mountains, so it's considered quite clean and pure. Therefore, the vast majority of the time, we usually let the horses drink water from the creek.”

Yu Xiaocao frowned ever so slightly and glanced at Zhu Junyang. Without her saying anything, Zhu Junyang knew what she was thinking and immediately spoke to Commander Liu, “Is that well opening still available ah? Take this prince to look! Although the water from the creek is good, we don't know exactly where it travels through before it gets here. If our stud farm here ends up throwing a wrench in certain people's plans, they may decide to sabotage our water source. Wouldn't that be of great danger to our farm?”

Commander Liu silently felt alarmed. The stud farm had just been started and certain tribes at the border were all watching them, waiting for a good show. However, if the farm began to prosper and threatened their advantages, it would be hard to say that they wouldn't try to sabotage this venture. Apparently, he had been too complacent.

The well was located pretty closely to the stables and it was obvious that it hadn't been used recently. Weeds grew all around it and there was dust and dried up leaves at the mouth. Zhu Junyang suddenly held onto Xiaocao's hand and began to walk forward with her. When the other people saw this, they deliberately dawdled behind to give their master an opportunity.

Xiaocao crouched down near the well opening while the people behind them still dallied and looked around. Doctor Wang had been deliberately delayed by Commander Liu, who was asking him question after question. Xiaocao lowered her upper body down to look at the bottom of the well. A gust of humid air hit her face, and she saw that the water inside was quite murky and the quality was only okay. She glanced in the direction of Zhu Junyang and met his inquiring eyes.

“Uhhh...the water quality looks quite decent, so it could be used!” Yu Xiaocao hesitated for a moment while she linked up with the little divine stone. She stretched her hands towards the bottom of the well and a spark of golden light whizzed down. The water within the well immediately became clear and transparent and even the moss and weeds around the well seemed to be a lot more verdant.

Unless Zhu Junyang was completely blind, it'd be impossible for him not to notice such an obvious change. His eyes flickered slightly but the expression on his handsome face didn't change one iota. It was as if the water within the well had always been this clear and clean. He only thought that the little lass's attempt at hiding her actions, which only made it more obvious that she was doing something, was a bit funny. The little lass evaded his gaze. If there was suitable sandy ground in front of her, she would have likely buried her head in there like an ostrich to avoid his laughing eyes.

One of the grooms retrieved a water bucket and used it to bring up the water from the well by hand. The expression on his face immediately brightened. The water felt cool and refreshing and seemed even more pure than the best spring water from the top of a snow-capped mountain. The taste of the water was also incredibly good.

“Who would have thought that letting this well sit for a while would let it produce such better water!” The stablehand drank another mouthful and almost wanted to continue to drink without stopping.

Fields of Gold Chapter 575

“Since the well water can be used, then we will water the horses in the future from it ah!” Commander Liu also tasted the water in the well and nodded his head in agreement.

By the time the group of them were back at the stable, the red horse, who was previously the most ill out of all of them, was already able to stand up again. Its appetite was quite good and it had finished all of the special fodder had been sent over. Furthermore, it looked as if it wanted to eat more. The other few sick horses had also started to eat after drinking the water in the manger. However, they seemed to be only interested in the special fodder and disdained the rest of the food as beneath them.

“So picky!” Doctor Wang patted each horse and there was finally the sign of a smile on his thin and dried up old face. To him, there was nothing better than a horse getting well to make a person happy.

“Master, Commander!” Zhang Qun, who had been sent off to experiment with the new bait, ran back excitedly, “This bait is quite effective at luring horses over. I tried a few times and found out that it has a range of around five hundred meters. Any further and its effects decrease by about half! Furthermore, the horses really seem to like eating this bait. When this subordinate tried to snatch a piece away from a horse, I was almost bitten by that animal!”

“As long as it's effective! Lass, when you go back, go make a few more pieces of this bait. Tomorrow, this prince will take you out to lure some wild horses! Didn't you have your eye on that head stallion earlier, eh? This prince will tame it for you to become a riding steed!”

Xiaocao had done quite a lot today for the stud farm. She not only fixed the problem of catching the wily wild horses but she also helped heal the sick ones at the farm. He obviously knew it all had something to do with her. After all, he was pretty sure the little lass had done something with the fodder that was given to that very ill red horse.

Zhu Junyang could long tell that the little lass was very interested in catching wild horses. As a reward, he was going to fulfill her wishes and take her out to play!

The next day, at the crack of dawn, Zhu Junyang and Commander Liu split into two groups as they headed into the deep grasslands. Zhu Junyang's goal was to meet up with that herd of wild horses. When they headed out, he only brought along a few trusted aides with him, among them included Hou Xiaoliang and Head Steward Liu.

The last time they were out, although they had startled that herd of horses, the horses didn't feel threatened as they didn't show their faces to the animals. Thus, they headed towards that particular valley again. Zhu Junyang decided to set the trap not far from the opening of the valley. There were a few wizened old trees in the area with lush verdant branches that criss-crossed and acted as a perfect screen. It was the perfect hiding place for the humans. Not far from the trees, they set up the traps to capture the horses and they baited the traps with the special bait that no horse could resist.

They had prepared several traps like this throughout the valley. Each one had a trusted aide guarding it. Zhu Junyang and Yu Xiaocao were sitting in ambush at the trap that was the deepest within the valley. Before long, the herd of horses began to move. The smell of the bait was really too attractive to them. Even with the warning of the head stallion, there were still some wild horses who ignored him to head to the trap in the outermost part of the valley.

A few of the wild horses had already been lured over by the smell. The aides, who were next to the traps, hurriedly placed out some more bait as quietly as they could into the traps. If any horse got close, the person near the trap would add an additional piece of bait. Before long, even Zhu Junyang, who was the one closest to the innermost part of the valley, had started putting out bait. As for the aide stationed in the outer part of the valley, there was already a horse who had been lured in!

“One's here!” Yu Xiaocao mouthed a signal at Zhu Junyang. The young maiden was currently lying on the grass and she had a woven grass hat on her head. On top of the hat was a bunch of colorful flowers. She was a beautifully delicate young maiden to begin with and now with that childish looking hat on top, she looked even more lively and vivacious.

As for the man next to her, Royal Prince Yang, who gave off an air of coldness and killing intent, he was also wearing the exact same flower grass hat on his head as well. If his subordinates could see him now, they would all exclaim that 'an illustrious man was ruined just like that'!

Zhu Junyang's phoenix eyes held a hint of helplessness in them. He really wanted to take off the silly looking woven grass hat but the little maiden next to him claimed that he looked very handsome with it on. She even stated that the hat suited him more than anyone else she had seen. He couldn't bear to not follow her ideas, so he rejoiced that it was only the two of them in the area. There was no third party to see just how foolish he looked right now.

He looked in the direction that Xiaocao had pointed out and saw a plump and sturdy light buckskin horse slowly heading towards their trap. This buckskin colored horse was probably second only to the head stallion in the herd of wild horses. If they were able to tame and train it well, it wouldn't be any worse than his Fierce Wind! Zhu Junyang immediately became enthused at the prospect and focused all of his attention at luring this horse over.

It was getting closer and closer! The light buckskin horse was already within the vicinity of the trap and its mouth was already going into the carefully crafted noose. Suddenly, it raised its head as if it had sensed some danger nearby and retreated a couple of steps. However, the smell of the bait was truly too alluring. It was akin to the delicious scent of red braised pork to a person who had been starving for a long time. No matter how strong that person's will power was, he or she would definitely be unable to resist eating that food in the end, so how could a mere horse resist this?

The light buckskin colored horse looked left and right and didn't see anything out of the ordinary, so it stepped forward again. It stretched out its long neck and grabbed the piece of bait, taking it out. It closed its eyes as it enjoyed the taste of the food. It was truly too delicious! In fact, it could tell that this food held the power to help it become more powerful and strong. If it was able to eat more, perhaps, in

the future, it'd be able to challenge the head stallion and take over the herd. That way, it would become the leader instead!

With its defenses completely obliterated by the tasty food, the light buckskin colored horse stuck its head fully into the noose and began to eat the remaining few pieces of bait inside. Using this opportunity, Zhu Junyang pulled sharply on the rope, tightening the noose around the buckskin horse's neck. The startled horse let out a scared whinny and struggled fiercely to throw this rope off of it. Unfortunately, it was too late for the horse. It had already been tightly restrained by that strong piece of rope, and the person holding the other end of the rope was Zhu Junyang, who had a monstrous strength in his two large hands.

The alarmed scream of the buckskin horse seemed to be a signal. Other whinnies from horses could be heard from the other traps. As for the horses that were luckily able to escape, the sounds of their frantic hooves thundering were soon heard. Royal Prince Yang could also hear the yells of his trusted aides.

"Lass, look..." When Zhu Junyang turned his head towards the direction of where Xiaocao was previously hiding, he discovered that the slight and delicate figure of the little lass was nowhere to be seen. He had been too focused earlier at his task at hand that he couldn't even sense when the little lass had left. Fortunately, there was no one else around them so he was quite sure that no one had tried to kidnap her.

He tightened his grip on the rope. No matter how hard that buckskin horse struggled or jumped, it was unable to free itself. Zhu Junyang leapt up and landed on the back of the horse, using his two legs to grip tightly to keep his seat. As an arrogant wild horse, how could it possibly allow a human to easily ride it? The buckskin horse became frantic and crazy, jumping up and down and bucking with all of its might to get this hateful human off. However, Zhu Junyang's equestrian skills were consummate and he was quite skilled at taming and training horses. It was as if he was anchored onto the wild horse's back. As he resisted the buckskin horse's attempt to buck him off, he scanned the area quickly, looking for any sign of Yu Xiaocao.

Today, in order to hide herself better, Xiaocao had especially worn a set of clothing that was a light green color and also wore the woven grass hat. With that on, she pretty much melted into the environment. However, Zhu Junyang was still able to keenly spot where she was currently.

That little lass had some guts. He didn't know when she managed or what method she used to get closer to the herd of horses but the horses in the herd didn't seem to reject her at all. After the buckskin horse began to whinny and scream in protest, the herd of horses, which had previously been calm and idle,

began to move. Worry entwined around Zhu Junyang's heart as he was afraid the horses' frantic movements would end up inadvertently hurting the young maiden.

That was right. While Zhu Junyang had focused his entire attention on luring and trapping the buckskin horse, Xiaocao suddenly had an idea come to mind. She sprinkled some mystic-stone water on her body and carefully left that hidden area with her pouch of 'bait'. She slowly headed towards the wild horse herd step by step.

As expected, when the members of the herd smelled the mystic-stone water on her, they didn't reject her. Instead, there were even a few horses who stupidly stepped closer to her and used their noses to take a gentle whiff of her body. They almost started to lick her.

Yu Xiaocao didn't want to get a face full of horse saliva, so she took out a bit of bait from her pouch that had been dipped in mystic-stone water and carefully offered it to one of the horses next to her. She knew that wild horses were quite sensitive and was afraid that if her movements were too large, she'd end up frightening them. Fortunately, the horses were completely focused on the bait in her hands. A dun-colored horse inquisitively stretched out its mouth and chowed down on the 'bait' in her hands. When the other horses saw that it was clearly enjoying the treat, they also headed over and begged for food from her.

If an outsider had seen this, they would have never believed that these horses, that were willing to get closer to a human, were actually wild and untamed horses and not horses that were familiar with humans.

What made Xiaocao even more happy was that the head stallion, the horse that had a flawlessly white coat, didn't seem to reject her getting closer either. The white horse seemed to have a more aloof personality. Although it was also interested in bait in her hands, it continued to quietly stand where it was while the other horses in the herd squeezed over. Its large, tranquil black eyes seemed to hold a bit of arrogance as it gently stared at Xiaocao. It didn't seem to regard her as a dangerous human and instead seemed to take her as one of its own. The scent of mystic-stone water coming off of her body was able to transcend the limits of species and seemed to make any creature want to get closer to her.

Xiaocao slowly stepped closer to the white horse carefully. When she saw that the horse didn't reject her attempt, she smiled sweetly at the creature and offered it a piece of 'bait'. The white horse naturally took the offered food from Xiaocao's hands as if it was entitled to it. Xiaocao, who was biased, then fed the rest of the bait in her pouch to this flawlessly white horse.

Although the white horse she had ridden here was quite beautiful, compared to this stallion, it was a mere slag. The white horse in front of her was the perfect example of what a horse should look like. She couldn't see a single flaw on it.

The white horse ate her bait and now regarded her more intimately. When she took out a hand to pet its neck, it didn't refuse her advances at all. In fact, compared to her arrogant Little Red, it even seemed more gentle.

However, its gentle side immediately disappeared when the sounds of alarmed horses began. As the leader of the herd, it stretched out its neck and trumpeted out an order while its hooves stamped on the ground. The other horses around Xiaocao also began to move around restlessly. As for the horses on the outside of the herd, when they heard the white horse scream out a warning, they began to flee in panic and run towards the deep valley.

Fields of Gold Chapter 576

Yu Xiaocao was frightened into squatting down into the grass with her head in her arms, fearing that the horses' hooves would come down and trample her small body. Fortunately, the horses around her seem to be worried about the existence of her petite self and avoided her, either unconsciously or consciously, when they were running.

Zhu Junyang looked at the small figure that had rolled itself into a ball in the middle of the horse herd in panic and fear. The wild horses were fierce and difficult to tame. Dozens of wild horses galloped past her. If any of them trampled on her, the consequences could be unimaginable.

How could he still care about taming the wild horse underneath him? He leaped from the horse's back. The harness on the buckskin horse was casually thrown away and then he rapidly leapt off and ran towards the wild horse herd in the distance. He prayed to all the gods he knew to protect the girl that he loved so that she could get away from the wild horse herd without any injuries.

He summoned all of the energy within and lightened his body, using all of his internal energy to go towards the sole figure in his eyes. His speed had already reached the limit. Even Fierce Wind galloping at its top speed couldn't match the prince's speed at this moment. The wind lifted his long hair and his eyes turned crimson with worry. His entire face seemed to be covered with a layer of ten thousand year old ice.

Faster, faster, he had to be even faster! However, the distance between the two of them was too great. Due to his sudden appearance, the horse herd galloped even faster. The trampled grass flew up high into the air, scattered onto the smooth dark hair of the lass and then slipped down quietly.

The lead white horse galloping in the distance suddenly turned its head and ran back against the horse herd. The cool breeze of the grassland blew through its handsome mane. The tuft of fur on top of its head shook up and down with its movement. Its muscles were tense, making it look strong and powerful.

Just when Zhu Junyang was around thirty to forty meters away from Xiaocao, he saw the white horse slam to a stop in front of Yu Xiaocao, similar to how Little Red invited its master for a ride every time. It knelt in front of Yu Xiaocao and snorted a few times as if inviting her to mount it.

Xiaocao was stupefied for a moment. Before her own brain could react, her body had already moved. In a jump, she had leaped onto the graceful white horse's back.

"Lass!" Zhu Junyang didn't know if he should cry or laugh. This lass, when he was trying to save her using his all, had jumped onto the horse's back without even thinking about it, gradually leaving his sight. Such a heartless little thing! All of his worries for her were for naught!

As if it had perceived the dangerous aura coming from the prince, the moment Xiaocao jumped on its back, the white horse got up quickly, spread its four hooves, and ran like the wind. The ends of its tail had almost swept across Zhu Junyang's charming face.

"Don't worry, the horse doesn't have any ill intent towards me! Wait for me to return!" Yu Xiaocao, who was bent over the horse's back, could only shout at Zhu Junyang as the wind blew into her mouth. Fortunately, her riding skills were quite good. She clung onto the horse's back with her hands and feet wrapped around the horse like an octopus.

Zhu Junyang wanted to continue chasing, but he was afraid he would scare the horse into taking the lass to a farther place. When they went back to the farm, he would have to give this bold lass a good spanking for not letting him worry so much!

While he was having bitter thoughts, he whistled for Fierce Wind and jumped onto the horse's back, heading in the direction that the buckskin horse had escaped in. Not just anyone could escape easily from the palm of the prince's hand!

Let's not mention Zhu Junyang, who had caught up to the unfortunate buckskin horse and was currently having an endurance contest with it. Currently, Yu Xiaocao, who was carried on the back of the white horse that was running at top speed, had caught up with the wild horse herd. Dozens of horses galloped through the grassland. After a while, when Yu Xiaocao thought she was going to be taken to the distant horizon, the herd of horses slowed down and stopped by a lake.

Yu Xiaocao jumped down from the horse's back and took off the water bag she carried around her waist. She took off the leather cap and gulped down some water. The white horse, who had originally wanted to drink water by the lake, stopped the moment she opened the water bag and looked at it eagerly with a pair of big gentle eyes. The white horse's eyes were very beautiful. Under the sun, they flashed with an amber glow. The eyelashes on its eyes were long, curly and thick. If a girl had such eyelashes, she would definitely be envied by her peers!

Xiaocao had no resistance to that eager gaze. She poured some mystic-stone water into her palm. The white horse immediately came to drink the water in her hand and it even licked all the water droplets from her hand. Yu Xiaocao poured several more times until the water in the bag was all gone. Only then did the white horse reluctantly step back, licking his lips with its long tongue.

Yu Xiaocao washed her hands by the lake and took out a small pastry from the small pouch on her back. She ate it in small bites. When they left in the morning, they didn't know when they would go back. Each of them had brought along enough dried food to last for a day. Besides dried meat and crackers, she also brought some personal snacks in her small pouch.

The white horse stood silently beside her, watching her eat the pastry with its head tilted, as if it was curious about the taste of the pastry. Yu Xiaocao broke off a corner and held it by its mouth. The white horse tasted it and reluctantly ate it. It was obvious that the pastries eaten by humans weren't as attractive as her special horse bait. Yu Xiaocao took out a sugar cube that had been made from mystic-stone water from her small pouch and the white horse ate it with relish.

The other wild horses seemed to be very interested in what Xiaocao had taken out, but with the white horse present, they seemed more restrained. From time to time, they would look over and then return to drinking water or eating grass.

Yu Xiaocao looked at the sky. It was already past noon. She had been caught off guard and brought here by the wild horse herd. Zhu Junyang watched her as she was taken away and she didn't know if he would come find her after hearing her previous words. However, if they didn't go back soon, she didn't know how worried he and her servant girls would get if they didn't see her when it got dark.

However, the horse herd had been running with her for so long. She didn't even know where she was and how to go back?

Looking at the pouch beside her, the white horse was like a child begging for candy. Her eyes swiveled and an idea came to her mind. As the head of the herd, the white horse was the best in both intelligence and physical strength. She hoped that it could be one-tenth as smart as Little Red and could understand what she was saying.

She got out another piece of rock candy and also took out a porcelain bottle from her chest pocket and dropped a drop of mystic-stone water onto the sugar. By doing this, the plentiful and dense spiritual energy on the food was very attractive to the white horse. Even the other wild horses nearby risked being kicked and bitten by their leader to come this way. The white horse gave a long threatening hiss at its subordinates, staring menacingly at those who tried to snatch food from its mouth.

Just as it stretched out his mouth to pick up the sugar cube which was overflowing with spiritual energy, it discovered that the sugar cube that was right in front of it went missing. Following the spiritual energy, it found that it was hidden behind the little human girl in front of him. The white horse circled halfway around Xiaocao, coming to her back. When it stretched out its mouth, the sugar cube changed places and was in the front again.

As a proud leader horse, being 'teased' again and again made the white horse a little unhappy, so it bared its teeth menacingly at Xiaocao, 'Hand over the sugar cube or I'll... bite you!'

Yu Xiaocao was afraid of provoking this guy. After all, she was counting on it to send her back! She needed to give this guy something sweet to eat first, and she didn't believe that he wouldn't take the bait.

"I'm playing with you! Here!" The sugar cube that was soaked in a high concentration of mystic-stone water was put into the mouth of the white horse. The horse's humanized expression instantly cooled. Its soft and beautiful big eyes narrowed into slits and the horse grinned, like the expression of an addict who was addicted to opium.

After the sugar cube entered its mouth, the white horse felt a burst of vitality in its body and a very comfortable feeling all over. It felt even more wonderful than finally being exposed to the sun after climbing up from an ice cave it had fallen into! It felt that its physical strength was improved in an

instant. Furthermore, its mind, which had previously been shrouded in a confusion mist, was now clear and seemed to be quicker than it had ever been.

When the second piece of sugar cube appeared in front of it, the white horse's self control had collapsed into broken bits. It could only think, 'Eat, eat! Eat it and you can become stronger and command even more wild horses!'

"I don't know if you can understand what I'm saying! You must know that I am not the same species as you. Just as the wild horse herd is your home, I also have my home and my family! Earlier when you took me, the person that showed up was... was my family member. Think about it, if you were to leave the wild horse herd, would you be willing?" The white horse neighed as if responding to her words.

"You see, you don't want to leave your family. I'm the same. Right now, I want to return to my family member's side. Can you take me back? Of course, as a thank you, I will give you two more of these. If you agree, nod your head and cry out twice!"

Yu Xiaocao was like the wolf grandma tempting Little Red Riding Hood, luring the white horse with sugar cubes. The divine stone had said the mystic-stone water produced by its power had the ability to enlighten slow-witted animals. She didn't know if that sugar cube would work.

The white horse looked at her silently without any movement. Yu Xiaocao couldn't help laughing at herself, 'Little Red could understand some of her simple words because she had grown up drinking mystic-stone water and eating grass that had spiritual energy. Animals with intelligence, how could that happen overnight?'

Suddenly, the white horse came to her, grabbed the sugar cube from her hand, and quickly chewed and swallowed it. Then it seriously looked at her and nodded its head a few times and let out a long neigh, stamping its hooves rhythmically on the grass three times.

Seeing her sluggish expression, anxiety flashed through the white horse's eyes and it called out again. Its hooves trampled on the grass heavily three times. Yu Xiaocao tentatively asked, "Do you mean...you want three more cubes?"

Fields of Gold Chapter 577

The white horse's face showed a relieved expression, and it nodded its head. Yu Xiaocao didn't know whether she should cry or laugh, 'This horse has become enlightened and already knows how to bargain. As expected, it deserves to be called the foal of the divine steed. It's smart enough to say no.'

She thought about it carefully and decided that it wasn't too surprising. Her Little Red was originally an inferior horse breed. When she had come to Xiaocao, the power of the divine stone hadn't recovered as much as it did now. Although it had been years since they were together, and Little Red had been transformed into a fine horse, the old foundation was still there!

The white horse in front of her was the best among a large herd of horses without the help of the divine stone's power. Furthermore, at this time, half of the divine stone's power had already returned and the spiritual energy was concentrated enough to transform a fine horse.

"Deal, you send me back and I'll give you three sugar cubes!" Yu Xiaocao was pleased with the white horse's 'shrewdness'" and wondered whether she could swindle this guy over and help the horse farm breed several fine horses?

The white horse stayed in place for a moment to rest before letting Xiaocao get on its back. The scene of the horse herd galloping and neighing left Xiaocao with only one word to describe it: 'Magnificent'! It took nearly an hour and a half for them to get there, so naturally, the journey back wouldn't be short.

Zhu Junyang, who had caught the buckskin horse, was full of resentment and had no place to vent his anger, so he began to tame the unruly buckskin horse with all of his might! The poor buckskin horse had been thoroughly run over by the prince. In the end, its last trace of energy was squeezed out and it powerlessly laid on the ground, panting.

When Zhu Junyang returned to the stud farm, riding a now well-behaved buckskin horse, he found the horse farm was facing a great enemy. The horses had all been rushed into the stable and the stewards of the horse farm had even invited the captain of the firearms camp to come to support them.

Steward Yan, who had originally been the steward of a manor under the prince, was now assigned at the stud farm. This was because he had experience raising horses when he was younger. Thus, he had some insights into the habitual nature of horses and the management of a horse farm. He was promoted to the top and cooperated with Commander Liu in running things at the ranch.

Today, other than the hundred or so officers and soldiers from the firearms camp, most of the other men had gone to trap wild horses. However, one after another, the grooms came back to report that wild wolves had infiltrated into the horse farm. Steward Yan immediately realized the seriousness of the matter. If something happened to the dozens of horses in the horse farm under his watch, then even death wouldn't be enough to wash away his blame! Almost all of the guards at the farm had gone out. He told the horse grooms to rush back to the horses and then he went to the firearms camp for help. So, this was the scene that Royal Prince Yang came back to.

"The stud farm has a wolf pack in it? Were the horses attacked? How many wolves are there? Has the farm suffered any losses?" Zhu Junyang knew very clearly that the emperor placed great importance on these horses by the border. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been allowed to bring soldiers from the firearms camp to take charge of the safety of the ranch. Not only that, but the chief military instructor of the firearms camp was also sent in to take charge of the safety of the horse farm.

Furthermore, even Yu Xiaocao had been ordered to come. The prince guessed that the emperor had some doubts about the lass's abilities and even had knowledge of her secret. Otherwise, how could he let a little girl accompany him to inspect the stud farm?

It wasn't just the emperor who had this dream. Any military officer, who led troops, would dream of having a successful cavalry troop under his belt. Zhu Junyang was also the same. Thus the horse farm's position in his heart was second only to the little lass whose smiles and frowns could influence his heart.

A pack of wolves entering the horse farm wasn't a trivial matter! The stud farm had finally found some good horses, so they couldn't be ruined by the wolves! Even the Khitans, who were valiant and skilled in warfare, had almost been annihilated by wolf packs, much less tamed horses!

Steward Yan felt deeply ashamed in his heart. In his anxiety, he hadn't asked the questions that the master had asked. Steward Yan pleaded forgiveness for his fault and immediately asked people to find the grooms that had brought the news. He planned to ask them in front of Royal Prince Yang.

Faced with the majesty of Royal Prince Yang, who was dressed in fine clothes, the horse grooms felt as if they were between a rock and a hard place. When Royal Prince Yang asked about the wolves, one replied, "When pacifying the horse herd in the commotion, this servant faintly saw two wolves in the chaos."

Another added, "The two wolves didn't attack the horses and just moved around them at a distance."

Another said, "I didn't see the wolves. I only heard the wolves howling..."

"What did the two wolves look like?" Zhu Junyang frowned and had a faint guess of the situation's origin.

"The two wolves are different from the gray wolves we usually see. One was black, and the other was snow-white. When you take a quick look at them, you can't tell that they are wolves!" A horse keeper who saw traces of the wolves said without thinking too much.

Hearing their words, the captain of the firearms camp gave a long sigh of relief and, with a smile, said, "False alarm! Guys, withdraw!"

"Eh? What's happening?" Steward Yan, who saw the officers and soldiers of the firearms camp give a salute to his master and swiftly return to their barracks, was very surprised.

Zhu Junyang ignored him. He took out a special whistle and blew on it hard. Before long, one black and one white lightning-like figure rushed out from the distance, stopping hard in front of the crowd.

"That's them! That's them!" Several horse grooms stepped back, shouting in confusion. Little Black and Little White suspiciously looked at the only familiar figure in the crowd, and then gazed into the crowd searchingly.

"Little Black, Little White! Can you guys smell your master? Can you take me to her?" Xiaocao had been taken away by the wild horse herd for more than an hour. The lass was soft and weak, lacking the strength to even truss a chicken. Zhu Junyang was worried about her. If it wasn't because of this mess at the horse farm, then he would've been unable to control himself and had gone looking for her earlier.

Steward Yan finally had some idea of what was going on. It looked like the two wolves they saw were the pets of the master and their future mistress! He was worried for nothing!

Little White stood haughtily, looking at Zhu Junyang with eyes filled with disdain as if it was saying, 'You are really useless. You can't even protect the master, what kind of man are you?!'

Little Black was more kind because Zhu Junyang had fed him delicious food on more than one occasion, so it was closer to him. Little Black circled around Zhu Junyang twice and took two steps in a direction and then stood still, looking back at him as if saying, 'What are you doing? Why aren't you following?'

Zhu Junyang mounted his horse and the two little ones turned and ran toward a direction in the grassland. The prince, who was riding his beloved horse, followed closely. Fierce Wind was one of the best among the other horses but, when compared to the two wolves, who grew up on mystic stone water, it was inferior.

Little Black and Little White, ran and stopped, and didn't leave the man and horse behind. Little White was more irritating. From time to time, it would look at Zhu Junyang and his horse with disdain as if to remind them of how 'useless' they were.

When Zhu Junyang met up with Xiaocao who was mixed in the wild horse herd, it was already more than half an hour later. Because the wild horses smelled Little Black and Little White earlier, they wanted to get away. However, because the target of Little White and Little Black was their master, who was in the middle of the horses, it became a game of chase and escape.

No matter how intelligent the white horse was, its natural fear of wolves was still present. The more it valued the human on its back, the more it wanted to take her away from danger. The other wild horses were even more desperate to run for fear that they would lose and be the unlucky one that lost their life at the mouths of the wolves!

Little White seemed to be aware of something and gradually slowed down. Little Black, seeing their owner on the horse's back in the distance, chased the horse with excitement. He easily caught up with the wild horse herd and the wild horses scattered, running for their lives. Out of the dozens of horses in the herd, in the end, there were only two or three who managed to keep up with the speed, following their leader, running as hard as they could.

"Awooh——" Little Black was side by side with the white horse and howled, acting in a spoiled manner toward its owner, who was on the back of the horse. The white horse was startled by the sound and almost threw Xiaocao off its back.

At first, Xiaocao didn't notice the two little ones. She was very puzzled when the wild horse herd sped up. Particularly, the white horse, who showed panic, made her vaguely aware that there was danger coming. Thus, she very cooperatively lowered her body so the white horse could run faster.

When Little Black appeared in her field of vision, she understood what was happening. Especially after Little Black's low howl, the horses became even more panicked and flustered, which made her laugh and become a bit mad.

"Little Black, do you want me to be thrown off? Don't come so close, let the horses calm down!" Yu Xiaocao rebuked Little Black, who was running around the white horse happily. Little Black's clear blue eyes immediately filled with puzzlement and aggrievement.

Zhu Junyang, who was far behind, was worried and helpless. Little Black wasn't as smart as Little White and was goofy. The more you chased, the harder the wild horses would run unless they became tired, but when would that be? However, seeing that Xiaocao was safe and sound, beside her hair which was messy from the wind and her clothes which were a bit wrinkled and had grass stains, Zhu Junyang could finally relax a bit.

Fortunately, Little Black stopped very quickly. His ears drooped down, making him look quite gloomy and sad. His appearance was very pitiful and spoke volumes, 'I was very happy to see Master, but Master scolded me. My heart is hurt. Wah wah wah~Master is so mean!'

Little White bit his neck, 'You are a male wolf. Why are you crying like a girl? You really give wolves a bad reputation! Don't say you are my brother when you go out, it's too shameful to me!'

The white horse under Xiaocao already had its mind opened. It saw that the black wolf actually listened to the words of the human on its back and stopped. It also slowed down! The rush to flee had used up its physical strength and energy. It didn't know which of its subordinates didn't escape the wolves' mouths.

However, since the black wolf listened to the human girl's words that meant the white wolf probably wouldn't hurt the other horses without an order, right?

As a fine horse that could go a thousand miles, it was only slightly tired after the sprint. The other horses following were in a worse state, with foam at their mouths and their hooves were beginning to weaken.

If it wasn't for the fear of being overtaken by wolves, they would've fallen to the ground in pure exhaustion.

Xiaocao comforted the white horse and finally made it stop. She placed a sugar cube soaked in mystic stone water into other horses' mouths that were by her. After eating one, the white horse stretched out its mouth over again. The horse's eyes were full of emotions as if it was trying to tell her that she needed to keep her promise.

Fields of Gold Chapter 578

The herd of horses, which had been chased by Little Black until they almost wanted to vomit blood, very quickly regained their senses after eating the sugar cubes. A few of the horses were able to keep up with the white horse's pace. Although they weren't as smart as the white horse, they were still considered top quality specimens. Furthermore, they at least knew that Yu Xiaocao had something they wanted to have and yearned for. Every single one of them that originally had arrogant expressions now all revealed gentled looks.

“Think about it. If you go back with me, I'll have the humans take good care of you all. For example, you'll all be able to eat one piece of this sugar candy every day.” Yu Xiaocao hugged every single horse's neck and then rubbed them. She was setting the stage for the future.

The white horse had a face full of disdain. Those horses who had been tamed had all forgotten what it was like to gallop free without any restraints. Submitting to humans was losing their face. It had no desire to become one of those horses! It had no desire to submit and wasn't someone who would be moved by wealth or honor. However...once its thoughts had been translated over to Xiaocao through the little divine stone, she could tell that its eyes had never left the embroidered pouch by her waist. Its words would have been more persuasive if it wasn't staring at her goodies.

Xiaocao hugged the white horse's neck and continued her persuasions, “If you come with me to the stud farm, I promise that no one will try to tame you, unless you want it. I can also promise that you will all at least be able to eat one meal with the fodder that I have just given you. You will all have a lot of freedom and can come and go as you please on the prairie. Furthermore, you won't have to worry about humans coming after you, trying to catch you anymore. The people at the farm will also keep you safe. At night, there's even a warm stable to shield you all from rain and wind. That way, you don't need to be exposed to the elements like you are in the fields and forage for food in bad weather!”

There were some terms that the horses didn't understand. However, Xiaocao had the little divine stone translate everything for her, so her ideas and explanations were fully transmitted to the horses. The little divine stone, who had been suddenly pulled into working for her, had once again morphed into a

pocket-sized horse. It jumped and ran around the wild horses. In this form, it didn't even reach the height of the horses' knees but still frolicked around as if it wasn't afraid of being stepped on.

It was quite obvious that the other five to six horses were starting to be tempted by her offer. Only the head stallion, the white horse, was still a bit hesitant. On one hand was the dignity of the horse race, but, on the other hand, there was the temptation of delicious foods to eat. The horse battled between these two factors and couldn't come to a decision.

Yu Xiaocao patted its neck in a comforting manner and smiled as she looked into the distance at that figure that was speeding over. She lightly sighed and said, "There's no need for you to make a decision today. You can go back and think about it. I'll be at the farm in the future. If you want to eat sugar cubes or fodder, you can go and find me. My companion is here and it's getting dark, so I need to go!"

As she spoke, she took out the last piece of rock candy from her pouch and stuffed it into the white horse's mouth. The white horse could sense that there was another human approaching and became a bit uneasy. The other horses, on the other hand, seemed to be quite calm. Perhaps it was because they had only interacted with Xiaocao and had a decent impression of humans in their hearts now, so they weren't as skittish anymore.

However, after a few seconds, the smell of a wolf came by again. Although the white horse knew that this little human girl had raised that black wolf as a pet, it wasn't willing to gamble with its or the other horses' lives. It used its neck to rub against Xiaocao and then began to run farther away.

Before Fierce Wind could stop completely, Zhu Junyang leapt off of his horse and bolted towards that slender figure. In the next moment, Xiaocao had been tightly embraced into his warm and sturdy chest. She grinned and was about to return the hug when she discovered that her butt had been hit a few times.

"Ahhh——" Xiaocao screeched in alarm. It wasn't because her butt hurt a lot nor was she trying to gain sympathy from him. It was because the attack had come too suddenly and she was feeling embarrassed by the process.

Zhu Junyang had been startled by her scream and thought that he had hit her too hard by accident. He hurriedly bent over to take a look at her bottom. However, could a virtuous maiden's butt be checked by just anyone? Yu Xiaocao quickly used her hands to hide her butt and retreated a few steps. She looked at him warily and shouted, "Stop! What are you trying to do? Are you going to do something perverted?"

Zhu Junyang noticed that she was quite nimble in her retreat, so it looked like there was nothing wrong with her butt. He immediately became angry and huffed a few times before he began scolding her again, "You're still okay scolding this prince, ah? Do you know just how worried I was when I saw you in the middle of that wild horse herd? Do you know just how close you were to being trampled into a meat paste by those stampeding horses? Do you know just how this prince has felt for this past half day while looking for you? Hitting you on the butt a few times is just a light punishment! Tell me! Are you wrong or not? Will you do this again in the future?"

"Alright ah! I admit that I was too impetuous this time. Next time, I won't dare!" Yu Xiaocao was very apologetic. After all, when the wild herd had run off at that moment, there was a split second when she thought that she was going to lose her life under their hooves! Fortunately, it wasn't the time for her to die yet. After traveling around a bit with the wild horse herd, she managed to make it out alive and well.

Zhu Junyang saw that the little lass's shoulders were slumped and her head down, as if she was truly regretful of her previous actions. His heart immediately softened but he didn't let his words show that he had already excused her, "Hmph! If you're ever this impetuous again, then it won't just be a matter of getting hit on the butt a few times! Do you know how we punish the servants who make a mistake in the residence ah?"

"I don't know!" Yu Xiaocao was like a student who had made a mistake and was being scolded by her teacher. She stood there obediently and listened.

"Their pants get pulled down and they get hit with a plank in front of everyone!!" Zhu Junyang was trying to scare her. However, the image of the little lass with her bottom bare suddenly came to his mind. His nose heated up and he almost had a nose bleed right then and there.

Yu Xiaocao wrinkled her nose and raised her head to look at him accusingly, "Are you sure you want everyone to see your future wife's bare butt ah?"

"Uhhh...of course I don't!" Zhu Junyang suddenly felt like he was someone who had just crushed his own toe with his own rock. He hurriedly stated, "This prince will only have the two of us in private while we pull down your pants and hit your butt!"

"Such a pervert!!" Yu Xiaocao glared at him fiercely and turned around to bury her head into Little White's fur in an attempt to make him angry. Earlier, when Little White saw that his master's butt was

being hit, he had already made preparations to attack. Even though the man was very familiar with the master, he was still alert to any problems. Little White was clearly very loyal and was obviously much more reliable than Little Black, who was stupidly watching everything.

When Little Black saw that his master had her face buried in his brother's fur and was stroking him, he felt quite envious and also came over to join in on the fun. He threw himself onto his master and Little White. Although this fellow was a bit foolish sometimes, he still knew that when he was playing that he needed to put most of his weight on Little White and not Xiaocao. Now sandwiched between the two, Xiaocao could feel their fur tickling her and her silvery laughter echoed out and filled the air.

Zhu Junyang pushed aside Little Black but he didn't try to do the same with Little White because earlier, when he was hitting the little lass's butt, there was a split second where he felt that if he was 'violent' towards Xiaocao, Little White would have tried to bite him.

After dragging the lass off of Little White, he pointed at the white horse, who was standing not too far from them and said, "That wild horse seems to be observing us right now! Did you have any gains after staying with the horse herd for half a day?"

"Of course, I gained quite a lot! The fact that the head stallion even allowed me to ride him is the most obvious gain! However, if we want to tame him, we still need a bit more time and work! When we get back, gather all of the employees at the stud farm together to have a meeting. You need to tell them that if they see any wild horses getting closer to the farm, they are absolutely not allowed to make a big fuss or try to catch them. They should just pretend that they're not there."

Yu Xiaocao didn't think there was anything wrong with her ordering Zhu Junyang, the head of the stud farm, around. This particular habit of hers had been allowed by this man for a long time. Royal Prince Yang, who usually seemed quite cold and aloof, was very obedient and accommodating in front of his lass. Even the extremely important horse farm and the subsequent cavalry unit was behind him in importance compared to his lass.

When the emperor found out later, he couldn't help but make fun of the prince. The emperor quipped that while other heroes had a weakness for the charms of a beautiful woman, Zhu Junyang was a hero who had a weakness for the tears of a silly little lass! At most, Xiaocao could be considered a delicately pretty young maiden. Compared to some of the other young maidens in the capital, who were immensely talented and had stunning good looks, Xiaocao was, at most, a common appetizer.

However, who would have thought that his cousin would be unhappy by this comparison? In fact, the prince even rudely interrupted him and expressed that he just liked this type of appetizer paired with his meal. Thus, he didn't need the emperor worrying about them!

Zhu Junyang didn't have anything against Yu Xiaocao's proposed idea and plan. He only asked her out of curiosity, "What's the reasoning behind all of this?"

"The wild horses in the herd are all, for the most part, free horses. They're very similar to free people. Without a reason, why would any person sell themselves to become a servant and, thus, the property of someone else? Anyone in that circumstance would resist. Horses are the same! By using special horse feed and the sugar cubes as bait, we can lure them into the stud farm. As long as the ranch allows them enough freedom, these horses will soon find out that living at the stud farm doesn't mean that we will deprive them of their independence and dignity. As time goes on, they will realize that the horse farm and the humans there aren't as scary or horrible as they thought. Thus, they will gradually become intimate with the place."

She paused for a moment before continuing, "Perhaps the ones in this generation will never be able to be ridden or tamed by any of us. However, their descendants will be born at the farm and grow up there. They will feel a sense of belonging then. At that time, these descendants won't leave the farm even if we tried to make them go!"

Zhu Junyang wasn't a slow or stupid person. In fact, he was thinking even further ahead in the future, "Quite brilliant ah! At that time, when the wild horses spend time with the mares on the farm, wouldn't that mean we have a good supply of strong stallions for the stock, ah? This truly solves our problem of finding good quality horseflesh to introduce to the bloodlines here! Such an incredibly awesome idea!! Just where do you get these ideas of yours ah? Such a great plan and stratagem for the future of the stud farm, as expected of someone this prince likes!"

"Hmph! Just who was the one hitting me earlier and also stated that I needed to be punished, ah?" Yu Xiaocao crossed her arms around her chest and she jutted out her face. If she had a tail, it likely would have been perked up into the air.

Zhu Junyang walked over, and before she could react, he attacked her butt again. However, this time, he didn't hit her butt and instead started massaging it! The feeling of her soft and bouncy butt against his hand made him feel quite delighted! He remembered to placate the little lass by saying, "This prince was only worried about your safety! Although the stud farm is important, you are still the most important thing in my life. There's nothing in the world that will be able to displace you from the position in my heart!"

Fields of Gold Chapter 579

“Stinky pervert!” Yu Xiaocao had to admit that she had been moved by the handsome fellow's terms of endearment. Her heart started to race as she stared at that incredibly attractive face that no woman could possibly resist. His phoenix eyes gazed at her with deep emotion. Naturally, if this fellow's hand wasn't on her butt, she'd be even more moved!

“Eh? Where did this fellow come from? Is it one of the descendants of the wild horses?” At this time, Zhu Junyang noticed a golden-colored, pocket-sized, adorable little horse. He also felt that it didn't seem quite right. Even a foal who had just been born would be larger than this little creature. The little fellow looked quite small and exquisite and every line of its body showed that it was a top quality horse. In his eyes, this odd little fellow was even more intelligent and spirited than the white head stallion and had a more pure and noble bloodline.

Yu Xiaocao hadn't thought of a good explanation for him about the little divine stone when the sight in front of her stunned her to silence. The little divine stone unexpectedly began to openly transform in front of Zhu Junyang from its horse shape into its usual golden kitten shape. It also deliberately glanced at Zhu Junyang, who was thunderstruck, with its pair of golden eyes and then arrogantly jumped onto Xiaocao's shoulder. Its whole demeanor showed that it disdained the world beneath it.

“It...” The expression on Zhu Junyang's face changed a few times. From the faint golden glow coming off the kitten, he remembered the golden ray of light that had appeared when Xiaocao was at the stables and was waving her hand at the feed and water troughs. It wasn't hard for him to guess that the little lass's secret was minutely linked with the mysterious golden kitten in front of him.

“You need to hide it well! You absolutely cannot let other people see it transform!!” The first thing that came to his mind was the little lass's safety. If he could, he would rather destroy this golden kitten and allow Xiaocao to live a normal person's life then have her have to live a life with other people coveting and trying to steal her divine item.

[Do you think this divine stone is an idiot ah?! Do you think I'd easily appear in front of other people?] The little divine stone's voice was full of disdain and the little kitten moved into a more arrogant position.

“It...it...can even talk?! Did this prince hear wrongly? It was talking to me, right?” Zhu Junyang was once again frightened by what had happened and was actually stuttering for a moment.

The little divine stone sneered and turned its attention over to Xiaocao, [Are you sure you want to be with him? No plans on changing to someone else? This fellow is stupid beyond measure, so what part of him is worthy of you liking him?]

There wasn't a single person, in his entire twenty odd years of life, who had ever accused him of being stupid before. When he was a child, he had been adorable and cute with a quick and clever mind. As he got older, some people stated that he had an odd personality while others stated he had an explosive temper. There were even some who stated that he was extremely temperamental. However, the only thing that people didn't say was that he was dumb.

He didn't get angry by the stone's sarcastic remarks. Instead, he stretched out a hand in an attempt to grab the little golden kitten so he could inspect it to see just what it was. As his hand reached over, the little divine stone didn't try to avoid or dodge it. Instead, in that moment before the prince's hand touched it, it transformed into a beam of golden light and shot through the prince's fingers and landed on Xiaocao's other shoulder. It reformed itself into its golden kitten shape.

"Just...what is it?" The look in Zhu Junyang's eyes became cold. He was afraid that this odd little thing would harm his little lass. In all of the stories talking about magical items, didn't they all mention that there were some things that relied on sucking the life energy of others to improve their cultivation? His little lass was always so thin and weak. Could this odd object be sucking out her life energy? Would it decrease her life span? One had to admit that Royal Prince Yang had quite an imagination that was better than most authors of xuanhuan novels!

The little divine stone scornfully rolled its eyes at him and lazily remarked, [Xiaocao, are you sure you can't like someone else ah? This fellow even thinks that this divine stone is sucking out your life energy! And also thinks that I'm hurting your lifespan! Go tell him that, if it wasn't for this divine stone, your weak and sickly body would have long expired and you would have met the King of Hell. You probably would have reincarnated into a different family by now!]

"It can even tell what this prince is thinking. Does it also have the ability to read thoughts like I do?" Zhu Junyang frowned even more deeply. This fellow had too many abilities; it'd be quite difficult to eliminate it...however, did he even have the strength to get rid of this creature for his little lass?

[At least you know your limits. You want to destroy this divine stone? Maybe in your next life you'll reincarnate into a dimension where you can cultivate. After cultivating for a few thousand or ten thousand years, then you can see if you can get rid of me ah!] The little divine stone lazily yawned and lost its desire to shoot sarcastic remarks at the prince. It transformed into a beam of golden light and

went back into the multi-colored stone on Xiaocao's right wrist. Recently, it had hit a bottleneck on its cultivation progress. After all, the Goddess of Spirit's chains were not so easily released.

Zhu Junyang had personally seen that that weird thing had gone into the multi-colored stone that Xiaocao always wore on her right wrist. It was a pretty unassuming, small colored stone. It wasn't made out of jade or another precious gemstone, and it wasn't shaped in any pleasing manner. The only thing it had going for it was that it was colored a bit brightly.

After Zhu Junyang became certain of his feelings, he had thought that the reason why his little lass always wore that tiny colored stone strung on some red string was because her family was poor but she still liked to dress up. Because of that, he had especially picked out a gold bracelet embedded with jade stones on it to give to her. At the time, the little lass had looked quite happy with the gift. However, as soon as he turned around, she had placed the bracelet into her jewelry box where she also hid her other treasures and the bracelet never saw the light of day again.

Later on, no matter how expensive or how beautiful the bracelets he sent her were, she would at most wear them for a couple of days and then leave them in her jewelry box. She still continued to wear that small colored stone that was strung on a red string on her right wrist. Now, he knew that the reason why she only wore this stone was because it hid such a secret!

“Lass, are you sure that this creature won't harm you?” Zhu Junyang had seen the little lass wear the stone for many years. Although she was quite thin, she had never gotten sick. Furthermore, all of her family members were quite healthy and strong. Her parents were in their thirties but they looked around ten years younger. Her godparents were in their forties but they were more energetic and lively than people in their thirties. Furthermore, her godparents managed to have the miracle of having a child in their old age and had given Xiaocao a younger brother. Even the people around her seemed to have health benefits. His lady mother was a perfect example. Was this truly all related to this little stone that looked so unassuming?

When Yu Xiaocao found out that her man was merely worried about her, she revealed an incandescent smile and hurriedly reassured him, “Don't worry ah! It not only won't harm me but it also gives me benefits!”

In her heart, however, she castigated the little divine stone for being a meddler. What was it trying to do by appearing so suddenly? It actually even changed forms right in front of Zhu Junyang. How was she ever supposed to explain something so unimaginable? Fortunately, Zhu Junyang was only worried about her safety and didn't ask her more about the stone. Otherwise, she really didn't know what she was going to do. Was it better to skim over this event or just tell him everything?

Should she tell him that the original owner of this body had died early and that she was a lonely soul from hundreds of years later that took over? Or should she tell him that her soul had traveled through the millennium with the help of the multi-colored stone for the sole purpose of meeting him? Zhu Junyang had quite a bit of courage, so he shouldn't be scared by this, right?

[Psh! Being cautious is truly a good character trait but there's a line between being cautious and being a coward ah! This divine stone has been observing silently for a long time. Although this fellow's outer appearance doesn't give one the confidence of reliability, his actual character is quite different. You truly hit the jackpot with this one ah!] The little divine stone couldn't help but sigh over this. How did this lass manage to come across one of the only good men in this world? Was it because that it, as the divine stone, had brought her good luck?

“Do you dare to say that more clearly?” Yu Xiaocao couldn't resist the urge to roast the divine stone a bit but didn't expect that she would actually say that out loud.

“Are you...talking to this prince? Or are you talking to that fellow?” Zhu Junyang continued to long-windedly lecture again to take care of herself and avoid getting hurt by that 'stone spirit'. 'Stone spirit' was the name that he had given to the little divine stone.

Yu Xiaocao apologetically waved at a hand at him to tell him to 'wait a second' and continued to listen to the little divine stone's 'earnest thoughts'.

[Since you've decided on this fellow, that means, in the future, you will be spending the rest of your life with him. Are you planning on hiding this secret from him for a lifetime? Do you think you would be able to hide it ah? This fellow is a lot more shrewd and astute than you, a feeble-minded lass! Do you really believe that he hasn't sensed that something was off in all these years? In the past two years, you've become less and less cautious for the sake of earning money and lost your head. Do you really think he's that stupid that he doesn't suspect something? Even if I, this divine stone, didn't appear today, he's already around eighty to ninety percent close to the truth at this point!] The little divine stone lightly sighed. It didn't know whether it should consider itself fortunate or not for being stuck with this type of troublesome master.

On one hand, it was lucky that it didn't encounter a master who had extreme ambitions and wanted to use its powers to snatch the throne. Although this little lass used it like a little hamster slowly accumulating wealth, she also used its abilities to benefit the common people of the Great Ming Empire.

Those medicinal pills and tonics had cured many people and also saved a bunch of commoners from ailments that weren't easily treated in this medically backwards society. Furthermore, her high-yielding crops had benefited an even larger percentage of the people, allowing them to gradually pull themselves out of poverty and starvation. As for the variety of fruits and vegetables she grew, this all increased the diversity of options for the people's diets in the capital. All of these things allowed the stone to gradually regain its previous cultivation while also obtaining a lot of merits and good karma.

It was as the Buddhists said, "Everything in the world has karma". In this strange and desolate dimension, it couldn't easily throw off its shackles. The more virtue it accumulated, the more it would end up helping it in the future. How could it not rejoice that it had been stuck with a kind hearted and foolish little girl ah?

As for the flip side, how should it describe it? In order to regain its cultivation, it could only help its master, who didn't have much ambitions beyond earning money, in doing some small things here and there. The thing that affected its spiritual strength the most was helping its master in some way or another.

The more help it gave, the more it recovered. However, if it could only help its master with some trivial matters, how long would it take before it finally regained all of its strength and was able to break through the shackles and return to the dimension where the Goddess Nuwa lived ah? Just thinking about its snail-like speed made it want to cry bitter tears.

"Everyone says that men are fickle creatures, so who can guarantee that he won't change in this lifetime?" Yu Xiaocao interrupted the stone's silent lamentations and muttered in a slightly melancholy tone.

Having been unceremoniously ignored this entire time, Zhu Junyang was keenly able to hear her grumbles. Apparently, the little lass had been silently criticizing him this entire time with that stupid stone! He raised a hand and knocked on her forehead. His gloomy voice had a hint of solemnity to it, "Don't worry! There are so many men around you, staring at you as if you're their prey. How could I possibly bear to change my mind? This prince will only recognize you in this life and I don't have any room in my heart for anyone else!"

Fields of Gold Chapter 580

Yu Xiaocao rubbed at her forehead, which was faintly sore, and rolled her eyes at him. She continued to converse with the little divine stone, [This divine stone also cannot guarantee whether he'll change or not. The only thing I am certain about is that he is solely preoccupied with you. Couldn't you tell that he's been helping you hide everything that you've been secretly doing at the stud farm ah? He even said that he got the special herbs for the horse bait from the western hemisphere. Just watch. This time,

when we get back, he will definitely say something to take suspicions off of you about the wild horses being willing to come to the ranch. In fact, he might even take on that responsibility himself.]

Yu Xiaocao touched her nose and smiled in embarrassment, "I'm the one who's thinking too much. I can't, for the sake of some unknown future, relinquish the happiness I have in front of me now. Wouldn't that be too stupid of me?"

[However, if you're truly worried that his heart will change in the future, this divine stone has a 'constant til death' talisman. At the time, I had stolen it from the God of Talismans in the heavens. That fellow even chased me to Goddess Nuwa's palace and wanted to complain to her about me ah! Fortunately, Goddess Nuwa was in closed-door cultivation then and I was the highest ranked entity in the palace. The God of Talismans could only helplessly leave, ahahahahaha...] The little divine stone let out a joyfully satisfied laugh.

"No wonder the Goddess of Spirits ended up sealing your powers and banished you to the mundane world! You're so naughty. Did Goddess Nuwa know about any of this?" Yu Xiaocao lowered her head to look at a piece of yellowing paper with weird symbols written on it that had suddenly appeared in her hands. She inspected it excitedly, mostly because she had never seen a talisman before and was incredibly curious about them. She had no intention of using it on Zhu Junyang though.

The little divine stone immediately stopped laughing and became unhappy, [Can't you just converse with me normally? Mocking someone is uncouth; it's better to use your mouth to accumulate virtue ah! Forget it, this divine stone is generous and magnanimous, and I won't lower myself to your level. You can keep this talisman. If there's ever a day that he changes his mind, you can slap this talisman on his back. That way, you will never have to worry about him betraying you!]

If that day really did come, perhaps it meant that their fate together had come to an end, right? If he was only loyal towards her because of the effects of the talisman and not of his own will, was it even worth it to keep such a person by her side ah?

Zhu Junyang had also noticed that a piece of yellowing paper had suddenly appeared in her hands. The paper even had some odd-looking designs on it painted on with red ink. His intuition told him that this wasn't something that was going to be good for people. Furthermore, the little lass was looking at it intently with a quite serious expression on her face.

“What is that? Did that rock give it to you? Will it be dangerous to you? How about...you give to this prince for safekeeping. I have a healthy body and I'm not afraid of anything!” Zhu Junyang was the most worried about her safety and always considered her perspective.

Yu Xiaocao picked up the paper talisman and waved it a couple of times in his direction. She lightly laughed and asked him in a probing manner, “If I told you that this paper talisman will make you loyal to me for the rest of your life, such that you will never change your mind, do you think I should paste it on you or not?”

“This prince has no intention of ever changing my mind. There's no difference whether or not you put it on me. If you really are feeling insecure, then put it on ah! However...” Zhu Junyang revealed a slightly worried expression.

Yu Xiaocao felt her heart fall and she inhaled sharply before she asked, “But what? Do you regret what you've said in the past?”

“Of course not! Lass, you just like to overthink things too much!” Zhu Junyang rubbed her head gently and laughed, “This prince is only worried about whether such a thing is reliable or not, okay? What if it turns me into an idiot or an unthinking puppet? At that time, you can only cry until you have no tears left in you!”

“It's definitely reliable. It's an item from the world of immortals, so its effects are guaranteed!” Yu Xiaocao was linked to the little divine stone, so they were in the same boat together. The little divine stone absolutely wouldn't lie to her.

“An item from the world of immortals?” Zhu Junyang promptly viewed this piece of paper in a whole other light, “From what you're saying, then that piece of stone you hang around with is also from the world of immortals and you just happened to come across it?”

“Mhm! Its cultivation and powers were sealed by a god and it was sent down to our mundane world of mortals to temper itself and accumulate virtue. Only then will it be able to break out from its shackles and return to its true form!” Didn't all of the cultivation novels say something like this ah? Yu Xiaocao gave the prince a half-false and half-truthful explanation.

The little divine stone, on the other hand, fell into thoughtful contemplation. Was that truly the intention of the Goddess of Spirits? The Goddess of Spirits had always been close to Goddess Nuwa like a pair of true sisters. All those years ago, it had caused quite a bit of trouble for Goddess Nuwa and offended many people. The other immortals often came charging over to tattle-tale on it and ended up impacting Goddess Nuwa's cultivation progress. After it had been kicked out of the world of immortals, it had been stuck in a bottleneck for a long time.

The Goddess of Spirits must have seen everything clearly, which was probably why she sent it, who was stubborn and mule-headed, down to the mundane world to temper its heart and spirit. Was it possible that only after it learned these hard lessons, its cultivation would increase by bounds and it could return back as a high-leveled god? Aiya, even a mere mortal was able to see through to the truth yet it had held a grudge against the Goddess of Spirits for all these years. No wonder its recent cultivation progress had been so slow and tortuous ah!

Once it understood its situation better with Xiaocao's 'advice' and realized the Goddess of Spirits' true intentions, it began to reflect on itself. Suddenly, it felt that, out of the three shackles suppressing it, one of them had been broken. The energy that the Goddess of Spirits had imbued into that shackle began to harmonize with its own and began to stimulate its stagnant cultivation. In a split second, it felt its energy increase by leaps and bounds. It didn't even have the time to say a parting word to Xiaocao when it jumped back into its separate space to begin earnestly cultivating again. It could tell that, once it finished this episode of closed-door cultivation, it would be able to return to almost half of its previous strength!

“Since you are confident that this talisman has no issues with it, then go ahead. Where do you want to stick it? On my forehead?” Zhu Junyang stuck his head forward and even conscientiously bent down to make it easier for her.

Yu Xiaocao used her other hand to push away his face. The dimples on her face deepened and her pair of large, almond-shaped eyes shone brightly, glittering with emotion. She pretended to be angry as she replied, “Do you believe everything I say ah? This is only a peace and safety talisman but it truly was given to me by the little divine stone. Its effects are definitely much better than the ones you can beg from temples. You often are out and about. Tomorrow, I'll make you a small pouch to hold it. You should bring it around and you definitely shouldn't take it out lightly!”

Zhu Junyang stared at the talisman for a long time and tried to see from Xiaocao's expression if there was anything else he was missing. However, Xiaocao hid her thoughts very well, so he temporarily believed her. He shook his head in refusal, “Are you still not familiar with my talents? Does this prince really need a peace and safety talisman? You should wear it instead ah. Last time, at the hunting grounds, weren't you almost eaten by a tiger for a snack?”

“Although it was a frightening experience, didn't that tiger, in the end, become our prey ah?” Xiaocao lowered her head and quietly mumbled a bit. It had been almost a year since that happened yet Zhu Junyang still harped about it.

“Keep that talisman safe. When you get back, have Wutong make a small pouch for you. I'm afraid your embroidery skills are such that you wouldn't be willing to wear anything you made yourself.” As he talked, he especially glanced at the ugly embroidered pouch that was hanging on his waist.

Yu Xiaocao's face immediately turned bright red. That was the pouch that she had made after her godmother had threatened her. It was supposed to be a way for her to learn some feminine skills. However, not only did the pouch turn out slightly deformed but even the embroidered pattern on the outside was also quite sloppy. It was hard to make out what it was supposed to look like. At that time, she had even happily showed off her first finished sewing product to the prince, but he had actually snatched it away from her. He began using it despite other people laughing at him.

Even He Wanning had teased her for this. She said that, when she compared her skills to that pouch, even her sewing skill level seemed to go up a few. Yu Xiaocao had tried many times to get the pouch back from Zhu Junyang to no avail. Now that she thought about it, perhaps she needed to learn how to sew better from Pipa when she got back. That way she could at least sew a decent-looking pouch.

Out of all of her maids, Pipa had to be the one who was the most skilled at the womanly arts. She also had a quiet personality and a lot of patience. Many of the sewn items that she used had all been made by that maid.

Zhu Junyang saw that the little lass seemed a bit upset and hurriedly changed the subject, “You said this thing was given to you by that piece of rock. It's only a tiny and round colored stone, where does it keep something the size of the talisman? If I didn't personally see that it could change forms with my own eyes, then this prince would have thought that you were cracking a joke!”

“Uh...perhaps beings from the world of immortals all have their own special dimension to carry things ah? Like the Bracelet of the Heavens or dimension pouches from those mythological stories...right?” He was successful in switching Yu Xiaocao's thoughts to a different subject. She silently asked the little divine stone repeatedly, 'Isn't that right?'

The little divine stone, who was currently cultivating, naturally had no response for her. She raised her head and shrugged her shoulders at Zhu Junyang, "Little Glutinous Dumpling must have gained something and is currently cultivating. When I asked it, it had no response for me! Forget it, once it's done cultivating, I'll ask it then!"

"No wonder that little golden kitten seems to come and go like a ghost ah! Apparently, it's been hiding on your body cultivating! How much time does it usually spend in cultivation?" Zhu Junyang only asked out of pure curiosity.

Yu Xiaocao also wasn't sure so she could only say, "Who knows, ah? With its restless personality, as soon as it's done, it'll come out on its own. It's getting late, so we should head back!"

As she finished speaking, Xiaocao carefully placed the talisman into her own embroidered pouch and then waved a hand at the white stallion not far away from them who still, from time to time, would look over at them. Then, she refused Zhu Junyang's offer to ride pillion and instead jumped onto Little Black's back and let out a loud whistle. They headed back towards the stud farm at an astonishing speed.

The grasslands in the evening had a picturesque and stunning view. The setting sun was slowly withdrawing all of its golden needles into itself and it seemed to regard the world of humans with a shy and bashful glowing red face. Thus, the creek running through the prairie shimmered with a multitude of colors, making people feel as though there was a crystal palace hiding beneath its waters with a precious treasure underneath.

A fairy-like young maiden rode a wolf as she sang a beautiful and sweet song. The delicate and lively young lady seemed to be cloaked by a bewitching and gentle rosy glow from the setting sun. It truly looked like she was an immortal girl who had jumped out of a picture.

This type of surreal and fantastical image conjured up a bunch of worried thoughts in Zhu Junyang. As someone who had a divine object by her side, would she have the chance to ascend to the world of the gods one day, leaving him alone in this mundane mortal world? Or perhaps, she, who had been touched by divine energy, would continue to be as youthful and beautiful as an immortal while he aged into a stooped over and white-haired old man? At that time, would he still be able to keep her, an immortally beautiful fairy, by his side?