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In the early morning, the sounds of birds merrily singing woke up the deeply asleep Xiaocao. She popped out her arms from her sleeping bag and stretched lazily before rubbing her groggy eyes gently.

Suddenly, she felt the side of her cheek tickle. She used her hand to feel the area and discovered that the little divine stone had come back at an unknown time. Its butt was against her face and it was currently snoring peacefully. She rubbed its soft head and wriggled out of her sleeping bag.

After using the clean mountain water to brush her teeth and wash her face, she applied a layer of skin care. Only when she was done did she realize that her husband wasn't by her side.

“His Highness left early this morning and said that he wanted to find some wild fruits for you to eat. These past few days, we've only been eating roasted meats and he was afraid that you might end up with excessive heat in your body.” Wutong had finished assisting her mistress in her morning ablutions and was currently packing away their luggage and sleeping bags. When Hou Xiaoliang came back, he would be in charge of transporting these items.

The first to come back was Su Ran, who was dressed entirely in white. In his hands were some banana leaves and nestled inside of them were some wax apples about the size of a person's fist. They were bright red and looked very appetizing. Wutong hurriedly took them from him and washed them clean in the spring water before presenting them to her mistress.

Xiaocao chose a wax apple and began eating it. The fresh and ripe wax apple was juicy and sweet. It tasted quite good! She divided up the remaining apples to Wutong and Chunhua. Recently, Chunhua had a bit of excessive heat build up in her body and a large canker sore had appeared in her mouth, so she needed to eat some foods with vitamins in it.

“Surnamed Su, you are very sly and tricky!!” Zhu Junyang, who was dressed entirely in black and had a similar dark expression on his face, came back with a bunch of wax apples. When he saw his wife gnawing happily on a wax apple, the displeasure on his face became very apparent. If it weren't for that fellow Su Ran tricking him, saying that there was a glade of wild lychee trees, then he would have definitely come back first. He was truly too loathsome!

Xiaocao had already gotten used to the two of them quarreling and bickering over mundane things. She took a wax apple from her husband's hands and began eating it with relish. Compliments flowed out of her mouth as she exclaimed that the apple was 'so sweet'. Only then did the dark look on her man's face finally recede a bit. Argh! Men were truly childish and silly creatures.

After getting some crucial information from the little divine stone, Xiaocao finished her breakfast before pointing in a direction and said, "How about we go over there to take a look today?"

The prince from Myanmar looked at the mountain that she was pointing at and he frowned, "The terrain over there is steep and arduous and there's a section of miasma and marshland too. If we're not careful, it'd be very easy to fall into danger. How about we go there another time after bringing on some suitable tour guides?"

"No need, I have a method to counteract the miasma. As for the marshland, all we need to do is go around it!" Yu Xiaocao had found out from the little divine stone that the spiritual energy there was very dense, so there must be a large vein of jadeite ore there. She needed to go there.

The young prince looked over at Imperial Prince Xu, hoping that he would make his wife back down. However, contrary to his expectations, the imperial prince didn't say anything and agreed. Argh! Everyone said that the Imperial Prince Xu doted on his wife to the heavens and now he had experienced to what degree the prince was willing to favor her!

With the little divine stone as a silent guide, the group managed to successfully go around the section of treacherous marshland and arrived at the area blanketed by poisonous miasma. In the gloomy forest, they could see a multi-colored fog gently permeating the area. It made it look as if they were within some heavenly clouds and it was quite a mesmerizing sight.

The expression on the Myanmar's prince's face became even more solemn as he said, "I never would have thought that the miasma here would be the dangerous peach blossom miasma. As soon as it touches you, your skin will start to rot and, following that, the flesh within. In the end, it'll penetrate a person's bones...Your Highnesses, are you sure you want to go there?"

The mountaintop that Princess Consort Xu had pointed at only had marshland or the highly toxic peach blossom miasma around it. It looked like they would need to return without getting to the top.

Yu Xiaocao lightly frowned and took out a very strong and potent detoxifying pill. The little divine stone had said that this pill would have no issues in counteracting the peach blossom miasma. However, if this mountain truly had a large jadeite vein, they needed to find a way to get rid of the peach blossom miasma in the forest. Otherwise, it'd be too difficult to open up the mine and take out the ore!

Zhu Junyang watched as she took out a bottle from her medicine box and poured out a pill. He snatched over the pill from his wife's hands and stuffed it into his mouth as he said, "You all wait here for a bit. This prince will go first to investigate..."

Hou Xiaoliang was so alarmed by this that sweat poured off of him. He blocked his master's way as he said, "Your Highness, this subordinate should go instead..."

"What if there are some other dangers lurking in the forest? With your poor skills, will you be able to fight against them?" Zhu Junyang stopped Hou Xiaoliang's movement with a glance, "Keep the princess consort safe. This prince will look around and come back."

As he spoke, he leapt into the multicolored fog and disappeared quickly. Su Ran saw the worried look on Xiaocao's face and also took a strong detoxifying pill before he said, "I'll follow him and take a look. With two people in there, there should be no issues."

With two experts inside, Xiaocao felt her worries go down by half. However, if her husband was right, the forest might have many dangers looking around. Although the peach blossom miasma couldn't harm them, she didn't know if there were other perils just waiting for them.

Fortunately, the two men didn't make the rest of them wait for too long. After an hour, a black and white figure, who both looked quite similar, appeared back in their eyes.

When the Myanmar prince saw that Imperial Prince Xu and Chief Steward Su came back without a single hair on their heads harmed, his eyes almost fell out of his head. The tyrannically poisonous peach blossom miasma had absolutely no effect on them. The young prince looked over at the medicine box in Xiaocao's hands and became incredibly excited.

One had to know that Myanmar had many mountainous jungles and there were a lot of areas hiding poisonous miasmas. It was very easy for someone to fall into danger if they weren't careful. The prince's eldest brother, who was very skilled and had been the most likely candidate for the throne, had been

trapped by their third brother and had stumbled into a glade with poisonous miasma. He was bedridden for more than a year before he finally passed away. If he had a detoxifying pill on hand, that was equivalent to having another chance at life. The young prince wondered just what could he bring out to make Princess Consort Xu willing to exchange a bottle of detoxifying pills for him.

“How is it?” Yu Xiaocao sprayed a medicinal solution on the two of them, which dissolved any remnants of poison from their clothing, and hurriedly asked.

“There are no living creatures within the glade. The peach blossom miasma must be too strong and most animals would dissolve into dust after encountering it. Fortunately, the glade isn't too big and the mountain you have your eye on has a lot of good things in there.” Zhu Junyang revealed a reishi mushroom the size of a person's face and gave it to his wife. Perhaps the mountain's marshlands and poisonous miasma acted as a natural barrier. There were a lot of rare and precious medicinal ingredients inside. His wife would definitely like it!

As expected, Yu Xiaocao revealed an expression full of pleasant surprise, “Wow! That's too amazing ah! However, with this reishi mushroom on hand, I can start refining some 'long life medicine'.”

“There are a lot of precious medicinal ingredients inside. After all, no people have dared to venture in for many years. However, this prince doesn't know enough about medicinal ingredients. When this prince buys this mountain, even if there are no jadeite ores to be found, we can just use this as a farm for your precious life extending medications!” Zhu Junyang lightly stroked his wife's hair as he gently spoke to her.

Xiaocao closed her eyes in pleasure and acted like a little fox who had just stolen a chicken to eat. Pink bubbles seemed to have appeared in the air around them...the Myanmar prince didn't realize that he was acting as an eyesore when he suddenly asked, “This prince will give this mountain to you all! However...can you sell some detoxifying pills?”

“Hmph! Does this prince require you to give the mountain that my princess consort wants?” Zhu Junyang coldly snorted in displeasure and glared daggers at the Myanmar prince.

The young prince didn't know why Imperial Prince Xu was suddenly throwing a tantrum. He scratched the back of his head and said, “I'm not giving it to you, I'm using it as a trade for the pills! Trading!”

“Trading is also not okay! This prince has decided to buy this mountain to give to my wife, so give me a price ah!” Zhu Junyang thought that his wife would definitely like a mountain full of medicinal ingredients. He didn't even wait for the jadeite experts to look around before arrogantly making a decision.

The Myanmar prince thought that they weren't willing to trade their pills to him and felt very despondent about this. After thinking about it, it made sense to him. These pills had to be very expensive and hard to make. It was likely that a lot of valuable herbs went into these pills. There was no guarantee that the mountain had any jadeite ore so it was unlikely they were willing to trade for it!

The young prince gritted his teeth and said, “Your Highness, how about I trade an open jadeite mine for some of the princess consort's pills? Is that okay?”

Zhu Junyang looked at his wife for the answer. The pills were hers so he needed to get her opinion. This was something that needed to be respected between a married couple.

Yu Xiaocao thought for a moment and then pointed at a nearby mountain, “I'll pass on the jadeite mine. How about you use that mountain to trade for it instead?”

The Myanmar prince was a bit perplexed by this and said, “We haven't looked at the mountain over there and are not sure as to whether there are any jadeite veins there. Furthermore, that mountain doesn't have any natural defenses, so the nearby villagers go in and out of it all the time. I'm sure any medicinal ingredients have long been harvested from there. Your Highness, you need to make sure you're okay with this decision!”

Yu Xiaocao casually nodded her head, “I've thought about it and I want that one! Your Highness, how many detoxifying pills do you want in return?”

Apparently, these pills were called detoxifying pills. Didn't that mean that they could treat other poisons too? The young prince asked the questions that had surfaced up in his heart. After the princess consort affirmed his thoughts, he was even more excited. After thinking about it, he tentatively gave out a figure, “Would it be okay to give me ten pills in exchange?”

Yu Xiaocao agreed immediately and took out a bottle of detoxifying pills. The two of them then signed a contract. Following that, Xiaocao picked another two mountains that the little divine stone had pointed

out and they signed the purchase agreement. As for the mountain surrounded by poisonous miasma, the young prince sold it to them at a very low price.

The next year, this particular mountain revealed a giant pure gold mine. The young Myanmar prince regretted his decision completely. If he wasn't afraid of Imperial Prince Xu's might, he would have ripped up that contract and snatched the gold mine back.

As for the other mountains that Xiaocao pointed out, they also found jadeite veins in them. The one that they traded for using detoxifying pills not only had a very rich vein of raw jadeite ore but the jadeite mined from it were also of top-notch quality. It was only better and not worse than the other jadeite mines that the prince currently had.

The young prince from Myanmar was quite puzzled by all of this. When they had agreed on the purchasing contract for the two mountains, the other side hadn't even investigated them but valuable jadeite mines appeared. Wasn't their luck too good to be true? Were they truly people who were blessed by the Heavens?

If they were blessed by the Heavens, wouldn't going against them mean going against the Heavens? The young prince's inner beliefs told him that he needed to follow the heavenly mandate and obey the Heavens. He could only cooperate well with those who were blessed by the Heavens and not work against him. Perhaps by doing that he would be able to get some luck off of Imperial Prince Xu and would end up helping him in the future! Thus, he always did his best to protect and cooperate with the people who worked on these new mines.

Many years later, the young prince became triumphant over his many older brothers in the fight for the throne and became the King of Myanmar. He was even more certain that he had been imbued with a hint of the heavenly blessings that Imperial Prince Xu had. Otherwise, how could he have been able to gain a victory over his legitimate older brothers? From then on, as the king, he was very obedient and respectful towards the Great Ming Empire. The southwest border didn't have any battles or skirmishes appear for decades. This was all later though.

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In a jiffy, the two of them had bought five mountains for their own use. By the time Imperial Prince Xu and his wife leisurely returned back to Jinling, it was already time for the autumn harvest. The experimental rice fields in Jinling were a beautiful golden color and the plants swayed gently, resembling a golden ocean.

They had found the sterile rice plants with great difficulty and they had been planted in the breeding fields. At this time, at harvest, they really couldn't see a huge difference between those plants and regular rice plants. However, in the hybridization fields, where they planted the two complementary plants, there were rice tassels that were large and very plump. Each rice ear had around two hundred rice seeds in them.

Official Wu now had hope that they could produce high yielding rice plants in the future. After he saw Xiaocao, he was unable to restrain himself and cried like a child in front of her. Although they were still a bit away from making true hybridized rice crops, they just needed to persevere longer. After all, now he had hope, right?

Yu Xiaocao praised Official Wu a few times and saw that he became even more eager and excited about researching on how to produce hybridized rice. Within her heart, she admired this man, who worked wholeheartedly for the people and was throwing himself into 'scientific research', even more.

[In actuality, this divine stone could just use a bit of power and these rice paddies would get up to a thousand catties per mu without any issues. Furthermore, the seeds used for next year will also have the same high yield.] The little divine stone sensed its master's thoughts and proclaimed in a somewhat arrogant manner.

“No need, if it's too eye-catching, it'll be hard to explain to outsiders. They will start believing that I'm a monster or something!” Yu Xiaocao refused the little divine stone's good intentions, “The people's potential is endless. As long as we give them a direction, I believe that they will very quickly get some results.”

[You're willing to waste a few more years to get the exact same outcome? That's up to you then!] The little divine stone suddenly felt that it had lost its meaning and felt a bit at a loss.

Xiaocao, who was intimately linked to it, naturally could sense its somewhat downcast thoughts. She comforted it, “Little Glutinous Dumpling, you possess great powers, but there's no need for you to interfere in something that humans can do on their own— that's right, in the past, you told me that when you regained all of your cultivation, you could alter seeds permanently. Doesn't this mean...that you have already gained all of your lost powers?”

The little divine stone's voice echoed prominently in her mind as it stated in a proud manner, [That's right! This time, when we went to the border between the Great Ming Empire and Myanmar, this divine

stone came across a great opportunity. All of the fetters that the Goddess of Spirits had left upon me are now gone. Now this divine stone could fly up into the heavens in full glory, ha ha ha!]

“Congratulations!” Xiaocao happily congratulated the stone at first. Suddenly, she became downcast, “Then...doesn't that mean that you will be leaving this mundane world soon?”

When she transmigrated over, the little divine stone had given her earth-shattering powers to turn her life around. On the day before she got married, she remembered the 'dream' that seemed very real that her younger brother had told her.

In his dream, the delicate and weak Yu Xiaocao had passed away after getting hit on her head before Doctor You had the chance to treat her. Her callous grandmother wrapped her dead body in a bunch of broken straw and threw her onto the burial mound at the South Mountain before her father had come back from hunting. By the time her father went there to retrieve her corpse, her dead body had already been torn into pieces by wild dogs and even her face had been gnawed in half. It was truly a horrifying sight.

After more time passed, her father and Uncle Zhao had gone up into the mountain and he had gotten savaged by a bear. Because Madam Zhang only cared about money, they missed the most optimal opportunity to treat him and his wound became infected and he died. Her older brother, Yu Hang, had been beaten to death by Shopkeeper Zhang in one of his drunken frenzies but had been posthumously accused of being a thief. Finally, the money that was given to them in compensation had been confiscated by Madam Zhang.

Madam Liu and her remaining son and daughter had been driven out of the Yu Family's home and lived in the broken old residence. Without undergoing renovations, the old house leaked and let in the cold wind from everywhere. Madam Liu's originally weak body could only last another two years before she finally passed away. Even in death she still wasn't at ease about her remaining two children and had died with her eyes still open.

Xiaolian and her youngest brother also didn't escape their fate of early death. In the span of a few years, a family of six had completely died out. Even a single descendent wasn't left over. Perhaps, the dream that her younger brother had was what had happened in a different timeline.

In this lifetime, she had transmigrated over and brought along the little divine stone, her golden finger. They had completely transformed the destiny of this family. Not only did Yu Xiaocao live past that accident, but the mystic-stone water had also transformed the family's bodies and saved the head of the

house, Yu Hai's, life. It kept Yu Hang alive after being beaten to a pulp and even made her younger brother have a highly retentive memory...

All of her successes couldn't be separated from the little divine stone's help. With the little divine stone, even if she was able to grow and plant corn successfully, it wouldn't necessarily be a high-yielding crop. In fact, in history, when corn first came over, the yield from the crop was only around two to three hundred catties per mu. Without the high-yielding corn, she wouldn't be able to get the attention of Zhu Junyang and wouldn't be able to be linked with him in marriage.

Without the little divine stone, the high-yielding wheat, the greenhouse grown fruits and vegetables, the extremely effective pills, the obviously effective cosmetics and skincare, the healing medicinal wines...all of these wouldn't be able to become a reality. In the end, she could only be considered a little farmer girl who knew how to make braised food. How could she possibly be fit in terms of status to the noble and mighty Royal Prince Yang?

Thus, the little divine stone had already permeated into all of her life and every business required it. She was unable to imagine what her life would be like if she didn't have the little divine stone.

Naturally, she would have never expected that the time when it was going to leave her was going to come so soon. However, this was also good! People couldn't rely on luck for the rest of their lives. What was fated to come would come to them in the end! Since she couldn't change this, then she should just accept it.

[Are you that eager for this divine stone to leave ah?] The little divine stone's voice was quite upset. It thought that its master really wouldn't want to part with it. After all, it had helped her with so many things. However, it had accidentally recognized a pitiless master, wah wah wah...

Yu Xiaocao rubbed the multicolored stone on her wrist and smiled bitterly, "You know I don't want you to leave me. Don't tell me that you can't read my mind. Does it matter though? If I beg and plead, would you really not go? I'm incredibly grateful for your company and help all of these years. Just as parents are reluctant to let their children go, in the end, their children need to fly off on their own and find their own skies. Even if I beg you to stay, if you are unhappy by this, I will feel very guilty. The other dimension is your true home and place where you need to be. I can't be too selfish."

The little divine stone became silent for a long time after hearing her true thoughts before it finally replied, [In actuality, you can be a bit selfish ah. As long as you ask, then I will stay!]

“Really?” A look of pure happiness crossed her face but she very quickly became calm again, “No, you need to go back ah! Goddess Nuwa is waiting for you and cares about you. The Goddess of Spirits had worked very hard in order to find a way to polish your will and endurance. All of your good friends are waiting for you there...”

[So annoying! This divine stone had originally decided to stay behind and keep you company, yet you insist on saying these words to me. I'm so conflicted, what should I do?] The little divine stone had some feelings towards this small and weak master. Although this type of feeling was a bit hazy, it always seemed to feel a bit reluctant whenever it thought about leaving.

Perhaps this was what the Goddess of Spirits was trying to teach it before. Only when one understood 'emotions and feelings' could one truly achieve true enlightenment. In the secular word, 'emotions and feelings' encompassed tens of thousands of ideas. There was affection, friendly feelings, romantic feelings, homesickness, kindness, empathy...it had already reached the threshold of understanding 'emotions and feelings'. If it left now, wouldn't that ruin everything?

However, it really wanted to see Goddess Nuwa and tell her that it had missed her a lot. It also wanted to tell her that it wouldn't cause trouble for her anymore and tell her stories of everything it encountered in the mundane world...

The little divine stone transformed into a beam of golden light and shot into the sky, disappearing in the vastness above. Yu Xiaocao couldn't hold back her tears anymore and they fell to the ground like raindrops.

Many of the commoners in Jinling had seen a golden light appear in the area around the experimental rice paddies. Following that, news about the increased yields of rice had spread around. Some of them spread rumors that the God of Farming had descended to bless the commoners of Jiangnan.

The little divine stone had been gone for almost a dozen days and Yu Xiaocao had been depressed ever since it had left. Zhu Junyang had sensed the difference in her mood and asked her to find out what was going on.

Yu Xiaocao showed her empty left wrist to him. Zhu Junyang seized the opportunity to stroke her little hand and rub her arms before he asked, “What's wrong? Does your wrist feel sore? Should this prince

give you a massage? How about we go see a doctor? Doctor Zhen in Jinling's Tongren Medicine Hall is said to be quite good..."

"It's not that. Look, aren't I missing something?" Yu Xiaocao felt her eyes grow hot after thinking about the little divine stone again and buried her face into her husband's broad and sturdy chest.

Only now did Zhu Junyang discover that the multicolored stone, which had previously been inseparable from her, was no longer to be seen. He hurriedly asked, "What's wrong? The stone is gone? Do you remember where you lost it? Did it get lost in the mountains in the southwest? Don't be said, this prince will send some people there and find it for you..."

"No one will be able to find it! It returned back to its own world!" Yu Xiaocao sniffed and used the clothes on her husband to wipe her tears. She wrapped her arms around his neck and nestled against him, seeking comfort.

Zhu Junyang now remembered that all of the odd things that occurred around her were all related to that little stone. However, now that it was gone, it was gone. He no longer had to worry all the time that her unusual abilities would be discovered by other people and cause calamity for her. He could protect her against most people but what if the person above him found out? That would be more tricky to handle.

"If it's gone, then it's gone! Don't you still have this prince ah?" Zhu Junyang lowered his head and gently planted a kiss on her head before sweetly patting her back. It was as if he was trying to comfort an injured little kitten.

"Will you always be by my side? Even if my businesses stop and fall to the ground and I only become an ordinary little girl? You will still stay by me, right?" Yu Xiaocao used her red eyes to look at Zhu Junyang as she emotionally said.

Zhu Junyang didn't hesitate for a moment as he nodded his head, "I will! As long as you are you, I will always be yours. If you don't leave me, I won't abandon you!"

"You're the best!" Yu Xiaocao quietly hugged her man's waist and resembled a helpless child, "When we get back to the capital, the first thing I need to do is apologize to the emperor and leave my court

position. All of the businesses in the capital also need to be organized around. The ones that need to be stopped should be stopped earlier rather than later...Husband, in the future, I will have to rely on you."

"Isn't it right and proper for me to keep my wife safe and sound? This prince has long thought that all of your businesses and ventures have used too much of your time. A tiny lady like you has a jammed packed schedule every day. In the past, you've ignored me too much. Now is the time to get that all back!" Zhu Junyang lowered his head to give his wife a deep kiss...

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Zhu Junyang thought that he shouldn't allow the little lass to dwell too long on these things. They needed to find something else to preoccupy her; thus, he began to do something...

"You, it's bright daylight now yet you..." Yu Xiaocao raised her eyes to look into his and understood what he wanted to do. Her face immediately turned bright red.

The two of them were quite harmonious in this aspect. Xiaocao didn't have an ancient person's thoughts on this manner and wouldn't act like a block of wood on the bed sheets like some women. She would react accordingly to the other's movements and gain pleasure from their coupling.

Zhu Junyang also wasn't someone who was solely preoccupied with his own pleasure. On the contrary, when his wife let out sounds of enjoyment and had an ecstatic expression on her face, it made him even more excited and aroused. In addition, his wife had exquisite smooth skin, large eyes that became bright with emotion, a little face that blushed easily, and an alluring voice...all of these stirred up primitive feelings inside of him.

If it weren't for the fact that Xiaocao was too busy most of the time and the fact that an irksome fellow had come along with them, Zhu Junyang really would have liked to trap his wife on the bed day in and day out, so they could 'battle' each other for three hundred times.

The two of them mutually enjoyed a flipping of the sheets together. At the end, Xiaocao lay on her husband's slightly sweaty chest in a lazy manner as if she didn't want to move one iota. Her man had too much stamina and sometimes made her feel quite tired despite all of the enjoyment.

"Once the autumn harvest is finished, let's go back to the capital ah?" From the end of the third month until now, it had already been half a year since they left their home. For the past half year, they only

spent a third of the time in the experimental fields at Jinling. The remaining of the time was expended on travelling around and buying jadeite mines in the southwest border.

When the topic of the conversation came up to the mines they bought, Xiaocao once again couldn't help but rub at her empty left wrist. The little divine stone had been gone for a dozen days. Although the stone spent the vast majority of its time cultivating within the multi-colored stone, once it left, it was a bit hard to get used to it.

Zhu Junyang felt his wife's movements and knew that she was thinking of the little divine stone again. When that stupid stone had left, the lass had frankly told him about the golden finger she had relied upon. In his opinion, the little lass relied too much on the mystic-stone water and had no confidence in herself.

Even without the mystic-stone water, the food she made was unique and delicious. The pastries she made were creative and sweet and the cosmetics and skin care items she crafted would also be beneficial to a person's skin. The medicinal pills she crafted would still be more effective than other people's and her methods for brewing alcohol could still make sweet and tasty alcohol...

However, he also understood that after becoming accustomed to something, it took a long time to forget it. In order to not let his wife continue to feel sad, he still needed to distract her and make her so busy that she didn't have the time to think of anything else!

"You...didn't you just finish ah? How could you..." Yu Xiaocao discovered that a certain body part of his had begun changing again. Sure enough, her attention was taken up again.

Zhu Junyang grinned wolfishly, "As a strong man, how could once be enough for me? This prince will let you experience what is called 'seven times in one night'..."

"Stop boasting so much! Be careful that you don't lose so much energy that you end up dying from it!" Xiaocao had just made a critical mistake——doubting her man's ability and energy in that area. The results were obvious.

Like a piece of salted fish, Xiaocao lay limply on the bed after being tossed and turned around. Her limbs felt soft and her waist hurt. She groaned in pleasure as her husband massaged her comfortably. This shameless fellow had tormented her from the afternoon until late at night. No matter how much she

begged, this fellow didn't let her go. He even said, "I'll do the parts that require strength, you can just lie there and enjoy the moment."

What crock! It was still tiring to spend half of her time lying on her back, let alone having a certain fellow incessantly pulling her around to do gymnastics together. Argh! Her old back...didn't they say that the man got the most tired from these antics ah? How come the main offender was still as lively as a dragon and as energetic as a tiger?

Rumble—Xiaocao's stomach issued a loud noise in protest.

Zhu Junyang lightly chuckled and asked, "Are you hungry? The evening meal is already ready, I'll have the maidservants bring it in..."

"No, I don't have the face to see anyone. I'm so embarrassed now...I don't want to eat dinner, who cares if I starve to death?" Yu Xiaocao whimpered and turned around, showing her back to him and refusing to acknowledge him.

Zhu Junyang patiently said, as if he was trying to console a child, "If you don't want to see anyone, then this prince will go out and bring the evening meal in. After using up all that energy, don't you need to replenish yourself? You're not allowed to say 'who cares if I die' anymore. If you say it again, this prince will have to slap your bum bum!"

"You dare! Domestic violence! You actually want to commit domestic violence against me! Didn't you say that you would take care of me for the rest of my life ah? We've only been married for half a year yet you've already shown your true colors. Heavens and earth ah—" Yu Xiaocao theatrically exclaimed.

Zhu Junyang didn't know whether he should laugh or cry. He carried his wife into the washing room and helped wash herself clean before personally dressing her in a set of lounging attire. Then he carried her back to the outer room and set her down next to the table made of fragrant rosewood.

Wutong held the serving tray full of food that was given to her by the younger maidservants and was just about to push the door to enter when the prince stopped her at the threshold. He took the food from her and then closed the door in her face. Xiaocao acted like a dead fish and lay on the table, showing him the back of her head.

“Your Highness, this lowly one will serve you your meal!” Zhu Junyang took out several kinds of strengthening porridges, soups and stews and placed them on the table. These had all been ordered by him for the kitchen to make.

When the smell of the food hit her nostrils, Xiaocao's stomach's rumblings became even more apparent. She turned her head around and saw the table full of strengthening and revitalizing foods. Her face turned bright red and she awkwardly turned around again, lying down on the table, pretending to be dead.

“Your Highness, please partake in the meal. Open your mouth, ahhhh—” Zhu Junyang held a bowl of bird's nest soup and crouched in front of his wife as he offered a spoonful of soup to her mouth.

“Today I've been so embarrassed that I don't even want to raise my head. It's all your fault!” Yu Xiaocao continued to grumble and twisted her head away from the spoon. She refused the temptation of delicious food. She couldn't let that scoundrel off too easily!

Zhu Junyang sidled over to the other side and continued to squat down with the spoon in his hand. He good naturedly said, “Yes, yes, it's all this prince's fault. Next time, I won't torment you for this long, is that alright? Alright ah, don't be angry! If you want to be angry, you can be angry after you finish eating. That way you'll have the strength to fight!”

“Hmph, you're not allowed to be like this next time!” Yu Xiaocao's stomach was very hungry, so she decided not to quarrel anymore. Once she was full, she could begin to argue again. She finally 'graciously' opened her mouth and allowed her man to feed her one spoonful at a time. A bowl of bird's nest soup was only enough to stave off her gaping hunger a bit, so she ate some shrimp dumplings, shumai, and lotus root soup before she was finally satisfied.

When he saw his wife eating deliciously, Zhu Junyang felt his appetite rise. The two of them devoured the entire table full of food and cleaned it off completely. When Wutong and Chunhua came in to clean up the remains, they looked at the pile of empty plates and bowls with amazement. However, the two of them knew that their mistress got easily embarrassed and didn't reveal a single expression as they retreated out. Only once the two of them completely exited the room did the two of them look at each other and laugh.

The next morning, Su Ran and Zhu Junyang left to help Governor Fan as he had asked the two of them to help him with a case. For over a month, Jinling had encountered a host of bandits who especially targeted the rich. Not only did they steal their valuables but they also exterminated entire families and their methods were extremely cruel. The yamen had once fought head on against these bandits and discovered that the enemy was extremely powerful. The yamen ended up having disastrous casualties while the enemy left without any issue. They even left a parting insult, 'The authorities are all rubbish'.

Governor Fan had sent out officers and men and Jinling Prefecture's yamen had put out a warrant for arrest. Despite their preparations, they still ended up returning with their tails between their legs in defeat. Helpless, Lord Fan could only think of the two experts living in Jinling right now and asked them to come. At this time, three families had been exterminated around Jinling and over twenty officers had lost their lives. The casualties naturally were much higher.

When Zhu Junyang heard this, he was quite surprised and eager to investigate. He just wanted to see just who was this unbridled to do such cruel things under his own nose! Before he left, he especially warned Xiaocao several times that Jinling wasn't very peaceful recently. She was not allowed to leave the safe area without permission before he came back.

This group of people was quite cunning too. They seemed to know that the authorities had gone out to find some rescuers and didn't appear for several days in a row. When Zhu Junyang and Su Ran slightly relaxed, another accident appeared in the suburbs of Jinling. By the time Zhu Junyang hurried over, the only thing left of that family's residence was a bunch of ash.

All in all, the whole family had eighteen people and even the servants and maidservants weren't spared. Out of the ruins, they took out forty-two badly burned corpses. The stink was so bad that even people over five kilometers away could smell it. Zhu Junyang gripped his hands into tight fists and believed that this group of criminals did it deliberately!

"Your Highness, do you think that this group of people is targeting you deliberately..." Su Ran's handsome face had a solemn look on it.

"Not good!!" Zhu Junyang suddenly had an ominous premonition in his heart. He leapt onto his horse and sped towards the opposite direction of Jinling towards a different courtyard like a madman.

This family's residence was completely opposite of where he wanted to go. He needed to pass through the entire city before he could get where he needed to go. Furthermore, this group of people made it very obvious that they had struck this area, as if they wanted to deliberately bring their attention there.

In addition, they had held back their attacks for several days, allowing them to relax their vigilance. By choosing to strike today at this family, they definitely had a different motive.

Zhu Junyang was a superb equestrian but he was helpless as the horse he was riding wasn't as spirited and intelligent as Fierce Wind. Furthermore, there were lots of people coming and going in the streets of Jinling, so he couldn't gallop at top speed. Worries gnawed at his heart. He was certain that this group of people had deliberately lured him and Chief Steward Su away. Their target was definitely the residence where they had been living at...

Ever since they had the water battle on the journey there, he had ordered a dozen highly skilled bodyguards from their residence over to guard their guest house. These people were the best of the best. As long as Xiaocao didn't leave the safety of the courtyard, that group of criminals wouldn't find it easy to attack her. He was just afraid...

Behind was the sound of frantic horse hooves. He didn't need to turn his head around to know that it was Su Ran, who was also extremely worried about Xiaocao. Zhu Junyang could only pray to the heavens now—Xiaocao must have listened to him and remembered his words, staying obediently within the courtyard!

“Get out of the way! Get out of the way!!” The hapless pedestrians on the roads all scuttled away. There was a peddler, carrying his goods, who didn't have enough time to back away. He could only throw his stuff away to preserve his life.

“Who is that ah? Racing horses on the official streets, are the authorities not going to take charge of this?” When the horses galloped away, the pedestrians were all covered in dust and couldn't help but complain a bit.

Fields of Gold Chapter 704

“Shhh—don't be so loud! Didn't you see that the last horse in the group was being ridden by the governor himself? The two people in front of him should be the noble individuals living in the guest residence. Perhaps one of them is even the great imperial envoy!” A young fellow whose aunt's third nephew had a job at the neighborhood yamen spoke up in a quiet voice.

“The great imperial envoy can't recklessly hurt people. How could it be okay if the horses rushing by trampled people?” The person who spoke up was a scholar dressed in appropriate attire.

The person with the relative at the yamen continued, "Perhaps it's related to the recent spree of crimes. I heard that in the northwestern suburbs another family had been extinguished and it was a very bloody sight. These horrible criminals are too cruel. Stealing valuables is one thing but why do they need to kill off an entire family?"

"Is the governor riding fast through the marketplace related to that group of criminals?" Another passerby believed this was the truth.

No one complained anymore. Recently, all of the families that had a bit of wealth had been trembling with fear as they were afraid that they might become the next unlucky target. The earlier this band of criminals got caught, the earlier the people of Jinling could go back to their regular business and not be on tenterhooks.

The highly anxious Zhu Junyang felt like an eternity had passed before they arrived at the guest residence. He leapt off the speeding horse and pelted towards the gatehouse. He picked up the gatekeeper with both hands by the other man's clothes and hurriedly asked, "Did the princess consort go out today?"

The gatekeeper was startled. After recognizing the person in front of him, he stammered, "Your Highness, the princess consort had been called out by one of the people from the experimental fields about half an hour before you got here..."

"What? She was called out by someone?!" Su Ran's face turned icy cold and he gripped his hands so hard that they made crackling noises, scaring the people around him.

"Please calm down, my lords! Perhaps the great imperial envoy had truly been called over by Official Wu?" The gatekeeper wiped his forehead full of sweat as he silently prayed, 'Please, let the princess consort be perfectly safe and sound ah!'

"Ming Xin, Ming Gui!" Zhu Junyang entered the residence and called towards a dark corner. A figure clothed entirely in black immediately answered and the prince asked, "Tell me, what exactly happened earlier?"

"Master, after you left, a small official under Official Wu hurried over, saying that the experimental fields were aflame and over a hundred fields were burning. When the princess consort heard this, she

immediately changed clothing and left. Accompanying her were her two maidservants and the four special bodyguards. Ming Gui was also worried so he followed along..." Ming Xin knelt on the ground and concisely went over everything that had happened that day for his master.

"Go! We're going to the fields!!" An ominous premonition settled into Zhu Junyang's heart. If the experimental rice fields in Jinling had truly caught on fire, then there'd be smoke everywhere, billowing into the city. Currently, things were going on in the city like usual and not a single person was gossiping about the experimental fields burning up. What did this mean? This was a trap; it was a conspiracy that targeted his princess consort!

The group of people rushed over on horseback to the fields. Official Wu was currently leading the tenant farmers in harvesting the ripe rice. When he saw Imperial Prince Xu and the governor arrive, he went over to greet them and asked out of confusion, "Imperial Highness, why did you come over alone? Where's the great imperial envoy?"

Zhu Junyang's heart fell and he grabbed him to ask, "Where's that assistant of yours that helps you record the field data?"

"Are you talking about Little Zhang ah? His mother got sick, so he asked for a day off to take her to Tongren Medicine Hall to get treated. What's wrong? Are you looking for him?" Official Wu sensed that something was off about Imperial Prince Xu, so he stopped smiling and replied in a serious manner.

The look on Zhu Junyang's face was so gloomy that it looked like a thunderstorm would start anytime. Either this Little Zhang had a problem or someone had impersonated him. They hadn't seen any sign of Xiaocao or her servants on the way there, so the situation wasn't optimistic anymore.

"Don't worry, that lass Xiaocao is blessed by the heavens and nothing should have happened to her." Su Ran was also very worried but he patted the other man's shoulder in an attempt to console him, "That lass has always treated others with kindness and doesn't have any real enemies. It's likely that the group took her away for one motive—to control the two of us. No news is good news, so that lass should still be safe right now."

Zhu Junyang's phoenix eyes were full of fury as he growled out angrily, "It must be the evil remnants of the past dynasty again! They keep popping up like a bunch of cockroaches!! Let's go, we need to investigate the road between the residence and the fields to see if there are any clues to be found."

The two of them took the group back and they carefully investigated the roads. As expected, not far from the side of the road, they found a yellow jadeite bead that came off of Xiaocao's bracelet hidden in dried up leaves. If they hadn't been searching carefully, it would have been very easy to miss it.

"Judging by the tracks here, it looks like the enemy has a lot of people. Fortunately, I don't see any signs of a struggle. That lass must have sensed that something was off and stopped Chunhua from fighting. It's better that way. At least the lass wouldn't get injured." Su Ran inspected the clues carefully and made a very accurate assessment.

"I also see wheel tracks in the forest, which means that the enemy used carts to bring the people away. With so many people as well as horses and carts, they must have left some signs along the way. If we follow the wheel tracks along, we should be able to find them." Su Ran looked at Zhu Junyang, asking him for his opinion on the matter.

Zhu Junyang inhaled deeply, forcing himself to calm down before finally voiced his opinion, "The fact that we could think of this means that the enemy probably has to. Let's first follow these traces and look around a bit."

Since there were no signs of a struggle, that meant Ming Gui hadn't shown himself yet. The little lass was still safe for the moment. However, it also meant that the enemy had a lot of experts, so Ming Gui didn't dare to confront them even though he was a commander of the hidden guards.

Hou Xiaoliang had been with his master this entire time and right now his heart was full of worries too. After a great amount of effort, he had finally obtained Wutong's consent for marriage. They were planning on organizing their wedding once they and their masters got back to the capital. Now, they had encountered such a bad situation.

In order to lure the imperial prince, the criminals wouldn't dare to harm the princess consort, but that didn't mean that they wouldn't harm the people underneath her. If they wanted to intimidate her, it was very likely they would use one of her servants as an example. Couldn't Wutong become an unlucky victim then? When he thought of this, sweat poured down Hou Xiaoliang's body.

Around twenty-five kilometers away from Jinling, the wagon wheel tracks disappeared. An extremely ordinary horse cart had been abandoned at the side of the road. The road in front of them had split into three forks and they didn't know which one the criminals went down.

“If that lass Xiaocao had been lucid the entire time, she likely would leave another clue for us.” Su Ran thought of that yellow jadeite bead and proposed the idea that the group split into three to search alongside the forks. If they weren't able to find anything, they would regroup at the start of the fork and then look for another place to search.

Using his intuition, Zhu Junyang chose the left fork and brought Hou Xiaoliang along. Su Ran went down the middle and Governor Fan chose the rightmost fork.

Zhu Junyang commanded his horse to trot down the road as he opened his eyes wide as he sharply looked through the greenery at the sides of the road. Before long, he discovered another yellow jadeite bead on the ground.

“They went down this road! We need to hurry!!” Zhu Junyang spurred his horse faster. Hou Xiaoliang did his best to keep up and the two of them sped down the meandering trail on horseback.

Whenever they reached a fork in the trail, they would soon discover a little bead, telling them the right path to take. Whenever he saw a yellow jadeite bead appear, Zhu Junyang felt his heart relax a bit more— at least, the little lass had been aware this entire time. As long as she was fine, everything was good! Before long, the other two people who were on the search mission caught up with them and the four of them worked together to follow the clues that Xiaocao left behind for them.

“This group of criminals is very cunning!” After running around, Zhu Junyang discovered that the criminals went back to Jinling City. As expected, the criminals were following the saying: 'the most dangerous place is the safest place'!

“We'll be entering the city soon and there are a lot of people going to and fro. This makes it harder for us to find any clues.” Su Ran muttered. He frowned deeply and his well-defined eyebrows furrowed as he stared at the commoners and peddlers heading about their day.

“Your Highness, the criminals have a lot of people and it must have been obvious when they entered the city. This subordinate will go to the gate guards and ask if they saw a large group of people and horses entering in this morning.” Governor Fan clasped his fists together in a salute before he left. He arrived at the gate and found a few officials there. He asked them if they had seen any suspicious groups of people go through the gate that morning.

After getting all of the information, Lord Fan came back to report to Imperial Prince Xu, “Your Highness, this subordinate believes that there are three groups of people who went through today that are suspicious. One of them is the Chen Family's merchant caravan who just got back, another one is the Wang Family's string of carts that had traveled to Suzhou and Hangzhou to buy and sell silk, and the last is the 'Formidable Goods Couriers'. These three groups all had a lot of people and horses and they all had many experts traveling with them. What do you think...”

Hou Xiaoliang interrupted, “Is it possible that the group of criminals split up outside the city before going in smaller groups?”

“Unlikely!” Su Ran replied with conviction, “They wouldn't have known when their pursuers would come after them. They have a lot of people and splitting them up takes time. It's easier and faster for them to disguise themselves as a merchant caravan or armed couriers.”

“Then we'll start with these three groups of people ah!” A red glow faintly flashed through Zhu Junyang's eyes. If the lass had encountered something bad, he would make Jinling run with blood! Since this old bag of bones of his wasn't able to protect her in this lifetime, then he would turn into a monster and clean up everything in this mortal world! If she wasn't alive, then it was the same as throwing him into the depths of hell! Without her, he would transform this world into a purgatory to act as a living burial for her.

The three people next to him all felt the abrupt, violent change in his aura. Su Ran was the least affected out of the three and hurriedly interjected, “Imperial Prince Xu, please calm down for a moment! That lass Xiaocao is still waiting for you to rescue her ah!”

Dear gods ah! If this crazy fellow lost control of himself now, he wasn't his opponent anymore, especially when Imperial Prince Xu transformed into his insane final boss form! He wouldn't be able to hold the guy back ah! Fortunately, when he mentioned the lass Xiaocao, the aura around the prince decreased significantly but he still looked quite imposing and scary.

Hou Xiaoliang forcefully swallowed down some saliva as he said in a quiet voice, “Master, do you think the mistress might have left some clues for us in the city?”

“Hard to say! There are many people in the city, so it's likely that anything she leaves behind might be picked up by a child. Furthermore, the criminals would be even more cautious after entering the city and wouldn't give her the opportunity to do something.” Su Ran sighed.

Lord Fan cupped his hands together in obeisance and said, "Your Highness, this subordinate will send some people out. Even if we get some information, we still need to investigate the giant crime scene outside the city. What do you..."

Fields of Gold Chapter 705

"Go ah!" Although Zhu Junyang didn't have much hope for the local authorities in making much headway on the case, it was still important for them to do what they needed to do.

"Master, out of these three groups of people, which one of them is the most suspicious ah?" Hou Xiaoliang was very confident in his master's abilities. He had wracked his own brains and couldn't come up with anything, so he could only look pleadingly at the imperial prince.

Zhu Junyang frowned. He seemed to be half replying to his question while also muttering to himself, "The armed goods courier group can be eliminated from the list..."

"Why? That group of criminals are very skilled. If they disguise themselves as competent armed goods couriers, wouldn't that be a good cover?" Hou Xiaoliang was actually more suspicious of that group of people.

Su Ran glanced at him and scornfully said, "You're an idiot ah!! Didn't you hear that 'Formidable Goods Courier' had just come back from a job ah? Since their wagons and carts were empty, where would they possibly hide that lass Xiaocao and her two maidservants? Furthermore, if three weak women suddenly appeared within the ranks of the armed goods couriers, wouldn't that tell everyone that there was something fishy going on? That being said, when the governor asked the gate guards earlier, they said that the armed goods couriers only had large and brawny men within their ranks. What do you think the princess consort would like if she was dressed in men's attire?"

Hou Xiaoliang thought his mistress's slender and delicate figure, uh...if she was clothed in men's clothing, as long as one wasn't blind, one would be able to spot her in a moment. As expected, his brains, compared to his master's and Chief Steward Su's, were no match for theirs.

It looked like the other two groups were more suspicious. Although no one had seen any sign of the women in the other two groups, they had come back with carts filled with goods. It wasn't entirely impossible to hide three people in the mountain of stuff they brought back...

Just as the three of them were discussing which family to investigate first, Xiaocao and her two servants had been dug out of a pile of silk bolts and had been carried into the hidden room like a bunch of baggage. Following that, they had been thrown to the ground like garbage and they were now lying next to the feet of an old and weakly handsome looking man.

“Ouch!” Yu Xiaocao secretly rejoiced that her shoulder had hit the ground first and not her head. Otherwise, it was likely that her nose would be broken now.

“Mistress, are you okay ah?” Wutong heavily resisted the pain coming off her hands. After getting used to the dimness in the room, she wriggled mightily towards Xiaocao.

Why was she wriggling? That was because her arms and legs had been tied up, making her resemble a bundled up rice dumpling.

“Oh my goodness! How could you treat Her Highness, the Great Imperial Envoy, in such a crude manner? Go receive your punishments now!” The owner of the shrill yet gentle voice was a man of an indeterminate age with white hair. Although his white hair made him seem old, it didn't match with the rest of his appearance. His face only looked to be around forty years old as he only had some fine wrinkles around the corners of his eyes.

A somewhat sickly handsome young man commanded the black-clothed experts within the room, “Why aren't you guys releasing the Clerk of the Capital of the Grain?”

The black-clothed men didn't move and they turned their heads to the white-haired eunuch. A bit of helplessness flashed through the sickly man's eyes and he smiled faintly at the white-haired eunuch, “Eunuch Yuan, this official is talented and once the throne is retaken, we need people with talent serving us.”

Dissatisfaction flickered through Eunuch Yuan's eyes. The other man was merely an invalid and a useless one to boot! If he didn't have the blood of the previous dynasty flowing through his veins and didn't have some use, he would have killed the man instantly!

Was this guy's head full of stinky dung? Who was the person in front of them? She was one of the pillars of the Great Ming Dynasty—Imperial Prince Xu's princess consort. After their plans succeeded, they

absolutely couldn't keep Imperial Prince Xu alive. If they slaughtered her husband, did they really expect her to go along with them? He was truly too naive!

However, this wasn't the time to broadcast his ambitions to the world. Eunuch Yuan shrilly shouted at the black-clothed men, "Are you all dead ah? Why aren't you loosening the bonds on the great imperial envoy?"

After finally getting her limbs liberated, Xiaocao rubbed her shoulder. Luckily, she wasn't hurt down to her bones. However, she couldn't escape from having a nice bruise from there.

"Young Miss, are you okay ah?" Wutong accidentally used her previous form of address for her in her anxiety. Chunhua moved into a guarded position and stood in front of the two of them.

Yu Xiaocao noticed that Wutong was holding her left arm and had a face full of worry. She rushed over to look at the maid's arm. She found out that it was only dislocated and maneuvered it back in with a practiced motion.

When Eunuch Yuan saw this, he raised a white eyebrow and smiled, "I almost forgot that the great imperial envoy is skilled at diagnosing and treating people. Everyone says that those skilled in medicine are also skilled in poison. In order to preserve my and my master's safety, we will have to carefully search the great imperial envoy's body. Please forgive us, your excellency!"

Eunuch Yuan didn't deliberately 'embarrass' her and had a woman clothed in black search her from head to toe. Even the snack pouch at her waist had been searched through. This little activity truly did turn up a few interesting things.

Eunuch Yuan casually picked up a small bottle and read the label, "High-level wound balm—hm? There's even a high-level wound balm? Ah, I know now. It's the legendary wound balm that's not sold to outsiders and it's a holy medicine that's only given to the people around you. Nine Turns Golden Elixir? Heals internal injuries and is even more effective than Medicine King Valley's recovery pill. Was that brat Su Ran dragged back from the King of Hell after taking this pill?"

Eunuch Yuan narrowed his eyes. It looked like they really did need to leave this particular official alive. It wasn't because she had skills in planting and raising crops but because she could make these medicines.

"I heard that you were preparing to concoct a life-elongating 'prolonging life pill', is that right?" Eunuch Yuan arrived in front of Xiaocao and looked at her with great interest. His cold eyes seemed to be slithering around her like a disgusting snake and Xiaocao couldn't help but feel goosebumps rise on her arms.

"That's right." Xiaocao had always thought that people with something missing were never truly right in the head. Naturally, her Sir Su was an exception to the rule. Thus, she didn't believe that being confrontational with Eunuch Yuan was the right choice. Before her husband found them, she needed to keep herself very safe, so she replied in a very obliging manner.

Eunuch Yuan asked with great interest, "When do you plan on concocting this? How long will it take? How much life can one pill give?"

"The efficacy of the prolonging-life pill naturally depends on the rarity and value of the ingredients used. For example, if you use some ordinary ginseng and reishi mushroom compared to using hundred year old or even thousand year old variants, there would naturally be a big difference between the two. The more inferior types can only prolong life by about three to five years. The better types can give a person one to two more decades without any issues!" Yu Xiaocao threw out a bait. She needed to preserve her safety first before making other plans.

Eunuch Yuan's eyes lit up. He only looked to be around forty but his head full of white hair revealed his true age. He was one of the great experts of the previous dynasty and was even older than the emperor emeritus. He was getting close to eighty.

In this era, he was already considered quite long-lived. After all, those who practiced martial arts kept their bodies in tip-top form. However, time eroded all things, including the body. Eunuch Yuan was well aware of this reality.

He was wildly ambitious and desperately wanted to recover the previous dynasty so that he could be the power behind a puppet emperor. Unfortunately, time was not on his side...if he could extend his life by another twenty years, he would be able to reach his cherished goal. Eunuch Yuan's heart became more excited at this prospect.

"If all of the ingredients are prepared for you, how long will it take for you to make?" Eunuch Yuan's power had flourished all these years, so he naturally ended up with quite a number of good things in his hands. Even if he couldn't take any out now, with his connections and wealth, it'd be very easy for him to come up with a full set of ingredients for the prolonging-life pill.

“A total of forty-nine days!” Yu Xiaocao saw that Eunuch Yuan's face had twisted and hurriedly added, “The more precious a pill, the more time it needs to be made. Just think, one needs to purify the medicinal ingredients, make sure the ingredients are harmoniously incorporated together, shaping the pill...all of these require time. If someone told you that you can get it in three to five days, they were definitely trying to trick you!”

Eunuch Yuan wasn't well-versed in making meds, so when he heard her explanation, he was mollified. He even told her to give him a list of ingredients and then had his subordinates go prepare what was needed.

“Chief Steward, a group of authorities are here. They say that they are searching for a group of criminals and need to go through our residence!” The door to the hidden room opened and a very ordinary looking person in nondescript clothing entered. The expressions and mannerisms of this person were not any different than those of ordinary servants in ordinary households.

Eunuch Yuan revealed a scornful smile and replied in a gentle voice, “Then allow them in to search around! We are law-abiding citizens and will cooperate fully with the authorities.”

Outside the hidden room, Zhu Junyang took a group of soldiers and entered into Jinling's largest silk merchant's residence, which was owned by the Chen Family. They began to search the area from top to bottom.

Governor Fan ordered, “Everyone keep their eyes open and search carefully. You can't let a single corner off!”

Chen Guang, the head of the Chen Family, was a middle-aged man in his fifties with a long beard. When his two sons got the message, they hurried over and personally escorted the authorities along to every corner and cranny of the Chen Family's residence. All of the male servants had also appeared in the outer courtyard.

Chen Guang and his descendents all had the proper reaction to this situation. All of them were a bit anxious but none of them seemed to be hiding anything more. They resembled the other families who had gotten their homes searched. They had the right level of nervousness but nothing else.

Other than the head of the Chen Family, Chen Guang, no one else in the family knew about the secret room in their warehouse. Furthermore, none of them had an inkling that all of the recent scary events were related to their family. Except for a select few that were carefully chosen and trained, the rest of the servants were all clueless and in the dark.

The people of the inner residence were also fooled! Even Chen Guang's wife of decades didn't even know that her husband was a secret supporter of the previous dynasty. This truly showed just how much he had endured and disguised himself. Thus, Zhu Junyang and Governor Fan were destined to fail here.

“If you discover any suspicious people, you need to report it immediately. Recently, make sure the guards patrol a bit more around the residence. That group of criminals only targets families who have a bit of wealth and status!” Governor Fan couldn't help but leave a parting warning as he took his officers out.

The head of the Chen Family gratefully said, “Thank you, Your Excellency. This commoner will definitely have the guards patrol the area. If anything happens, we will immediately report it to the authorities!”

“Master, this is the last family! Did we get tricked by the tracks in the beginning?” After searching frantically for an entire day, they still had nothing to show. Hou Xiaoliang had become quite fretful.

Fields of Gold Chapter 706

Zhu Junyang turned around to look at the patriarch of the Chen Family, who was standing at the threshold, smiling. He sneered and said, “Even the most well thought out plans will have their holes. We only didn't find what's wrong here!”

Zhu Junyang was willing to bet everything he owned that there was something off about the Chen Family's patriarch. With his ability to read people's minds, he only saw a blank white space in the other man's head. This man either had a natural gift or had been carefully trained by someone else. Ordinary people would always have something appear in their heads when they were talking to others. Thus, it was likely that the latter was true for this man!

Hou Xiaoliang felt his spirits lift at the sign of a breakthrough. He asked excitedly, “Master, does the Chen Family really have something fishy?”

“The patriarch of the Chen Family is not a simple man!” Zhu Junyang mounted his horse in an easy movement and followed the officers as they headed down the road. He coldly commanded, “Ming Xin, Ming Ding, keep an eye on them!”

“Yes!” Two voices could be heard from the street in the area where there were the most people. Immediately, a pair of beyond ordinary men disappeared into the crowd.

The Chen Family absolutely had something going on in order to have his master say that they were 'not simple'. Hou Xiaoliang wanted to cry with joy. They finally had a clue of where his mistress and his Wutong had gone. Wutong, just wait, this older brother will save you soon!

However, for the next few days, the news from Ming Ding and the others only told them that nothing of note had occurred at the Chen Family's residence. If it weren't for the fact that this involved his own wife, Zhu Junyang would have praised them for having nerves of steel!

Five days had passed and they still had no leads. Hou Xiaoliang was so frantic that he was running around in circles, “Master, since there's something wrong with the Chen Family, isn't it better to make a show of force and take the patriarch out? With Chief Steward Su's abilities, I'm sure he'd be able to crack that nut!!”

“No! Currently, no news is good news. This means that they need something from my princess consort. Otherwise, I'm sure they would have leaked something regarding her in order to make a nice trap for us to fall in!” Zhu Junyang frowned heavily. The only thing that his lass had that other people might covet was her medicine concocting skills. Was it possible that these people had heard the rumors that he was looking for materials to a life prolonging pill? That was also good as it meant that the lass was at least safe for now.

The thick smell of medicinal ingredients wafted around the secret underground room in the Chen Family's warehouse. Eunuch Yuan watched as the rare and valuable medicinal ingredients were placed into the medicinal stove one after another. They slowly dissolved into a thick medicinal extract that looked incredibly astounding. A strange, eerie smile appeared slowly on his pale face. The reason why it looked odd was because it looked like someone had drawn the caricature of a smile on a stiff mask as it didn't have any true emotion to it.

Time had passed and they were getting closer and closer to the forty-nine day mark. Xiaocao and her servants had worked until their eyes turned red and all of them had become markedly thinner. They

looked incredibly sallow and wane. In order to reach his goal of obtaining twenty more years, Eunuch Yuan naturally wouldn't treat them poorly.

However, concocting pills, especially the ones from the recipes that the little divine stone had given her, was not that easy. In the past, when she made pills, she had the little divine stone next to her, helping her to control the flame. Thus, Xiaocao had a much easier time. Only once it left her side did Xiaocao realize just how much she relied on it.

This time, Xiaocao needed to do everything personally by herself, especially the most important part of controlling the heat. Even Wutong's and Chunhua's help wasn't enough to make her confident. Forty days had gone by as she worked tirelessly day and night. They could only sleep a few hours every day, so it'd be more surprising if they hadn't become run down!

When the sweet medicinal fragrance came out of the stove, Xiaocao extinguished the fire under the stove and tottered over, swaying with each step. She opened up the medicinal stove and retrieved three sparkling white pills that resembled luminescent balls of jade. The pills glittered under the wan light like jewels and their unique smell filled the entire underground room. The fatigue from working overtime for many days seemed to have dissipated as soon as the three of them smelled the pills.

“Are...are these the Prolonging Life Pills? You truly succeeded in concocting them?!” Eunuch Yuan became gleeful and rushed over. He snatched the three pills into his hands and stared at them as if they were the most precious treasures in the world. He gazed at them carefully...

Suddenly, he held his own throat and his eyes bugged out so much that they almost fell out of his head. He glared malevolently at Xiaocao and managed to snarl out, “You bitch!! You actually dare to poison me!”

Yu Xiaocao lightly brushed some dust off of herself as she faintly smiled, “Nothing much. I just made an interesting medicine from the remnant ingredients that were lying around in my spare time.”

Fortunately, in order to keep this secret, Eunuch Yuan had sent all of his subordinates out of the secret room. Other than Xiaocao and her two servants, there was no one else in the medicine concocting room. Earlier, when he had snatched the pills from her, he brushed past Xiaocao's hand and that was when she set the poison on him.

Yu Xiaocao slowly walked over and retrieved the three Prolonging Life Pills from his hand while she looked at his furious face. She sneered and said, “Eunuch Yuan, you're such an ambitious person with a disregard for other people's lives. Someone like you isn't fit to spend more time in this world. These Prolonging Life Pills should be given to more worthy people instead ah!”

“Pfffttt—” Before she could finish her thought, her body flew through the air and crashed into the rock-hard wall behind her. A sickly sweet taste flooded her mouth and she expelled out blood that had come up from her chest.

“Young Miss!”

“Your Highness!!”

Wutong and Chunhua both ran towards their mistress, who was lying on the ground like a limp rag doll. Tears streamed down their faces as they supported her up and slowly walked her over to where Eunuch Yuan was standing.

“You...” Yu Xiaocao felt another clot of blood reach her mouth and she did her best to endure the crushing pain in her innards, “Didn't you get poisoned by my 'Bone and Flesh Dissolving Powder'? Why...”

“I need to thank you ah!” Eunuch Yuan tossed a jade bottle in his hands and a sinister smile appeared on his lips, “This high-level detoxification pill is truly out of the ordinary. It was able to immediately get rid of the effects of such a scary poison. However...Your Highness, I don't think you're as lucky as me. You have such a severe internal injury and don't have a 'Nine Turns Golden Elixir'. What are you to do?”

“Young Miss, how are you feeling? Are you okay ah?” Wutong wept profusely. If her young miss's condition was truly as serious as that damned eunuch said, she didn't know how long she could last without any medicine or doctor nearby. What to do? Why hadn't His Highness found them by now? Just what was that idiot Hou Xiaoliang doing?

“Achoo—” Hou Xiaoliang rubbed his nose right after he threw a man dressed in servant's attire in front of his master. He asked, “Master, are you sure this fellow has something up with him? Almost fifty days have passed and I don't know whether the mistress and Little Wutong have been tormented enough. Are they able to eat enough, sleep well, or...”

“Shut up!!” Zhu Junyang suddenly felt as if a sword had pierced through his chest. He held his chest as the expression on his face changed. Everyone said that a married couple had their hearts linked together. Did something suddenly happen to Xiaocao?

He went forward a couple of steps and lifted up the man who looked like an ordinary servant in his hands. His blood-shot eyes stared fixedly into the servant's eyes. The servant's eyes transformed from clarity to muddleness and, in the end, he couldn't take the strain and fell over in a faint.

“Wow! Master, you actually know how to hypnotize people?” Hou Xiaoliang exclaimed in surprise. A thoughtful expression also appeared on Su Ran's face after seeing this bizarre scene.

“Let's go! We need to head to the Chen Family's warehouse in the western part of the city!!” Not everyone was like the patriarch of the Chen Family and had been trained in protecting their minds. After snatching away the important information from the servant's mind, Zhu Junyang strode out quickly and mounted his horse before speeding off.

A few days later, when this servant woke up in the yamen's jail cell, he had already become a simpleton...

Inside the secret underground room in the Chen Family's warehouse, Eunuch Yuan grinned evilly as he stepped closer and closer to the three women. Chunhua bravely went forward to fight but her moves were very easily countered by Eunuch Yuan. In a jiffy, Chunhua lost the encounter and had been blown away, flying through the air and falling to the ground with a heavy thud. No one knew whether she was alive or dead.

“Originally, I wanted to keep you alive as your medicinal concocting skills have some use for me. At my side, you could watch as I climbed onto the highest throne. At that time, I was going to give you the position of the personal physician of the emperor and allow you to enjoy glory, honor, and riches.” Every step of Eunuch Yuan's was deliberately slow as he was trying to prolong their suffering as much as possible.

Eunuch Yuan had a little habit. He really enjoyed watching people struggle and squirm in front of him. As they became more and more frantic and scared, like a caged animal, he became more excited!

Suddenly, the expression on his face changed. His pair of eyes resembled that of a venomous snake's and he stared furiously at Yu Xiaocao, "Who would have thought that you wouldn't be able to tell the difference between good and bad and would actually try to poison me? This reminded me that you're not only an official for the Great Ming Dynasty but you're also that stupid imperial prince's woman. The person who can't get along with the Zhu Family the most is me. As his woman, you have deep feelings for him. If I keep such a disloyal person like you by my side, then that'd be like trying to drink poison to quench my thirst! Perhaps one day you would actually succeed in poisoning me!!"

Eunuch Yuan glared furiously at Xiaocao's face as he snapped, "It looks like I can't keep you alive! These three Life Prolonging Pills will be more than enough to let me accomplish my goals! You all should die now——"

"Stop right there!" Yu Xiaocao cradled her chest and lightly coughed. After swallowing a bit of blood that had just risen to her mouth, she stared at him firmly, "If you go forward another step, I will swallow these three Life Prolonging pills right now, so you also can't get what you want!"

Eunuch Yuan snarled malevolently, "You dare!!"

"Why wouldn't I? In any case, like you said, you wouldn't be keeping me alive. If I can't live, why should I let you get your way?" As she spoke, she placed the pills in her hands towards the corner of her mouth.

"Wait, wait!" Eunuch Yuan sputtered and reached out a hand in an attempt to stop Xiaocao from going further. His eyes flickered and he squeezed out a smile, "Official Yu, let's make a deal. I'll let the two of you go and you give me the Prolonging Life Pills. How's that?"

"Do you think I'm an idiot ah? Can anyone possibly trust such a cruel, merciless, ambitious person who is willing to do anything to get to his goals? As soon as the Prolonging Life Pills fall into your hands, do either of us have any place to turn ah?" Yu Xiaocao's chest seemed to become more and more painful with every passing second and her grip on reality was slowly slipping away. She couldn't faint right now. If she passed out now, she would never have the opportunity to open her eyes again.

"Then what do you want?!" Eunuch Yuan was slowly losing his patience.

“Let my maidservant go! After I know she is safe, I will give these Prolonging Life Pills to you!” Yu Xiaocao thought that there was a very low chance that she'd be able to live longer, so she wanted at least one of them to live.

“No! Young Miss!! I don't want to leave you! If death is coming, then we should die together!” Wutong forcefully shook her head as tears streamed down her face and onto Xiaocao's face.

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Yu Xiaocao stroked her face and valiantly squeezed out a smile, “Silly lass, I'm seriously injured and can't even move much now. Dying alongside with me would just be a waste. I've already agreed to Hou Xiaoliang's request to allow you to marry him. A married out maidservant is like spilled water...in the future, you need to enjoy your life with Hou Xiaoliang ah.”

She panted a few times before she continued, “Tell my final words to the prince: The fact that I wasn't able to accompany him to the very end was my bad. In the next life, I will still become his wife, so he needs to be able to spot me in the crowd in the blink of an eye. Otherwise, I'll punish him to kneel on a washboard and won't let him into...my bed!”

“No! Young Miss, Wutong won't marry anyone! Wutong will stay with you, so don't abandon me! Who will take care of you in the other world? You've once complimented me, saying that I'm the most considerate and the person who understands you the most. Don't abandon me!” Wutong noticed that her mistress's breath was getting more and more shallow and didn't know what to do anymore. Tears flowed down her face and dripped onto the floor.

A slight bit of moisture appeared at the corners of Yu Xiaocao's eyes. She murmured in an almost inaudible voice, “Go and find His Highness. Get him to save me.”

When she was certain Wutong had understood her secret signal, Yu Xiaocao suddenly angrily scolded, “Stop saying such things ah! In the past, you were afraid of hard work and didn't want to leave the capital to go to the small town Tanggu to serve me when I was still an ordinary farmer's girl. At that time, you lost this princess consort's trust! If it weren't for the fact that you've been pretty obedient these past few years, I would have sold you off long ago!!”

“Just look, you've been with me longer compared to Hechun and Xichun, yet I gave the important responsibility of managing 'Blossoming Beauty', the dessert and pastry shop, and the flower tea business to them. As for you, you're just a maidservant who serves me on a day to day basis. Don't you understand now ah? You only say such touching things to comfort yourself!!” Yu Xiaocao scolded her as she also gave her a silent signal through her eyes.

“But...” Wutong wiped some tears off her face and was still reluctant to leave her mistress.

“There are no buts! This princess consort gets angrier the more I think of it. I don't want to see you anymore!” Yu Xiaocao used all of her strength in one last snarl, “Get out——”

“Tsk tsk tsk! Such deep feelings between a servant and her master!” Eunuch Yuan smiled maliciously and suddenly pulled Wutong into his hands. He placed his left hand under her chin and snarled at Yu Xiaocao, “Give me the Prolonging Life Pills, otherwise...your good maidservant's neck will be snapped in two by me!”

“Wring away ah! In any case, neither of us would be let go by you after you get your hands on the pills. Since we're going to die anyway, I'll make sure to die without leaving you what you want!” Yu Xiaocao picked one Prolonging Life Pill and slowly placed it into her mouth. Under the alarmed eyes of Eunuch Yuan, she leisurely chewed on it before swallowing while enduring the pain in her chest. Then she did the same to the second pill.

Just as she was about to place the last pill into her mouth, Eunuch Yuan screamed in anguish, “Stop!! Don't swallow any more, I'll let this maidservant go!”

It took a full seven weeks, forty-nine days, to make these three Prolonging Life Pills. If all of them were swallowed by her, he didn't know how long it would take to get the ingredients again and wait for that bitch to recover from her wounds! At that time, he also couldn't guarantee that the situation wouldn't have changed either.

Wutong, who had just escaped from the clutch of death, had been thrown out unceremoniously by a black-clothed man. She looked back to stare at her young miss again as if she was trying to say, “Young Miss, please hold on. I will go find His Highness right now to save you!”

Time seemed to have stopped flowing and was creeping by incredibly slowly. Yu Xiaocao discovered that her grip on life was slowly becoming looser. At this time, she didn't even have the strength to place the remaining pill into her mouth.

This life had been picked up by her coincidentally. She had family who loved her and had fortuitously encountered a man who understood her, deeply loved, and pampered her to the heavens. It was worth

it! The only thing she regretted was that she was unable to accompany him to the very end and wasn't able to help him birth a few beautiful and adorable children. She wasn't able to see whether he would still be as stunningly beautiful in old age...if there was another life ahead of her, she hoped that she would be able to encounter him again...

Yu Xiaocao felt her consciousness slowly slip away drop by drop...

Eunuch Yuan had sensed that her breath was becoming more and more shallow. When he thought of the fact that he had lost two pills for nothing, he wanted to scream in fury, 'Even if you die, I will make sure to rip your body into shreds so I can vent my temper a bit.'

He stepped closer...in Yu Xiaocao's blurry eyes, she could see a pair of large feet slowly heading over towards her. Was her life about to end like this?

Just as Eunuch Yuan's hand was about to grip around her delicate neck, a beam of golden light shot through the thick wall of the hidden room. With a rumble, the golden light transformed into an elegant young man who was currently pushing Eunuch Yuan away from Yu Xiaocao.

If Yu Xiaocao was still conscious, she would have immediately been happily surprised to discover that the person standing in front of her was the little divine stone in its human youth form.

[Psh—this immortal was only gone for a few days yet you managed to land yourself in such a precarious situation? It looks like this divine stone...that's not right, it's this immortal, can only stay by your side in the future, keeping an eye on you. It's so exhausting having a master who only knows how to get herself into trouble!] The little divine stone took out a pill that he had shamelessly begged off of the Goddess of Spirits and stuffed it into Xiaocao's mouth, who had just stopped breathing. He then placed his actual self, the multicolored stone, back on her wrist.

Eunuch Yuan avariciously eyed the jade bottle inside the little divine stone's hands. His intuition told him that this bottle of pills was even more valuable and rare than the Prolonging Life Pill in his hands. Those pills would have great use for him.

“Just who are you?” Eunuch Yuan only had eyes for that jade bottle that was apparently filled with divine medicines and had seemed to completely disregard the fact that the little divine stone and a golden light had appeared from nowhere.

[This immortal has no need to tell you my identity!!] The fellow in front of him had hurt his master so badly that she had almost lost her life. Thus, how could the little divine stone possibly allow him to live on in this world? Someone who was destined to die had no qualifications in finding out his identity.

This immortal? That was right ah! Earlier, there was clearly a beam of golden light that had flashed in before this youth appeared. Furthermore, the hidden underground room had thick walls and many mechanisms preventing entry, yet the youth had easily entered like nothing had blocked it. Were there truly gods and immortals in this world? Then, were the pills in his hands...immortal medicines?

Eunuch Yuan's desire for everlasting life had already clouded his reason. He actually tried to steal the bottle of pills from the little divine stone in an obvious manner.

[Go die!!] A beam of golden light flashed and the hand that Eunuch Yuan had stretched forward had fallen to the ground, severed from his arm. After the shock passed, an anguished and painful scream echoed in the room.

"It's so loud——" Yu Xiaocao, who had been at the gates of death, was currently frowning slightly as she weakly groaned.

Zhu Junyang and Su Ran were currently running through the broken door that they had just pummeled down outside the Chen Family's warehouse. When he heard the scream from within, the look on Zhu Junyang's face changed and he leapt through the hole that the little divine stone had created. Within the underground chamber, black-clothed men flooded out like a bunch of water. Zhu Junyang remembered the tearful Wutong's lamentations and the sword in his hands became a death reaper, killing everyone in his path.

Su Ran's sword danced around like a deadly bladed storm and his usually gentle face looked to be frozen over with frost. He was like a white-clothed grim reaper. He howled at Zhu Junyang, "I'll hold back the enemies here, go in and find that lass Xiaocao!"

Zhu Junyang beheaded another black-clothed man and skewered another in the heart. When he heard this, he leapt away from the crowd and bolted towards the broken wall at top speed. Behind him were a few black-clothed men who had gotten entangled with more hidden guards.

By the time he broke through a couple more defenses, he arrived at the medicine concocting room that Wutong had mentioned. A thick stench of blood hit his nose and the sound of the shrill scream was slowly dying off. Zhu Junyang felt his heart tighten as he was afraid to see just what a dismal situation had unfolded here.

[Hmph! Don't they all say that men are unreliable ah? By the time he arrived, who knows where your soul had flown off too? I think you should repudiate him sooner rather than later. This immortal will help you find an even better man!] The little divine stone supported Yu Xiaocao up and regarded Zhu Junyang with a face full of disdain.

On the ground was Eunuch Yuan. His two arms and two legs had been neatly severed from his body, causing a bunch of blood to pool on the ground. He was howling in grief as he wriggled around. The Prolonging Life Pill that he had desperately wanted was only about a meter away from him. The glistening pale white pill had a bit of fresh blood stained on it and seemed to glow with an alluring light.

"I'm alright..." Yu Xiaocao had strolled around the gates of hell before her soul had been pulled back. At this time, she saw her husband who was covered in blood from head to toe. Her deathly pale face revealed a bright smile—it was truly good to be able to see him again...

When he saw that the little lass had become significantly thinner and was ghostly pale with a dab of dried blood by her mouth that had a smile that looked like it might disappear at any time, Zhu Junyang felt like his heart was being crushed by a giant hand. It hurt so much that his bones ached.

Zhu Junyang felt his nose and eyes sting and he reached out a hand towards the lass, "I came too late..."

"You're not late. As long as I can see you, you're never too late! Because I know my unparalleled hero will go through anything in order to save me from the depths of despair. Zhu Junyang, you are my true hero!" Yu Xiaocao placed her hand into the burning hot hand of her husband as tears of pure joy and happiness shone in her eyes.

[Ugh...isn't that too corny?] The little divine stone had just been served up a plate of lovey-dovey mush and rolled his eyes in a vulgar and exasperated manner.

Zhu Junyang ignored the stone and carefully propped up Xiaocao's bloodstained little hand as if he was holding onto the most delicate treasure in the world. He slowly clasped his hand around hers and gazed deeply within her eyes, "I let you suffer hardship, I..." When he reached that word, his voice choked up.

"It's not your fault. I was the one who didn't listen to you and easily trusted an outsider, leading me out of the residence. In the future, I will be very well-behaved and won't let you worry..." After experiencing this round of torments, Xiaocao finally understood that only when she was by her husband's side was she truly safe. Without him holding up the sky for her, she would be surrounded by danger at all sides and be unable to move a single step.

"Where are you injured? Wutong said that you had been hit by one of them and even spit up blood. The young master of Medicine King Valley is at our residence. Let's have him take a look at you." Zhu Junyang noticed that the lass was very careful when she spoke. She must have been scared to death. From when she was young until now, the little lass had never faced such a frightening situation before. Would she be scarred for life by this experience?

He wanted to bring the little lass into his arms and comfort her, but he was also afraid that her injuries were too heavy and he'd end up inadvertently hurting her more. He didn't know what to do now. Only someone who loved someone dearly like this would feel so helpless in this situation.

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Yu Xiaocao felt a dull pain when she touched her chest. The pain that felt like her inner organs were being burned and chopped had disappeared. Moving her hands down, when she felt her ribs her small round face suddenly became wrinkled. It was very painful!

"It hurts! My ribs seem to be broken." Her big eyes were filled with crystal-like tears and were like a cute fawn's eyes that stared at Zhu Junyang pitifully. He felt very distressed.

"Don't move around! Hou Xiaoliang, did you die somewhere? Bring a door panel over here! Zhu Junyang yelled towards the outside. He didn't know the condition of Xiaocao's injury and was afraid that moving her would cause her broken ribs to cause secondary damage to her fragile body.

"It's... not possible! She clearly stopped breathing. How could someone who died come back to life? Unless...she has an elixir that can bring back the dead. Haha...if the world knew that Princess Consort Xu has such an elixir, I wonder if you can still protect her!" Eunuch Yuan, who had been turned into a human stick, was bloody and ferocious like a ferocious ghost that had crawled out of hell, trying to drag someone down with him as he was dying.

Zhu Junyang's frosty eyes looked coldly at Eunuch Yuan and said, "Elixir? Are you hallucinating before death? You old useless coot, if you dared to go directly against me, I would respect you as a man and give you a quick death. However, you really shouldn't have messed with my princess consort. I will make you wish you were dead instead!"

As he said thus, he pinched open Eunuch Yuan's mouth, pulled out his tongue, blinded his eyes, and stopped the bleeding from the wounds of his severed limbs. Towards Hou Xiaoliang, who came in carrying a door plank, he said, "Take him to the hidden guards' Punishment Hall and take very good care of him. Everyday use a sharp blade to cut him 100 times and then cook his flesh in a hotpot and feed it to him. Remember to disinfect the wounds with salt water so he doesn't die of infection. This is a survival pill. He should be cut for a hundred days. Don't let him die before the hundredth day!"

"Retch——" the sound of dry heaving reached his ears. Zhu Junyang's face suddenly changed, and he quietly got angry at himself for ordering such a cruel punishment in front of the lass. The lass was so pure and kind, would she think he was terrible?

"You..." Zhu Junyang didn't dare to come forward easily, fearing that he would cause her more disgust. He looked at her carefully and found that she was holding her chest, looking as if she wanted to vomit. Coupled with the pain from her ribs, Xiaocao's pale face turned even more white.

Yu Xiaocao saw that her man was worried and uneasy. Before she had time to think about it, she angrily said to him, "If you don't get me out of here, the smell of blood is too strong, I'm about to suffocate!"

Zhu Junyang saw that there was no disgust in her clear eyes so he put down his worries. He took off his outer coat and spread it on the door plank before he went over, gently picked her up, and carefully set her down.

"Hou Xiaoliang, you carry at the back. Be careful and don't bump the princess consort." Zhu Junyang carried the other side of the door plank. Every step was smooth. Xiaocao couldn't feel the movement of the door plank at all.

"Wait a minute!" Yu Xiaocao suddenly thought of Chunhua, whose status was unknown. The maid had tried her best to save her. She hurriedly said, "Chunhua is hurt, go see how she is now!"

Zhu Junyang pointed his chin at the little divine stone who was doing nothing at the side and said, "Little Glutinous Dumpling, you go see her. If she's still angry, give her a Nine Turns Golden Elixir."

[Who allowed you to call me Little Glutinous Dumpling? Am I someone who can be ordered around by you and other mortals? Hmph, useless and stupid mortal, you can't even protect your wife, but you're still pretending to be the best in martial arts in the Ming Empire!] The little divine stone disliked this nickname. When he was a cat, the name could be considered cute. However, he was currently a beautiful teenager. How could he use such a nickname?

Yu Xiaocao saw her man's expression change and knew that the little divine stone had stuck a verbal knife in him, so she said, "Alright, alright! Great Immortal Divine Stone, can you please lower yourself and help us cure that lass, Chunhua, based on the fact that she is usually pretty good to the little golden cat?"

The little divine stone's little golden cat form was small, eye-catching, and adorable. However, it had a proud attitude. The contrast in its appearance and attitude was so cute that it won the heart of her maidservants. When they were free, they always played with it. When they had delicious food, they always thought of keeping a share for it. Although the little divine stone definitely wasn't interested in these metal foods!

Petting a cat all day, was this considered being pretty good to him? The little divine stone gritted his teeth but still went over to check on Chunhua's injury. The injury wasn't light, however, thankfully she was still breathing. The Nine Turns Golden Elixir on Xiaocao was taken away by that old useless coot. Fortunately, Zhu Junyang was ordered by his wife to carry all kinds of medicine for internal and external injuries. The little divine stone took one for Chunhua to take and, without any concern for the fairer sex, dragged her out by the back of her collar.

By this time, the battle in the underground palace was coming to an end. Although Eunuch Yuan's group was well developed, most of his people were dispersed leaving only a small part of them in the underground palace. Most were mediocre in martial arts, so the soldiers under Official Fan were enough to deal with them. The problematic ones were taken care of by Su Ran and the hidden guards.

Ming Xin came out with a bloody figure on his back. Using a seemingly calm tone that was kind of stiff, he said, "Master, Ming Gui was tortured by that old coot and is going to die..."

It turned out that after Ming Gui followed Eunuch Yuan and the others into the Chen Family's warehouse, he was found by Eunuch Yuan. The old man had him outnumbered and captured. Eunuch

Yuan wanted to get information about the hidden guards on Prince Jing's Estate. However, as one of the ten leaders of the hidden guard, how could Ming Gui disclose his own information? Even though he suffered from inhumane torture, he still clenched his teeth and said nothing.

Zhu Junyang saw that his arms and legs looked as if they had no bones and knew that the bones of his limbs had been broken. Even if he survived, he would become a disabled man.

"Yuanzi, give him a Nine Turns Golden Elixir and send him to the Tongren Medicine Hall. Ask the doctors to connect his bones. When I get back, I'll make a bone growth cream.... maybe he'll be able to stand up.." However, he wouldn't be able to return to the hidden guards. Yu Xiaocao's expression was suddenly a little gloomy.

The little divine stone poured out a Nine Turns Golden Elixir from a jade bottle and threw it at Ming Xin. He then asked Yu Xiaocao, [How do you know the name that was given to me by the Goddess Nuwa?]

That was right. Yuanzi was the nickname the Goddess Nuwa gave the little divine stone when he had just become sentient. It had always liked this name, although the name 'Yuanzi' wasn't very lofty and grand.

"You told me a long time ago, didn't you? I didn't expect the immortals to be so forgetful. " Yu Xiaocao was lying on the door plank with a slight pain in her abdomen. Strange, she was hit in the chest, so why would her stomach ache? Could pain be transferred?

The little divine stone pursed his lips, but the corners of his mouth still couldn't help rising. The human master still attached great importance to it. She still remembered what he said when she first came here!

"Young Miss! Miss...wah wah wah wah..." Wutong, who had gone out to send information, was not allowed in until after Chen Family and the Underground Warehouse fell. As soon as she came in, she saw her weak master lying on the door. Her tears poured out like rain.

Xiaocao had originally closed her eyes and finally opened them after several tears fell on her face. She said, "Wutong, I am all right! I'm pretty dirty right now, don't use your tears to wash my face anymore, ok? "

"Mistress, you're alright? This is great! I was so afraid... If anything happened to you, how will I live in the world, wah wah wah..." Wutong thought of her mistress's serious injury. Despite that, Xiaocao had still supported her and fought to give her a chance to escape. She thought, 'No one can ever separate me from her. My life is for her and I will always be by her side!'

Hou Xiaoliang, "... " (The wife who was finally in reach was gone again? Why was it so hard to marry someone!)

Yu Xiaocao rolled her eyes and said, "Aren't I perfectly fine right now. You told the prince in time and the prince also came in time to save me. I have already taken a Nine Turns Golden Elixir. Most of my internal injuries are healed and there are only a few scratches left. After resting for a few days, it'll be fine. Don't cry, my wounds are starting to hurt because of your crying."

Hou Xiaoliang looked at his future wife who had cried until her eyes were red and puffy and couldn't help saying, "Mistress is correct. Stop crying, be careful that your crying will ruin your eyes. Her Highness still needs you!"

"What you said is right!" Wutong wiped the tears off her face with her sleeve and finally stopped crying, "This time Chuanhua came out with the two of us again and she got hurt again. I will be the only one by Mistress's side. I have to be well so I can take care of her... Pay more attention and don't bump her into anything!"

Yu Xiaocao was soon carried to Tongren Medicine Hall, where she was treated by her old acquaintance—Doctor Sun. Doctor Sun originally lived in the small town, Tanggu, and was not valued by his family. Later, due to Xiaocao's superb medicines, Tongren Medicine Hall gained a chance of survival.

Tongren Medicine Hall then became a leader in the pharmaceutical industry because of its exclusive sales of Yu Family's pills and solutions in the beginning. Its sales of other drugs more than doubled because of this. As a result, Doctor Sun was transferred from the small town of Tanggu to the general shop of Jiangnan's Tongren Medicine Hall in Jinling and became a popular doctor. His medical skills were gradually recognized by his family and he became a famous expert in Jinling.

"Oh! Lass, what's wrong with you?" When Doctor Sun saw his old acquaintance, he was shocked. After a while, he couldn't help but sigh. Even if he was thousands of miles away from the Yu Family, the connection still couldn't be cut.

In Tanggu, he helped the lass, Xiaocao, take care of her illness, helped her mother to take care of her weak body, treated her father's leg bitten by the blind bear, and dragged Yu Hang back from the gates of hell. How could he once again meet this girl in Jinling?

Yuanzi - can be translated as 'roundy'

Fields of Gold Chapter 709

“Grandpa Sun, my ribs seem to be broken. I'm going to trouble you again!” Yu Xiaocao revealed a pitiful smile and a pale face, which made others feel sorry for her.

Doctor Sun carefully gave her a checkup and said after much deliberation, “The injury on your ribs isn't an issue. Just take some prescribed medication, put some bone healing balm on it, and rest for a while and it'll be fine. However...”

Seeing Doctor Sun's expression of hesitance and his reluctance to say more, Zhu Junyang's heart suddenly dropped, he picked up Xiaocao's hands and asked, “Is there something wrong with the lass's health? Doctor Sun should just say it! As long as there is a cure, I will do my best to get it no matter how hard it is...”

Doctor Sun waved his hands, sighed, and said, “The princess consort's health is fine, but...”

“But what? Doctor Sun, you should say it quickly!” Wutong was so anxious she almost reached over to grab Doctor Sun's arm to shake it. What was wrong with this man, saying half and leaving the other half to the imagination?

Zhu Junyang's gaze seemed to be hot and it was burning him with its intenseness. Doctor Sun braced himself and hesitantly said, “It's still early and I'm not sure. It'll take at least ten days to halve a month to confirm it.”

[Hmph! The old man is beating around the bush for so long. What's there not to say? Isn't it just that you are pregnant? It's not even as big as a bean sprout and so weak that it can disappear at any time. No wonder this quack doctor doesn't dare to confirm it!” The little divine stone crossed his arms in front of his chest and looked unhappily at Doctor Sun's expression, what was he making them anxious for?

“What? I'm...I'm pregnant?!” Yu Xiaocao 'heard' the little divine stone's words and froze. She thought about it for a moment. It had been about half a year since she got married, and she hadn't taken any contraceptive measures. It was normal for a healthy married couple to have a pregnancy occur. However, she didn't expect that a child would bring such surprise and shock to them in this situation!

Zhu Junyang's original worried and anxious expression froze on his face before turning blank. Pr...Pregnant? He was gonna be a father? The one he loved was going to give birth to a baby for him? In another nine months, there would be a small white bun calling himself father? (Author's note: You're overthinking it. A baby calling you father right after being born, wouldn't that be strange?)

A silly smile alighted on his face. Suddenly the smile disappeared and a touch of worry and panic appeared on his face, “Doctor Sun, my wife...she was captured by some bad people and was injured by a powerful martial artist. She suffered serious internal and external wounds..will the child be affected?”

“What?” Doctor Sun's expression became serious. His fingers went to Xiaocao's pulse again. After careful identification, he thought carefully and said, “Your Highness, this unworthy one is unable to sense the internal injuries you talked about. As for the injuries on the ribs, they are healing so just do as I said. It's just that we will have to consider what kind of prescriptions we use. After all, medication is three parts poison, and we must choose a medication that is mild that will have little effect on the fetus. In this way, the healing process will be lengthened and the princess consort will have to suffer a few more days.”

“Then... if she were to lose the child now, would she experience any effects?” Zhu Junyang asked bitterly when he heard that his wife would have to endure more than one or two months in bed and suffer.

“Surnamed Zhu, what do you mean? This is your own flesh and blood, yet you dare to kill it? You're too cold-blooded!” Yu Xiaocao exploded at him on the spot. If her ribs didn't hurt as bad as they did right now, she would jump up and claw at his face on the spot! Who gave him the right to decide the fate of her children?

Zhu Junyang saw her touch her wounds and immediately felt sweat pop up on his head. He hurriedly let her lie back down, “In my heart, your safety is the most important. No one can compare, even if it's my children. There will be no exceptions. Behave, we can still have children...”

Yu Xiaocao was so angry she opened her mouth and bit down on his wrist. She didn't let go until the taste of metal spread in her mouth! “Bastard! This child, even if you don't want it, I want it! If you dare

take away my child, I will fight with you using my life!" Yu Xiaocao was like a lion protecting her cubs, glaring at Zhu Junyang fiercely. Her appearance was very cute and fierce.

Doctor Sun reminded her, "Your Highness, please calm down. You have to control your emotions as the first three months of the pregnancy are unstable. Plus you've already disturbed the fetus, so you must be careful."

Yu Xiaocao immediately took a few deep breaths upon hearing this and calmed down. She grabbed Doctor Sun's sleeve and asked, "Grandpa Sun, please, you must help me keep this child!"

"Ok, ok! I'll give you a prescription to stabilize the fetus. However, to avoid interacting drug properties, you can't take the medicine for bone renewal in the near future!" Doctor Sun saw that the prince was just a tiger without its teeth in front of his wife and couldn't do anything about it.

Yu Xiaocao covered her belly with her hands and showed a gentle smile, "It doesn't matter, I'll only use the bone renewal ointment. As long as I can keep the child, it's all worth it!"

The lass exuded a maternal glow making Zhu Junyang's line of sight focused on her, at the same time, a sadness rose up in his heart. He just put everything in front of her, but in her heart, he wasn't the first now that there was a baby. Was the baby's father not important anymore?

Zhu Junyang stepped forward and hugged his wife's petite and thin body, covering her delicate hands with his big palm.

"Go away! The baby and I hate you!" Yu Xiaocao saw that he no longer persisted in his line of thinking. In her heart, she knew that he was doing for her own good. However, she was still a little uncomfortable. This was the crystallization of their love, the continuation of their bloodline. How could he be so cruel and end such a small life?

Zhu Junyang patted her head and explained with words, "Wasn't I just worried about your health? Although the internal injuries have been healed by the Nine Turns Golden Elixir, your health is still shaky. Besides, your ribs are injured. I'm afraid that your body is weak and it won't be good for you or the child."

"I'm a doctor myself. How could I not be clear about my own body?" Yu Xiaocao pushed aside his big hand that was rubbing her head. She turned so that the back of her head was facing him, "You still don't know what you did wrong!! Before getting married, you said that I am in charge of the small things at home, and we will discuss the big things. About the baby, you didn't even discuss it with me before you decided to take it away! "

"Alright, it's my fault, ok? I apologize! In the future, you will be the master of all our major and minor affairs, will this make you happier? " Zhu Junyang was afraid that the lass's anger would affect her internal injuries. Naturally, everything she said goes.

Yu Xiaocao, however, puffed her cheeks and was still unhappy, "Well said! However, when it comes again, you'll change your face again! "

"Which face? Isn't it just the same pretty face? "To amuse his wife, Imperial Prince Xu didn't even think before throwing away his reputation in front of the doctor and so many of his subordinates. One had to know, he had always hated people talking about his delicate appearance, but now he had the cheek to say that he was 'beautiful'. This sacrifice was really big.

It was okay for the other people around as they were used to the couple showing off their love all the time. However, Governor Fan wasn't calm. Was this man in front of him still a cold-blooded and stoned faced killer? This was a man devoted to doting on his wife! It turned out that the rumors weren't groundless after all. In fact, this person was even worse than what the rumors said! 'Master, do you still have a bottom line?'

(Imperial Prince Xu showed off a cold expression, 'What is a bottom line? Can one eat it? Can one use it to make one's wife happy and not angry?')

Yu Xiaocao turned around and stared at him. However, the man stared back at her with innocent-looking eyes. His cute expression almost made her laugh. However, she quickly controlled the corners of her mouth. She couldn't let it go so easily.

"I'm pregnant with your flesh and blood, and you don't want it. Tell me, do you have another woman outside? Don't you love me? Are you going to get rid of my child and let the illegitimate son of a mistress enter the main courtyard? Are you trying to anger me to death and then let the mistress come in? Hmph! Your Highness, don't try to plot so hard. I'm willing to step down and let the mistress take my place, is that better?"

"Pfftt—ahem ahem ahem..." Seeing Imperial Prince Xu, who was usually so majestic and proud, acting so humble in front of Xiaocao, made Su Ran in a good mood. He heard what Xiaocao said and couldn't hold back his laughter—this lass, her ability to stir up trouble had improved again. He needed to beg for forgiveness later, he really couldn't hold back because the expression on Imperial Prince Xu's face was hilarious.

Zhu Junyang frowned slightly and was about to say something, but his little wife grabbed the opening, "Look, look! Before I even said anything, you began to look impatient! Who are you frowning at? What are you frowning for? You..."

"I'm wrong. It's all my fault! Don't get excited; be careful about your injured ribs!" Seeing that the lass was still restless in bed, and that she even sat up with her hands on her hips, Zhu Junyang felt helpless. He could only maintain a good attitude and admit his mistakes. First, he had to calm down the lass who was making up unreasonable things.

"You guys, is it that fun to watch, ah?" He turned around and gave a cold look at the people behind him.

Wutong's eyeballs shifted, "Uhh... this servant has to go see if Chunhua has woken up and see if she needs any water, or go to the bathroom." Then, she ran away like the bottoms of her felt had oil on them.

Hou Xiaoliang sputtered, "I'm going to prepare the carriage. The conditions here are too simple and crude. It's better for the princess consort to go back to the courtyard to rest...." He turned and left the medicine hall in a hurry like a dog was chasing him.

Official Fan blurted, "Since Her Highness's condition has stabilized, there are still things with the Chen Family that have to be dealt with. Such an important case, I can only go and do it myself."

Su Ran looked at Zhu Junyang for a long time and finally raised his hands in surrender, "Alright! Just think of me as being kind enough to leave the room for the two of you. Imperial Prince Xu, whether you can handle it or not, it's up to you! Hahaha..." Then he left through the door leaving behind a stream of laughter.

When Su Ran left, he also took the divine stone with him. He was very curious about this beautiful unknown youngster. The lass seemed to trust him.

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Doctor Sun thought for a bit and decided it was best for him to leave in order to not be an irksome third wheel, "This old doctor will go concoct some stabilizing pregnancy medicine!" Old man, wasn't your excuse a bit thin ah? There were so many helpers in the pharmacy, so did you really think that they'd need a grand doctor in his sixties to help them out?

"Does it still hurt?" Zhu Junyang saw that an eyesore had tactfully left, so he hurried to sit next to his wife's sickbed. He pulled at his wife's small hand as he gently inquired after her condition.

"Hurts! My bones hurt and my chest hurts! The thing that hurts the most is my heart ah! I hurt for my baby. Baby is so small yet the father spurns it!" Yu Xiaocao wanted to pull her hand out of his, but her husband had a very gentle and firm grip on it. She was upset so she could only pout, like a little frog that was hopping with anger.

Zhu Junyang hurriedly put his right hand on her flat stomach as if he was afraid of startling the child within. He softly said, "Lord Father doesn't dislike you! On the contrary, when I found out that you were here, the first feeling I had was joy and surprise. However, I was worried that your lady mother's body was too weak to endure a pregnancy, so I said some hurtful words to your mother. If your lady mother wasn't injured, then I would definitely have been very excited to see you come because you have the blood of both myself and your mother inside you..."

"Hmph! My little baby isn't someone who would be easily fooled by sweet and honeyed words ah!" Her husband's large hand made her stomach feel warm and cozy. She wasn't sure if she just imagined it but she felt like the displeasure that was inside her stomach had slowly disappeared.

Zhu Junyang sensed that his wife's attitude towards him was softening and hurriedly added on, "Why do you say I'm saying sweet and honeyed words? Look at my incredibly sincere and honest face! Don't mention any little threes or illegitimate children anymore. This prince isn't blind and has no interest in the shallow facade of rouge and powder, so how could they possibly catch my eye? This prince will only have you have my children..."

"I'd be a fool to believe your words! A man's mouth, when he's trying to coax a woman, always has a bunch of honey spread on it." Yu Xiaocao acted as if she was conveying a great favor to him and gave him a look.

“How would you know if this prince has honey on his lips or not? How about you try a taste?” Zhu Junyang perked up and asked in a rascally manner.

“Get lost! Your brains must have been eaten by worms! What the heck do you want to do? I'm severely injured right now and I'm also pregnant with the baby...” Yu Xiaocao almost couldn't take it anymore. When this man became 'interested', he was more relentless than the male protagonists in sexy romance novels.

Zhu Junyang muffled his laughter and lowered his head to kiss the corner of his wife's mouth, “I only want to kiss you, that's all. How is that in any way related to your fractured ribs and our unborn child? Your Highness, do you think you're thinking too much?”

“Get lost!” The little lass's embarrassment instantly morphed into rage. She twisted her head around and only allowed him to look at the back of her head.

“However, the 'little three' you speak of must be referring to an outside woman, right? Why is she called a 'little three' ah?” Zhu Junyang was the third son of his family and had been called 'little three' by his lady mother many times when he was young. When he thought of this, he panicked even more, 'Was the little lass doing this deliberately?'

“Little three refers to the third party who has interfered in a married couple's life. Marriage should only be between two people, so someone who tries to butt in naturally becomes the third party who has destroyed the harmonious and blissful relationship between a couple. Thus, 'little three' is a contemptuous way to refer to such a despicable person”.

Zhu Junyang nodded his head furiously, “Don't worry ah! There will never be a third party appearing in our house. This prince will never allow anyone to destroy the relationship between us two!”

“Men, ah, always say the sweetest things but they all secretly desire to have the happy fate of the man from Qi who had his wife and numerous concubines living in harmony. Words are not enough. It's the actions that matter! I'm pretty sure that after you were given the title of Imperial Prince Xu there were some people who tried to send some women to your residence or some beautiful maidservants. Am I right?” Yu Xiaocao glanced briefly at her husband. He had money, power, and was physically attractive. This type of 'Mr. Perfect' was the most troublesome to live with!

“There were ah!” Zhu Junyang noticed that the lass's eyes had widened in fury and hurriedly continued to explain himself, “However, the people who tried to use crafty plots and machinations to destroy our relationship were all beaten to a pulp by this prince! Furthermore, I also put out the story that whoever tried to send people to this prince in the future, this prince would make sure to break their legs for them. After that came out, it became much more peaceful. Just look, you've been married to me for so long but have you ever seen any maidservants trying to sidle over to this prince? Before you married me, I only had male servants take care of me. If you don't believe me, go ask Chief Steward Liu.”

“Hmph! Stop trying to fool me. I see the orioles and swallows fluttering around in the courtyard. Do you think I'm blind and can't see them ah?” Yu Xiaocao coldly huffed and felt that this fellow wasn't being obedient.

“Orioles and swallows? Where?” Zhu Junyang was perplexed. Was there someone who was trying to plot and destroy the relationship between him and his princess consort? In a moment, he realized what had happened, “Are you talking about the two maidservants named Ying'er and Yan'er?”

When he saw Xiaocao lightly nod in reply, he hurriedly tried to explain, “You're misunderstood ah! These two maidservants were especially brought over for you. They are similar to Chunhua and Qiushi and were sent there to protect you. I picked them out personally. When did you ever see them sidle over to my side?”

Now that she thought about it, she didn't think she ever saw them make any moves towards her husband. In addition, even when her husband wasn't around, those two maidservants didn't try to hover around her either. She was right in that these two maids didn't look like maids who knew how to serve people normally. Apparently, her husband had sent them over to protect her.

“Uh...I'm tired and I want to sleep for a bit.” Yu Xiaocao was a bit upset about her misunderstanding and decided to shamelessly close her eyes, pretending to sleep.

Zhu Junyang didn't try to expose her trick and stroked her deathly pale little face as he gently said, “Go sleep ah, this prince will stay by your side.”

She had been imprisoned by the remnants of the previous dynasty and forced to refine the Prolonging Life Pills continuously. Thus, she hadn't been able to rest well that entire time. Although the little divine stone's elixir had pulled her back from the gates of hell, her body had been weakened for too long. The

warmth from her husband's palm and his familiar scent made her feel safe again. Before long, Xiaocao, who had been pretending to sleep, had actually fallen into dreamland.

Zhu Junyang looked at his wife's dark circles, wan face, and almost colorless lips with a bit of distress. The desire to kill Eunuch Yuan rose again. However, killing the man would be too quick of an ending for that bastard. He needed to make sure the eunuch 'fully enjoyed' the endless pain and fright to come. Even the hope of death would become a fleeting dream for Eunuch Yuan. Only then would his hate be quenched.

Yu Xiaocao wasn't allowed to sleep for very long before she was lightly roused. The preserving pregnancy medicine had just come off of the stove and if she didn't drink it immediately, the medicine would lose its efficacy after it cooled down. Although Zhu Junyang didn't want to wake her from her much needed sleep, he knew just how much she viewed their unborn child with importance. Thus, he reluctantly woke her and helped her take her medicine.

Hou Xiaoliang had come along with the horse carriage. Doctor Sun once again felt Xiaocao's pulse and proclaimed that the pregnancy was now stable. Other than the fact that her body was on the weak side, he couldn't sense any symptoms of the severe internal injury that the prince had talked about. The facilities at the medicinal hall were limited. If the princess consort was up to it, she could go back to the guest residence to recuperate.

Therefore, Yu Xiaocao began her life as a 'pig getting fat'. Every day, she drank tonics and soups that were meant to nourish her body and replenish her blood. All sorts of precious medicinal soups went into her belly and she had taken the preserving pregnancy medicine for a full seven days. Zhu Junyang was worried about her condition and especially sent Hou Xiaoliang on horseback to speed back to the capital to bring a chef from the Medicinal Cuisine House over. That way, Xiaocao would have someone making nutritious foods for her everyday.

Consequently, when Yangliu found out that her mistress was pregnant and had also become hurt, she arranged to have her assistants take over the shops under her, gave her just weaned child to her husband and in-laws to take care of, and traveled to Jinling with Hou Xiaoliang.

When Yangliu arrived in Jinling and saw her mistress, who had become thinner, tears poured down her face. After she settled in and heard the harrowing story from Wutong, Yangliu immediately became gung ho and raring to get started. Her mistress had been so badly injured that she threw up blood, yet she still did her best to save a negligible maidservant's life at the brink of her own death. How could she not do her utmost best in serving her mistress with her heart and soul?

Although her mistress had almost completely recovered from her internal injury, she had still vomited up blood and her body had been hurt tremendously. The most dangerous part was that when her mistress had gotten injured, she was also pregnant with the future young master or miss...Yangliu became energetic and took out everything she knew about medicinal cuisine. Every day she made new dishes and tonics for her mistress to eat.

In actuality, with the elixirs that the little divine stone had brought back from the otherworld, it'd be as simple as snapping one's fingers to bring Xiaocao back to full and complete health. In fact, Xiaocao had to ask it to not heal her completely. Instead, she was willing to slowly nurse her fractured ribs and weakened body with time and regular medicines.

After all, when she got injured, both Wutong and Chunhua had seen it happen. If she came back to health without a single thing wrong with her, it'd be hard to explain to others. However, she would have never expected that she had been pregnant at that time. Fortunately, her unborn child was safe and sound. Otherwise, she'd feel guilty for the rest of her life.

With Yangliu and Wutong carefully taking care of her and the addition of the elixirs and medicines, Xiaocao's body recovered very quickly. Her previously thin face became full and bright again. After nourishing her weak body, her tender and fair cheeks became bright and rosy again.

As for her fractured ribs, it only took her a month of convalescence to have them fully heal. However, in order not to arouse the doubts of outsiders, she had been firmly forced by Zhu Junyang to lie in bed another month before she was finally allowed to leave.

The unborn child in her belly had been praised by his or her father for being obedient and sensible. Ever since the pregnancy had stabilized, Xiaocao didn't feel the least bit indisposed by it. She didn't have any of the symptoms that most pregnant women experienced. She was able to eat and drink whatever she wanted and sleep without any issues. If she had to point out something that changed, it mostly seemed like she had a larger appetite and was more sleepy than usual.

Yu Xiaocao and her husband waited until they were past the three month mark of her pregnancy, which meant she was out of the period of greatest danger, to pack their luggage and head back to the capital. By this time, the northern part of the country had already entered the season of snow.

They had left at the start of spring in the third month and were coming back during the start of winter at the twelfth month. After thinking things through, the two of them had actually been away from home for nine months. As the Clerk of the Capital of Grain, Xiaocao had accomplished what she set out to do. Fortunately, the research on the hybrid rice paddies in Jinling were well underway, so she could bring a promising report back to the emperor.

As an important minister at court, Imperial Prince Xu was in charge of the Xishan Barracks and Firearms Barracks. However, he had been gone for such a long time, so some of the officials at court were unhappy about this. This was because the leadership post at both the Xishan Barracks and Firearms Barracks were something that many people were eyeing covetously. Unfortunately, because of his incredible skill and strategy, no one had ever dared to try to snatch these positions away from the prince.

Incidentally, Imperial Prince Xu had 'used official authority for his own private interest' and had gone off to Jiangnan to travel with his princess consort for over half a year. Some people used the excuse that the Xishan Barracks and Firearms Barracks shouldn't be without a leader to start causing trouble for him at court.

Ying'er and Yan'er - These two maidservant's names mean oriole and swallow respectively.