

Immortal 631

Chapter 631: Sound In the Middle of the Night

"You're going to sleep?" Yun Jianyue frowned. She didn't immediately react to what he said.

"Of course! Your assassins invaded, and then I ran all over the place saving people. Later on, I was even scared by Zhuxie Chixin and Cheng Xiong a few times. I'm already super tired." Zu An said this while lying down. "Move over please, you're in the way."

"You're going to sleep on the bed?" Yun Jianyue remained expressionless. Shouldn't the man normally act like a gentleman in this situation? This fella really didn't behave like you would expect him to.

Zu An said naturally, "Of course. This is my room and my bed. Where else would I sleep if I don't sleep here?"

Yun Jianyue took a deep breath. She calmed the rage that was building up within her. "Then where do I sleep?"

"The floor of course. What, do you want to sleep with me?" Zu An held onto his covers and gave her a suspicious look as if she was a pervert.

This was a special courtyard reserved for an Embroidered Envoy to take a short rest, so it wasn't that large. There was no way it had a guest room or something like that. That was why apart from this bed, there was no other place.

Yun Jianyue: "???"

As a grandmaster, she thought that she was already immune to emotional fluctuations. Yet today, because of this man, she found that this wasn't true at all.

He was just too shameless!

"You are a man, and I am a woman. Could it be that you just cannot be the gentleman here?" Yun Jianyue naturally didn't want to sleep on the ground. However, as a grandmaster, she naturally couldn't just fight with him over this. After all, he saved her and even offered her medicine for her wounds. Even for the Devil Sect's sect master, doing something like immediately becoming hostile seemed a bit too low.

"Please don't, I support gender equality." Zu An immediately said. "You're even a glorious Devil Sect Master, you're stronger than all those men anyway. Do you really have the nerve to say these things because you're a girl?"

Yun Jianyue: "....."

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +444 Rage points!

She snorted and said, "Those who dare speak such words to me are already dead. I won't argue with you since you saved me."

After saying this, she moved to a wooden stool and closed her eyes. At her level, external weather didn't affect her much. She didn't need something like a cover.

Zu An laid down on the bed. He propped up his head and said, "Isn't sitting there all night kind of uncomfortable?"

He had to admit that her long hair that reached her bottom was a delightful sight. It was just like a natural work of art! He didn't hope for more, he'll just treat this as nice scenery.

"Are you planning to give me the bed then?" Yun Jianyue didn't even open her eyes.

"Uh... I wanted to give you a proposal. Can't you make your own bed?" Zu An said.

"Make one?" Yun Jianyue said indifferently, "There's no need."

She was already extremely familiar with this residence. There weren't even any extra chairs. Was she going to piece together some chairs and sleep on them? That would completely tarnish her reputation as a glorious sect master!

Zu An said, "There was a goddess-like legend from my hometown who didn't use beds either. She only needed a rope tied between two walls, and then she would sleep on it."

"Hm?" Yun Jianyue opened her eyes. She was clearly a bit moved. "There was someone like that?"

Zu An was also a bit excited. He sat up and said, "Yup! She's a goddess that appeared in the dreams of far too many shut-ins!"

Sigh, this Xiaolongnu brings back too many memories from his past world. It's truly a pity that he can't return anymore.[1]

"Disgraceful." Yun Jianyue was full of disdain when she looked at his appearance.

However, she still got up. She produced a white silk thread from her sleeves. With a flick of her wrist, the ends shot into the walls, forming a simple bed.

Zu An was stunned. Where the heck did this long silk band come from? But he quickly realized that he had a spatial storage himself, so there was no way this glorious sect master wouldn't have one.

Yun Jianyue tapped her feet, and then she gracefully stood on the band. Then, she laid down, her body slowly reclining backwards. "Is this what you were talking about?"

"Yeah." Zu An was in a bit of a daze. Her stance was just like the actress in the drama he watched. There wasn't a trace of inelegance. No, this woman was much more stunning, and even her expression was aloof and distant. Was this the so-called pure yet sexy?

Yun Jianyue laid down on the band. She felt strangely relaxed. "This method isn't bad. It feels quite comfortable."

With her cultivation, it wasn't difficult for her to maintain her balance on this thin band.

Zu An gave that beautiful figure on the thread a look. Her long hair fell from above, and her figure really was stunning. Um... the all black outfit could be replaced though.

Yun Jianyue suddenly sat up at this time.

“What is it?” Zu An asked out of curiosity.

“My clothes are too tight, so it’s a bit uncomfortable.” Yun Jianyue said with a frown. She didn’t feel it when she was sitting on the chair, but now that she was lying on this band, her clothes were a bit tight.

Zu An said, “Do you want to change? I have some clothes here.”

Yun Jianyue gave him a strange look. “Are you a pervert? Why do you have female clothes here?”

Zu An immediately became angry and ashamed. “Pah! I was merely keeping them here for my woman!”

“Hmph! If you already have other girls, why are you still chasing after our Honglei?” Yun Jianyue became unhappy.

Zu An said, “I’m sure you know about my Chu clan situation. Furthermore, Honglei knew about it from the start too. I didn’t lie to her or anything.”

Yun Jianyue frowned. What the heck is going on with that girl Honglei? She clearly knows that this kid is a playboy, so how could she still fall for him? She said coldly, “There’s no need, I have my own clothes.”

Then, with a tap of her toes, she arrived behind the curtains. “If you sneak a look, then I’m going to kill you even if I have to permanently sacrifice my cultivation.”

“Who are you looking down on, sis? Am I someone like that?!” Zu An said angrily. He turned around and had his back to her.

“It’s fine as long as you aren’t.” Yun Jianyue sighed when she saw this. She removed a set of clothes from her storage artifact and began to change.

Zu An’s heart pounded when he heard the rustling sounds of clothes being removed. Isn’t this woman freaking seducing me by changing right here?

He felt something stir within him when he smelled the lingering scent.

I can’t turn around myself, but I can use the jade badge’s power to see with their eyes...

He raised his hand and was about to use that ability, but he gave up on the thought in the end. Hmph! I’m a man of character! If I want to look, then I’ll just look openly. What is there to be proud of by being sneaky?

“What are you muttering about over there?” Yun Jianyue’s soft footsteps sounded behind him.

Zu An turned around. His eyes lit up. She changed into a set of white clothes, which completely removed all of the fierceness of a witch. She seemed much more pure and otherworldly.

He couldn’t help but sigh. “Your appearance really doesn’t match how others describe you! The ruler of the Devil Sect should be the aggressive and seductive type, what are you playing around with this immortal goddess stuff for?”

Her brows raised when she heard the words aggressive and seductive, but she felt much better when she heard his following words. She snorted and didn't bother arguing with him. She returned to that thin band to sleep.

Zu An was more and more moved as he stared at the white clad beauty. Eventually, the last bit of disharmony also disappeared, making her even prettier than the Xiaolongnu he remembered from that drama.

"What are you staring at?" Even though she didn't open her eyes, Yun Jianyue seemed to be able to sense his movements.

Zu An snapped out of his daze and said with a smile, "It's nothing important. I just wanted to warn you that when you remain on the silk band, your thoughts need to remain pure, or else you'll easily fall off."

Yun Jianyue said indifferently, "Are you doubting my cultivation?"

Zu An figured that this made sense as well. She was already a grandmaster, so this type of thing shouldn't be too difficult for her.

As such, he laid down again. Even though his mind was going crazy from the lingering scent and how he was sleeping in the same room as such a stunning beauty, he really was too tired today. He quickly fell asleep.

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There was suddenly a thud sound that roused him awake in the middle of the night. It was combined with a girl's cry of alarm. "Ah!"

Chapter 632: Sinister Web

Zu An jumped in fright. He suddenly got up and followed the source of the sound with vigilance. He saw that the beauty was already gone from that silk band.

He subconsciously lowered his head and saw that Yun Jianyue was currently rubbing her butt on the ground. Her long hair was all over the place, her appearance rather sorry.

He gave that swaying band above a look, and then looked at her below. He seemed to have understood something, and then his lips curled upwards.

"You're dead if you laugh!" Yun Jianyue suddenly turned around to look at him, her expression dangerous.

However, her face was heated up. This was just too embarrassing! She vowed that she would never fall a moment ago, yet she humiliated herself so quickly afterwards.

She was a glorious Holy Sect Master! Embarrassing herself like this in front of a youngster made her so humiliated her toes almost dug into the floor.

"Don't worry, I've gone through strict training. I won't laugh, unless... I can't hold it in." Zu An couldn't hold it in.

Yun Jianyue: “.....”

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +233 +233 +233...

She really was too embarrassed. She said coldly, “Then you give it a try if you can! Let’s see if you fall off!”

Zu An shook his head. “I’m someone who loves to think random things all day, I cannot achieve purity of mind. I won’t embarrass myself.”

Yun Jianyue: “.....”

She remembered that he just reminded her a moment ago. She thought that she would be fine.

“I refuse to believe in this nonsense!” She harrumphed. With a tap of her toes, she returned to that silk band.

Her figure swayed a bit, but she still steadily remained on the band.

Zu An said, “Your soul is wounded. It’ll take longer for you to recover if you force it and don’t get any rest.”

Yun Jianyue thought of something. She was indeed forcing herself to not fall asleep. Otherwise, it would be way too embarrassing if she fell again.

When she returned to the silk band, she understood that what he spoke of was that this sleeping method was one of empty mind. Even though she reached the grandmaster realm, her soul was damaged and her thoughts were all over the place. She couldn’t calmly sleep on this band at all.

It was still manageable when she was awake, but once she fell asleep and she lost control, then it was easy for her to fall down.

Zu An knew that he wouldn’t be able to convince her otherwise, seeing that she didn’t reply. “I’m gonna sleep first then. If you can’t hold on later, then just come and sleep on the bed. We’ll both sleep on our own side. We’re all warriors anyway, we don’t have to bicker over the small things.”

He turned around to continue sleeping after saying this and didn’t wait for her response.

Yun Jianyue was stunned. She couldn’t help but become shaken as well. This was a special situation. If she couldn’t get some proper rest, then her soul would recover slower. Why did she have to go through this torment just because of her pride?

Furthermore, would this fella even be able to do anything to her? The one he liked was Honglei. She was his senior.

She also had her own strength too. If he really crossed the line, then she would make sure he regretted being born into this world.

Thus, she made her decision.

However, it was a bit too shameless to go over now. Thus, she lay on the silk band for a while, and then when she heard his breathing gradually ease and saw that he already fell asleep, she then gracefully hopped off the silk band.

She noticed that Zu An was sleeping on the side of the bed and left most of it for her.

Yun Jianyue's expression changed several times. In the end, she still laid down on her side. Of course, she stayed far away from him and didn't touch him at all.

She took a deep breath. She calmed her messy breathing and said coldly, "I don't care if you are really asleep or not, but I'll cut off your hand if it crosses over. Got it?"

But the only thing she got in return was Zu An's breathing.

Yun Jianyue thus restlessly closed her eyes. Her soul was seriously injured, so she should be resting a lot. As such, she finally couldn't hold on anymore and fell asleep.

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Meanwhile, Cheng Xiong couldn't fall asleep at all. His eyes were bloodshot as he investigated the Palace of Peace's assassination attempt.

So many things happened in the palace this time. He knew that he was going to be eliminated by the emperor if he didn't find out anything.

He had people continue to search the palace for assassins while calling over the patrolling guards to question them. He told those men to not let any details go. He wanted to investigate every last clue.

While investigating troop after troop of soldiers, there was someone who said guilty, "We recall two Embroidered Envoy coming out of Sir Eleven's room."

"Golden token eleven?" Cheng Xiong frowned. Why was it him again? His eyes lit up and he seemed to have realized something. He quickly asked, "You are certain that it was two Embroidered Envoy?"

After all, Embroidered Envoy had special status. They rarely even showed their identity to each other. They would head to a government office if they had something to discuss, as there were areas specially designated there for them to work. They definitely wouldn't invite another Embroidered Envoy to their private residence.

"Yes, I am sure. The other Embroidered Envoy's figure was a bit smaller, so everyone thought that perhaps Sir Eleven swung that way and found someone of smaller build to play with, haha." That guard was glad that his superior didn't have such fetishes. Seeing other people involved in misfortune was always better than going through it yourself.

"Wait, the other person's clothes seemed to be a golden token envoy too... He shouldn't be Eleven's subordinate, right?" Another guard said with puzzlement.

"Really? I didn't notice anything. Their uniforms look about the same." Those guards began to discuss among themselves whether the subordinate was also a golden token envoy."

Cheng Xiong became more and more excited. This Eleven definitely had something wrong with him!

But after his previous failure, he didn't dare rush straight in and instead summoned the palace gate guards.

Eventually, he learned that not long after the Palace of Peace was attacked by assassins, there were two Embroidered Envoy who left. One of them had a golden token, but they didn't know about the other one hiding behind him.

Because Embroidered Envoy were rather mysterious, everyone was more careful. That was why they didn't look too closely.

Cheng Xiong finally laughed out loud when he heard all of this. Let's see where you try to run off to now!

...

Zu An didn't know that a huge sinister net was wrapping around him. He was sleeping soundly right now.

Next to him, Yun Jianyue was sleeping even nicer. However, she suddenly woke up in the middle of the night. She felt Zu An turn around with an evil smile, and then sneakily reach his hand towards her.

She sneered. She was about to chop off his limbs to teach him what it meant to offend a sect master.

But for some reason, she suddenly discovered that she was completely powerless. Her eyelids were also incredibly heavy. She couldn't muster any strength to counterattack.

During this moment of distraction, his hand was already on her.

She was about to explode from anger. She struggled frantically, yet she just couldn't muster any strength.

"Stop resisting. The more you resist, the more excited I become." She seemed to vaguely hear him say.

Then, she felt his hand slide into her clothes. Her entire body went rigid, and then she suddenly opened her eyes.

The morning sunlight seeped in from outside the window. She realized that it was already daytime. So it was just a dream... Why the heck am I dreaming something so embarrassing.

After her cultivation made great achievements, her soul became stabilized and she rarely dreamt.

She figured that it was probably because her soul was damaged from her battle with the emperor that she dreamt. Only, she didn't dream of her battle against the emperor and instead dreamt of this fella. This made her feel extremely strange.

He definitely did something to me in the middle of the night!

She was alarmed and subconsciously looked to the side. She was just about to scold him when she was completely stunned.

She discovered that the two of them were tightly hugging each other. It wasn't Zu An who was hugging her, but rather her who took the initiative to hug him.

She was wrapped around him like an octopus, her thighs pressed against his waist.

Yun Jianyue: “.....”

She actually knew that she had always been a messy sleeper too, or else she wouldn't have fallen off that silk band in the middle of the night. However, she didn't expect herself to be this bad.

What was even more upsetting was that because it was early in the morning, his thing had risen as well. It was pressing right against her lower abdomen. She could sense its ferocity through her clothes.

“No wonder I had that dream!” Yun Jianyue was so angry she kicked him right off the bed.

Chapter 633: Accidental Collision

“The fuck?” Zu An's eyes widened in shock. He thought that there was a hidden attack, but he relaxed a bit when he saw that it was Yun Jianyue's overly taut body.

“It's your fault for disrespecting me!” Yun Jianyue blushed, but she quickly recovered her composure. At the same time, she was glad that she took the initiative, or else if he woke up first and saw her like this, then she would be absolutely destroyed!

When he saw where her eyes moved, Zu An was furious. “This is a man's natural reaction. You're sleeping in my house, my bed, yet you're hitting me. Isn't this going a bit too far?!”

Yun Jianyue felt a bit guilty. She harrumphed and said, “That kick was also a woman's instinctive reaction.”

Zu An: “.....”

This woman is actually so shameless! As if she inherited my teachings...

Yun Jianyue was now a bit embarrassed. Her voice eased a bit. “Thank you for saving me. My injuries have improved a bit as well, so let's not bother each other anymore.”

She was a girl after all, so it wasn't all that comfortable living with another man under the same roof. Furthermore, she had to sleep with him on the same bed, so she felt extremely uncomfortable. If he noticed how she was sleeping... just the thought alone was embarrassing.

Zu An said with a serious voice, “Your injuries were so serious, how could you recover after just a single night? Also, the entire imperial palace is under strict martial law, and the formation is up and running again. His majesty's divine senses even cover the entire palace. How can you even get out?”

Yun Jianyue became quiet. Of course she knew these things! But she couldn't bring them up because of various reasons. “My sect's people have either died off or escaped. They are definitely hiding in the imperial city, leaderless. I need to find a way to contact Honglei and have her take care of some things.”

Zu An thought for a bit, and then he said, “You can't leave the palace right now. I'll contact her in your place.”

He still had his identity as the crown prince secretary. Even getting to the eastern palace was a bit of a headache, because all passages through the palace gates were recorded. Later on, once those who were

after him investigated closely and discovered that the crown prince's secretary didn't pass through the gates, then his identity would be easily exposed.

After a bit of hesitation, Yun Jianyue didn't persist and said. "I'll have to thank you for that."

Zu An took out a bunch of food from his Brilliant Glass Bead. "I'm going out for a bit, you should just rest here. You absolutely cannot go out. Eat some of this first, I'll bring better things later."

"Thanks." With Yun Jianyue's cultivation, there wasn't a huge issue even if she didn't eat for half a month. However, she didn't refuse his good intentions.

"By the way, if you have the chance, help me buy a hammock." She added. Since she chose to stay here, then she had to do something about her sleeping arrangements.

She definitely can't continue to sleep on the bed, yet she can't sleep on the silk band either. This meant that she needed a bed.

A normal spatial storage might not be able to store an entire bed, but a hammock can be rolled up, so it shouldn't be too big of an issue.

"Okay." Zu An felt that it was a bit of a pity. He wanted to pretend to be asleep, but accidentally fell asleep and wasted such an excellent opportunity and even offended her.

Yun Jianyue was a bit apologetic when she saw him leave. "Does it still hurt?"

Zu An was stunned. Then, a smile appeared on his face. "So big sis does care about me after all!"

"Hmph!" Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "I was worried that no one would be able to help me if you got injured."

Zu An laughed. He left with a good mood.

After an entire night of inspection, the palace doors were already opened up again. After all, the normal officials needed to continue their work, they couldn't always be locked up.

Zu An's status as a golden token envoy would allow him to freely move in and out of the palace. He noticed that the palace gate guards were acting a bit strange when they saw his waist token. This reaction left him puzzled. He raised his vigilance. There was someone who was on his trail after all!

Can it be that Cheng Xiong still didn't give up?

Zu An sneered. With his current strength, it wasn't so easy to follow him!

He made a few circles around the city. Once he threw off those tailing him, he changed in a corner, and then headed towards his own residence inside the city.

His entire body went taut as soon as he returned to his residence. He suddenly attacked to the side.

A lantern rose at this time, and then a figure attacked at him too.

The two of them immediately recognized each other and stopped.

"Honglei!"

“Ah Zu!”

Zu An was happy and surprised. “It’s great that you’re okay! His majesty sent General Liu Yao and Guerilla Warfar General Zhao Yuan to search the capital city. I was worried that something might have happened to you.”

Qiu Honglei smiled. “This girl has spent many years as a warrior. Do you think I’ll be captured that easily?”

She suddenly noticed that her tone was a bit off and quickly apologized. “Ah Zu, I wasn’t trying to criticize you.”

“I know.” Zu An smiled. He held her hand and walked inside. “Let’s talk inside to prevent anyone from listening in on us.”

“Okay.” Qiu Honglei subconsciously wanted to pull back her hand, but his grip was tight. She bit her lip and let him do what he wanted.

Zu An thought to himself that this girl was already getting used to holding hands and other physical contact. Hugging her didn’t seem to be okay too. Unfortunately, even though he worked so hard to get here, there was no future ahead.

Hm? Wait, even though they cannot lose their virginity because of the method they cultivate, there are other ways to play around! I don’t have a stash of japanese stuff for nothing!

“Ah Zu, did you find my master?” Qiu Honglei asked with worry. She was raised by her master, and she taught her everything too, so she really respected her master. She was extremely worried about her right now.

“I found her, and we slept together.” Zu An’s mind was elsewhere and replied subconsciously.

“Huh?” Qiu Honglei was shocked.

“Ahem...” Zu An’s face heated up and quickly said, “I saved her and brought her to my residence inside the palace.”

“How is the elder master?” Qiu Honglei nervously grabbed his hand.

“Um, your master isn’t old at all.” Zu An said with curiosity.

Qiu Honglei stuck out her tongue. “I was just being respectful...” She remembered being beaten several times for calling her this in the past. Looks like women all cared about their age after all! However, her master really did look like she would be her big sister at most.

Zu An replied, “Her soul was injured from her battle against the emperor... But you do not need to worry. I’ve already given her a Five Aggregates Root to treat her injuries, so she is fine. She was more worried about you guys and told me to tell you guys about her following plans.”

“That’s good then.” Qiu Honglei sighed in relief. “We went into hiding after leaving the palace. We’ve done business in the capital for many years, so hiding some people isn’t too big of a problem. The most regretful part are the brothers who were captured last night.”

There was even an elder who was caught because of her. She felt more and more awful. She was about to say something, but then hesitated. She wanted to ask Zu An to help those people, but these prisoners weren't easy to rescue at all. He already took a huge risk trying to save her master, so how could she burden him with the others?

"Ah Zu, you've really helped us a lot. We don't even know how to properly thank you." Qiu Honglei gave him a sweet look.

Zu An laughed and said, "We're all our own people, you're treating me like a stranger by saying these things! Of course, if you really want to thank me, then why don't you offer yourself to me?"

He pulled her into his embrace after saying this. He wanted to see if Yun Jianyue deceived him.

Qiu Honglei's face reddened when she sat in his embrace. "Ah Zu, the technique I cultivate is special. I cannot let my body be tarnished for a period of time."

Zu An sighed inside when he heard what she said. It was like this after all!

Qiu Honglei merely treated this as disappointment on his end. She bit her lips, and then suddenly said, "Ah Zu, even though I cannot give myself to you, I've seen what those girls in Immortal Abode have done. I can take care of you in other ways."

Zu An's heart immediately began to pound. Qiu Honglei's cheeks became more and more rosy. She was sitting in his arms, so there was no way she didn't feel his body's reactions.

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Meanwhile, a few streets out, a beautiful white clothed woman was currently walking over with a handsome young master. Their attractiveness were both off the charts and drew eyes from all directions.

"Big sis, their looks are really annoying!"

"You have the identity of a man right now anyway. What is there to be scared of?"

"Hmph, I just don't like it." The youngster added. Her big sister's expression was the same! But I guess she doesn't look as annoyed.

"Your brother-in-law lives here?" The goddess-like white clad woman's voice was no longer as cold and indifferent. It sounded a bit panicked instead.

"Two more streets. We're not far already." The young man couldn't help but remember that scene from that day upon seeing her expression. His cheeks also became pink.

Chapter 634: Impending Hell

Big sis was really scammed badly by that fella! She's rushing here so early in the morning! The young man could never figure out how her amazing and proud big sis would be like this towards another man!

The brother and sister were precisely Chu Chuyan and Chu Youzhao. No, they should be called sisters.

"Did you get the address right? Why haven't we arrived yet?" Chu Chuyan became a bit unhappy.

Chu Youzhao really wasn't used to this pouting little girl side of her big sister. "I already sent some people to look into it. His baron manor is where Sir Ding used to live. It should be right over there."

Chu Youzhao voiced her reply. Her footsteps unknowingly quickened. Chu Youzhao curled her lips in disdain, but she still followed her sister.

They finally arrived in front of a courtyard. Chu Chuyan saw the placard with the large words 'Phoenix Baron' on it and momentarily entered a daze. Everyone said that he was just a Chu clan wastrel, yet now, he already became a baron!

Even though baron was the lowest of the titles of nobility, this was the beginning. Now, he could already be considered a true aristocrat who could enjoy status and wealth normal people couldn't.

She wondered what her parents' reactions were after learning that Zu An became a baron.

Chu Chuyan's lips curled upwards, as if she remembered something interesting.

Chu Youzhao, who was watching her the entire time, wrinkled her nose. It was just a trifling baron, why was her sister becoming so happy for?

Chu Chuyan's previous impatience disappeared. She stood in front of the gate and began to sort out her clothes and hair, returning to her usual aloof and cold beauty. "Help me knock on the door."

Chu Youzhao rolled her eyes. Sis, you looked like you were already impatient, and look at you putting on this wise and virtuous appearance again. You have your pride, but that doesn't mean that I don't!

But the obedience that had been instilled within her by her big sister still made her do it. She walked over with a pout and knocked. "Brother-in-law, are you there? Me and big sis came for a visit! Hm? This door doesn't seem to be locked..."

The man and woman who seemed to be playing a game almost had a heart attack when they heard her voice.

Zu An immediately sat up. He couldn't hold it in anymore from the sudden stimulation. He erupted like a volcano.

Qiu Honglei was playing around with a charming smile a moment ago and definitely couldn't dodge in time. She was immediately stunned.

Zu An was also stunned. Brightmoon City was a place where rich merchants gathered, a tier one city. The people there were used to seeing grand sights. However, even so, Qiu Honglei still turned the entire city upside down in just a bit over a year's time. All of the other courtesan queens were completely overshadowed.

Even though she was always charming and flirtatious, no one had ever seen her truly get close to a man. This instead gave her a special feeling of purity.

It was because of the perfect combination of these two that so many officials in Brightmoon City became completely hooked on her. There were even some people who worshipped her like an untouchable goddess.

Her stunning appearance already possessed fatal attraction. Now that there was this feature added as well, it really was too much for those men to resist. She was no longer an untouchable goddess, but rather one within reach!

He took out a handkerchief and gave it to her. "Here, wipe it off."

Qiu Honglei received the handkerchief with a grumbling expression. She didn't understand what came over her for her to help him with this type of thing. Even though she liked him a lot, things shouldn't have developed so quickly!

Was it because they fought together yesterday, and then he took on a huge risk to save her master? Did she want to repay him out of a moment of emotion?

But that doesn't seem right! If it was any other man, they would be begging to help her out!

It's all because this man is too shameless. She was only making a joke. After all, she stayed in Immortal Abode for more than a year, so she was influenced by the way they spoke. But who would've thought that he actually treated them seriously!

She didn't know why, but she strangely let him get away with it. She was still a bit shy in the beginning, but she became more and more passionate too, only thinking about how to better please her lover...

The room was filled with an ambiguous atmosphere, so she didn't feel anything then, but now that she was suddenly roused awake by the one at the gate, she was already beyond embarrassed. She didn't feel regret, she was just worried that she gave off the impression that she was cheap.

"What do we do now?" Qiu Honglei was a bit upset. She couldn't even wipe this stuff off properly!

"You should hide inside for now." Zu An quickly pointed at a screen inside.

Qiu Honglei didn't want anyone else to see her current appearance. She voiced her agreement and hid herself.

Zu An thus quickly sorted out his clothes before greeting his visitors.

"So you were inside! Why did it take you so long to come out?" Chu Youzhao was unhappy when she saw him. Wouldn't her big sis strangle her if they ended up finding no one here after making this trip?

"I had something to take care of just now haha, so I was a bit absentminded." Zu An said guiltily. Then, he gave Chu Chuyan a look. "Chuyan, you came too."

"Yeah, I came to see your new place. I haven't visited yet." Chu Chuyan smiled. She suddenly stared at his cheeks. "Huh? Why is your face so red?"

"It might be because it's a bit too hot inside, haha." Zu An waved his hand like a fan and tried to muddle his way through.

"Is today hot?" Chu Youzhao was confused.

Zu An didn't pay her any attention. He thought to himself that it was best if he didn't bring them inside, or else they might notice Qiu Honglei.

But how could he do that? It would be strange if he didn't bring them inside to sit down when they came all this way!

The two sisters still entered in the end. Chu Chuyan immediately frowned when she entered. Chu Youzhao didn't have so much misgivings and asked, "Huh? What is this smell?"

Zu An's face went rigid. He said with an awkward smile, "I just moved in and haven't had time to clean it yet. It might have some leftover smell."

Chu Youzhao replied with an 'oh'. She accepted this reply.

Chu Chuyan's expression was more strange. Her youngest sister was still a little girl, so she might not be able to distinguish this type of special smell, but how could she not?

No wonder this guy's face is so red and his clothes look a bit messy! So he was doing that stuff by himself...

Maybe he couldn't hold it in anymore? But the two of us had just...

Her face flushed red. It was probably because he was scared by her little sister that he couldn't hold it in.

Her cheeks became really hot when she recalled what happened that day.

"Huh? Big sis, why is your face so red? Is today really that hot?" Chu Youzhao was stunned. She didn't feel hot at all! Her big sister even cultivated the Snowflake Sword, so why would she be scared of heat?

Chu Chuyan gave her little sister a look. This little brat had that stupid bewildered look on her face, she really needed a good spanking. She changed the topic with a cough. "Why aren't there any servants or maids here?"

Zu An pointed at the imperial palace. "I'm scared that there'll be spies planted here, so I decided to reject their offer for servants. I'm already used to living alone anyway."

Chu Chuyan shook her head. "This is a large place, how can you take care of everything alone? If news gets out, you'll become a laughingstock in the entire capital city. I thought that it was because you were so poor that you couldn't hire any servants."

Zu An chuckled and said, "It's their mouths anyway, if they want to talk, then let them."

Chu Youzhao rolled her eyes and said with disdain, "Even if we ignore the other things, you need people for normal cleaning, right? Otherwise, this place will always have this weird smell."

Zu An: "....."

Chu Chuyan couldn't help but smile when she saw his expression. "How about this? I'll arrange for some servants for you. If you don't trust the capital city's people, I'll send some people I know from Brightmoon City."

“That’s a good idea.” Zu An figured this made sense as well. This wasn’t an apartment like his past world. He’ll really work himself to death if he had to clean it himself.

Chu Chuyan gave him an unhappy look. She felt like he was acting a bit strange for some reason. “By the way, I heard that there were assassins in the eastern palace yesterday. Did you encounter any danger?”

“It wasn’t too bad.” Zu An held her soft small hands. He didn’t have a chance to tell her that he was now an Embroidered Envoy yet. He always had this stupid third-wheeling Chu Youzhao next to him. Even though he trusted Chu Chuyan, he didn’t trust this brat. Chu Youzhao didn’t look like the tight-lipped sort at all.

The Qin clan was even a core part of King Qi’s forces. If he told her, it would leave Chu Chuyan quite conflicted too.

Chu Youzhao said, “I wonder where those assassins came from. They just had to say that King Qi incited them! Absolute nonsense.”

Zu An gave her a sidelong glance. “How do you know that it wasn’t King Qi?”

Chu Youzhao harrumphed. “Of course it wasn’t. King Qi is an outstanding and wise man, why would he do something like this? He was clearly set up! Those assassins really are shameless!”

Qiu Honglei was currently massaging her sore wrist from behind the curtain. She frowned when she heard this. This kid was cursing her people right in front of her!

Chu Chuyan suddenly turned around. “Show yourself!”

Chapter 635: Both Sides Shattered

The reason why Chu Chuyan was able to leave the Qin clan without any issues today was because she told them she was going to inquire about the assassin incident in the palace.

Zu An was the crown prince’s secretary, so he should know about the inside details. That was why the Qin clan tacitly allowed her to leave.

Of course, Chu Chuyan and her parents were of one mind. They only wished to remain neutral, they didn’t want to be caught up in this battle for the throne. However, Chu Youzhao, this child who was raised in her grandfather’s house since she was little, was already deeply partial to King Qi from what she was raised on. That was why she subconsciously spoke out for King Qi.

The Qin clan received news that the captured assassins looked like they absolutely wouldn’t submit at first, but after a series of torture, they all confessed. All of them said that it was King Qi who sent them.

This made the situation much more serious. Everyone in King Qi’s faction rose up in rage. If they didn’t deal with this issue properly, then their entire group might just collapse.

Chu Youzhao also seemed to take this personally. She cursed yesterday’s assassins for framing them, calling them shameless and despicable.

These words stung the ears of Qiu Honglei behind the screen, making her feel terrible. She leaked out a bit of her aura due to a ripple in her emotions.

Chu Chuyan was now already a seventh ranked expert. She immediately sensed that something wasn't right.

She didn't suspect Zu An. Her first reaction was that someone was hiding to attack him. After all, many people knew that he had the Phoenix Nirvana Sutra, and he was now the crown prince's secretary as well. She heard that the death of the Shi clan's young master was related to him, so there was a chance that this was an assassin sent by the Shi clan for revenge.

As such, she immediately flew over, thrusting her fingers out like a sword.

Sword ki immediately swept out towards the curtains.

The curtains were blasted to pieces by the sword ki in an instant, and a figure appeared. The two of them exchanged several attacks in succession.

Qiu Honglei was the Saintess after all, so she was the best of her age in terms of skill and technique. She wasn't at a disadvantage at all.

Chu Youzhao excitedly rolled up her sleeves and charged over. "Big sis, let me help!"

When would she find a chance like this in the capital? No one dared to really fight against her normally. Murong Qinghe wasn't too bad since she had a high cultivation and was ferocious in battle, but she always gave up before the very end. It really was boring.

It was much more dangerous when she encountered those assassins with her brother-in-law last time. It was different today. She had her big sis and brother-in-law here to protect her, so her safety was definitely ensured. That was why she charged over excitedly.

Zu An pressed down on her head and stopped her. "Don't charge over blindly. You'll only add to the chaos."

"Stop touching my head!" Chu Youzhao waved her claws at him, but her figure was so small that her hands couldn't even reach Zu An and only waved about in the air.

You have successfully trolled Chu Youzhao for +233 +233 +233...

Chu Chuyan stopped at this time as well. "So it was you?"

There was a bit of misunderstanding at first, but she already saw who she was from her appearance. Brightmoon City Immortal Abode's courtesan queen! Later on, they even fought together on the way to the capital, so how could she not recognize this person?

Qiu Honglei voiced her agreement. "Greetings, Chu first miss."

She was a bit alarmed right now and didn't know what to say.

"Huh? They know each other?" Chu Youzhao became disappointed when she heard what they said. They weren't going to keep fighting anymore! She angrily smacked Zu An's hand away.

Zu An wanted to say something, but his survival instincts told him to shut his mouth right now.

“What is Lady Qiu doing here? Could it be that you desire Ah Zu’s Phoenix Nirvana Sutra?” Chu Chuyan frowned. She naturally knew that she was the Saintess of the Devil Sect. She still remembered how the Devil Sect’s experts tried to kidnap Zu An.

If it wasn’t because Qiu Honglei secretly helped Zu An, there was no way she would show mercy right now.

Qiu Honglei said with a cough, “I was in the capital, so I decided to visit an old friend.”

This reason was indeed suitable, but Chu Chuyan just felt like something was strange. Suddenly, she remembered that strange smell here. She suddenly thought of something and said, “You haven’t wiped off all of the stuff on your face yet.”

Qiu Honglei was incredibly embarrassed. She quickly moved her hand to her face, but there was nothing there at all. “You lied...”

But she noticed right away midway through her sentence. She fell for her trap.

Zu An gasped as well. The pure and cold Chu Chuyan actually had this dark side to her!

Chu Chuyan’s expression became cold. She harrumphed and gave Zu An a look.

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for +256 +256 +256...

This scoundrel! She was worried about him just a moment ago and felt that she might not have fulfilled her duty properly as a wife. Yet in the end, he was having fun with another woman here!

Zu An laughed in embarrassment. “Chuyan...”

Chu Chuyan didn’t want to hear any explanation. She looked at Qiu Honglei and said, “If I recall correctly, Lady Qiu is unmarried. By coming to the home of a married man and... doing these things, the Devil Sect’s people indeed do things differently.”

Chu Youzhao was a smart person herself. Even though she didn’t know what was happening exactly, she could roughly guess that this woman was her big sister’s rival in love. Hmph, she looks like a slut. I knew she wasn’t anyone good.

She also spoke out and said, “Big sis, did you only realize this now? The Devil Sect are all this shameless and despicable!”

Even though she rarely spoke noisily around her big sister, she obviously had to stand on her sister’s side here.

Qiu Honglei was furious inside, but she was full of smiles on the surface. “Indeed, our Devil Sect is shameless and despicable. There is no way we can compare to the righteous great clans! If you’re of value, then you’ll be worked like a dog. Once you’re useless, you’re swept right out the door and never seen again, because it would be oh so terrible to have them bringing the clan down. It is instead our Devil Sect’s monsters who have always been finding a way to rescue these people. Ah Zu, what do you say?”

Zu An broke out in cold sweat. “Hey guys, it’s not that serious haha. Separating from the Chu clan is something we agreed to beforehand, and I didn’t want to trouble them. Also, Chuyan, she still...”

Qiu Honglei immediately cut him off here and targeted Chu Chuyan. “Oh, you’re right. I remember that you have nothing to do with the Chu clan anymore. I wonder what a certain someone is trying to prove by strutting here as if they have a righteous reason?”

Chu Chuyan’s breathing stopped. The Chu clan’s decision to break things off with Zu An had always been a thorn in her heart. She wasn’t in Brightmoon City back then, and by the time she found out, it was already too late.

The two of them tacitly chose not to bring this up, but now, she was facing the consequences. Right... the two of them weren’t husband and wife anymore.

Chu Youzhao was furious. “Where did this vixen come from? You’re stealing someone else’s man, yet you’re doing it with such forced justice! I’m going to contact the government office and have them capture you Devil Sect scum.”

But Qiu Honglei merely leaned against Zu An charmingly. “I am Ah Zu’s good friend, and I live here normally. If you tell on me, then aren’t you putting him in an awkward spot? Ah Zu has treated your Chu clan with utmost duty, right? Is this how you bite the hand that feeds you?”

“You...” Chu Youzhao was stumped for words. How could she be a match for someone like Qiu Honglei, the Devil Sect’s Saintess who even stayed in Immortal Abode for a long time?

Chu Chuyan’s eyelids were jumping when she saw how she leaned against Zu An. I should’ve just let Zhuxie Chixin capture her instead of letting her go! Hmph! I’m so angry!

She turned around with an expressionless face. “Youzhao, let’s go.”

Chu Youzhao was a bit unhappy at this result. Big sis, you are his main lover! How can you let this bitch get away? But when she saw how fast her big sister was leaving, she still followed her when she measured the gap between herself and Qiu Honglei.

Zu An was about to explain, but Qiu Honglei grabbed him. “Ah Zu, can you bring me some water to wash my face with? I feel like there are scabs forming on my face.”

Chu Chuyan, who had just reached the entrance, suddenly stopped. She took a deep breath, and then she continued without even turning around.

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for +999 Rage points!

When he saw Qiu Honglei’s hopeful and pleading expression, Zu An sighed. After everything that happened, he would seem a bit too heartless if he left now. “Alright, I’ll get some water for you.”

Qiu Honglei’s panicked heart finally calmed down when she heard what he said. Her face was beaming with smiles.

“Honglei, we could’ve all got along, why did you have to say such harsh things?” Zu An helped her wash her face while saying this gloomily.

Chapter 636: Signboards

Qiu Honglei harrumphed. "I cannot stand her righteous attitude! It was one thing when I visited Chu Manor last time. She was indeed your wife back then, but the Chu clan already abandoned you for their own sake, so how can I still let her get away with that?"

Zu An sighed. "It's not what you think. That was the best choice back then, and the Chu clan helped me in private afterwards."

Qiu Honglei pouted. "I still feel like they abandoned you."

Zu An was silent. He understood that all decisions made by a clan had to consider the benefits of most people. They definitely couldn't act based on their own selfish whims, so he understood why the Chu clan did what they did. However, understanding was understanding. He didn't feel too good about this either. He discovered that after arriving in this world, he never had a true family.

Qiu Honglei held his hand when she saw his dejected appearance. "Okay... My motives weren't that pure either. I just didn't want to see her act smug."

Zu An smiled and pulled her into his embrace. "You're a Devil Sect monster, right? It's completely natural for you to do something like this."

After doing what they just did, their relationship improved drastically. Qiu Honglei also leaned comfortably into his embrace to continue their affection that had just ended.

...

However, Zu An didn't forget his objective for leaving the palace. He bought a hammock from a shop on the street. Qiu Honglei kept him company. She was surprised when she saw this. "Why are you buying this?"

"For your master of course. It's pretty awkward for a man and woman to live together." Zu An explained.

Qiu Honglei's eyes widened. "You slept on the same bed as master last night?"

Zu An's face heated up. How could he dare to admit something like this? He quickly said, "There's no way that's possible. Even if I wanted to, would your master agree?"

Qiu Honglei smiled. "You're right. It'll make more sense for her to kill you with one smack."

Zu An thought to himself, it's not just a smack, he was still sore from her kick this morning.

Zu An had to head into the eastern palace to clock in for work after he bought the hammock. There was something so big that happened in the eastern palace yesterday, so it would be bad if the crown prince's secretary didn't show up.

The two reluctantly separated. Qiu Honglei sighed as she looked at his retreating figure. She had no idea what in the world happened to her today. She clearly shouldn't be so close to him because of her cultivation technique, yet she just had to argue with Chu Chuyan.

But when she recalled her attitude the last time she visited the Chu clan, she still felt awful. She finally felt better after facing her head-on today.

...

Zu An continued to received Chu Chuyan's Rage points the entire way to the imperial palace. He thought to himself that he really pissed her off badly. He had to find a way to appease her anger.

But he had his work to take care of first. He had to enter the palace first.

Zu An pretended like he had no idea what happened and entered the eastern palace like normal. He immediately expressed his shock when he saw the flattened Eastern Palace.

Someone spoke up from the side. "Isn't this Sir Zu?"

Zu An turned around. He noticed that a guard with dark circles was walking over. He smiled and said, "So it was Sir Piao."

Piao Duandiao was quite shocked. An imperial guard like him obviously needed to recognize everyone who came in and out of the eastern palace. He didn't expect the new crown prince's secretary would know his name. This fella was way better than that arrogant Shi Kun.

As such, he immediately had a favorable impression of Zu An. "Sir Zu, the assassins attacked the eastern palace yesterday. There was even a grandmaster who came, and his majesty personally got involved. This place was razed to the ground from the blast waves."

Zu An asked with concern, "Are the crown prince and crown princess okay?"

"They're fine, they were just shaken up a bit. We're using another palace to temporarily serve as the eastern palace. I'll bring you there." Piao Duandian said enthusiastically.

Staff like them who worked in the palace all aimed to not offend anyone. This fella was even quite nice to him, so he obviously wouldn't treat him rudely.

"Thank you, Sir Piao." Zu An cupped his hands. After yesterday's interaction, he knew that this was a fella who liked to be in the limelight, so he was obviously going to adapt.

Piao Duandiao felt amazing when he heard Zu An call him Sir Piao. His expression became more and more friendly.

The two of them began to chat casually. Piao Duandiao felt more and more like this new secretary was a good fella. He was going to introduce this secretary to Jiao Sigun next time.

They quickly arrived at the new eastern palace. Zu An paid the crown prince a visit first, but the fatty was so alarmed last night that he was completely dispirited today. He wasn't even in the mood to play anymore, and so he naturally didn't want to meet with him.

Zu An didn't mind at all. He was happy to remain invisible for the day. However, continuing like this without doing anything was a bit boring.

A while later, he asked the people around him and learned that the crown prince's lesser tutor was also injured quite badly. Together with such a huge thing happening yesterday, today's lessons were thus canceled.

He wondered if he could use this chance to get closer to big sis sect master... pah! Help Honglei's master pass on information to her master.

No one will notice if he goes for a stroll, right?

He snuck towards the entrance, but he ended up running into a beautiful woman.

Zu An was alarmed when he saw who it was. He quickly took a few steps back. "I greet the crown princess!"

It was precisely because he unintentionally carried her that the emperor stingily wanted him to chop off his hand. Now, if he really bumped into her, there would be nowhere for him to run to.

The crown princess was given a fright. She quickly took a step back and regained her footing. The decorations on her dress bumped into each other from her sudden movements.

However, her mood was clearly not that great. She said with a frown. "And where are you off to?" Zu An obviously didn't dare to say that he was skipping work. After thinking for a bit, he explained, "I wanted to use the restroom."

The crown princess frowned in disdain. "You were late today."

Zu An's face heated up. After playing around with Qiu Honglei, he ended up being late. "The security outside the palace was strict and there were patrolling soldiers everywhere. That was why there was a delay."

This woman had her fierce and arrogant appearance again. Her appearance yesterday was much cuter in his opinion.

The crown princess voiced her reply. "Remember to leave earlier next time. The crown prince's secretary, apart from accompanying the crown prince in his studies, also shoulders the important duty of ensuring the crown prince's safety. I didn't see you anywhere yesterday when the assassins came. Fortunately, golden token envoy Sir Eleven arrived in time. You should learn from his example."

"Of course, of course. I will definitely learn properly from his example." Zu An didn't argue with her that it would be even more strange for him to remain in the eastern palace when his shift ended. Hmph, I wonder what this woman's expression would be like if she found out I am precisely golden token eleven!

The crown princess frowned. She sighed inwardly. Why was everyone so incompetent and infuriating?! Look at how mature and earnest Sir Eleven is, how he gives off a natural sense of security, yet this fella only knows how to put on that fake smile. If the crown prince only has these useless idiots at his side, how were they going to face King Qi in the future?

She wanted to say more when a tall and skinny lesser eunuch rushed over. "I greet the crown princess! Her highness the empress wishes for a meeting."

Zu An recognized him to be one of the empress' two lesser eunuchs, Little Gui. After the attack on the Palace of Peace, many high eunuchs were assassinated by the Shadow Group. Those two fellas really did get promoted like crazy.

The crown princess nodded. "There were too many things that happened these days. I almost forgot to wish the empress good health."

She called over the stunned fatty off to the side and was about to head over to the Place of Peace. Little Gui said with a big smile, "The empress has invited everyone from the eastern palace as well. She wishes to reward those who bravely defended her last night."

The crown princess was stunned momentarily, but this made sense as well, so she didn't pay it too much attention. Even though the empress intends to rope some people in with this move, the crown princess didn't feel a need to bicker over such a small matter with her. Furthermore, if she did interfere with this matter, the eastern palace's people would resent her for it too. She wouldn't do something so foolish.

Zu An's heart instead pounded. He immediately knew that the crown prince and crown princess, even the entire eastern palace were just signboards, just pretenses. This was just for the sake of meeting him!

Chapter 637: Push and Pull

All of them hurried to the Palace of Peace. It was often troublesome for ordinary subjects to enter the palace, but with the crown prince and princess in the lead, as well as the empress' own personal eunuchs accompanying them, it was smooth sailing.

Along the way, Little Gui snuck Zu An a secretive look, confirming their friendship. As he passed by Zu An, he spoke in a quiet voice, "Thank you, My Lord, for saving my life."

Those who worked in the palace were usually sharp individuals. He obviously knew that he had almost been silenced yesterday, and was only alive because of Zu An. Not only that, he was even promoted to the station of the empress' personal eunuch.

Zu An smiled. "You're too kind," he replied. "We were merely helping each other out."

This was exactly what Little Gui wanted to hear. He was further elated by the lack of arrogance in the other party's bearing. "We should find the opportunity to grow even closer in the future."

He didn't dare speak for too long, especially with so many people around them. With these final words, he moved to the front of the party to lead the way.

Zu An smiled as well. He knew how formidable eunuchs could be, after all the dramas he had watched in his previous world. It was best not to offend these fellows if possible, and it would be even better if he could get along with them.

Of course, he had to make sure all of this was done in secret. He'd surely be looked down on by most of the court if he was always seen hanging around them.

Even though the two of them had only spoken briefly, their conversation hadn't escaped the crown princess' ears. She moved next to Zu An. "Are you familiar with the eunuchs in the Palace of Peace?" she asked with a frown.

Zu An could smell her sweet fragrance. "It was this eunuch who led the way the previous time the empress invited me for an audience," he replied.

"The two of you are this close after just a single meeting?" The crown princess frowned, alarm bells ringing in her mind. Was the empress trying to insert her spies into the eastern palace?

"Maybe I'm just a naturally friendly person," replied Zu An with a chuckle. At the same time, he couldn't miss the crown princess' wariness. Sure enough, it seemed daughter-in-laws had a natural animosity towards their mother-in-laws, no matter what world they were in. Furthermore, the empress wasn't the crown prince's biological mother, which was yet another thing that fueled the crown princess' suspicions.

The crown princess was momentarily speechless.

This guy considers himself a naturally friendly person? Where the heck does his confidence come from?

His cheeky expression really ticked her off. Golden Token Lord Eleven's emotionless, steadfast visage appeared in her mind. That was what a man should be like!

When she remembered how he had held her yesterday, she suddenly felt the side of her waist grow warm. This is where he had placed his hand yesterday...

The crown princess felt her cheeks start to burn. She hurriedly dispelled these random thoughts. "Why did the empress seek you out yesterday?" she asked.

"Nothing much. She was merely concerned with the reliability of the crown prince's new secretary. She was also interested in the details of what happened to Shi Kun," replied Zu An.

The crown princess stared at him. "And how did you reply?"

The empress was the mistress of her own palace, and it was natural for her to ask about all these things. For some reason, though, the crown princess felt unsettled. It was as if the empress was reaching a meddling hand into her own domain.

"Of course I replied that I'm a reliable man. As for the matter concerning Shi Kun, I only told her everything you instructed us to say." Zu An wasn't satisfied with being the only one having to answer questions, so he changed the topic. "Huh? Why don't I see Granny Mo anywhere... Ahem, I meant to say, your personal maid?"

The crown princess' voice took on a slightly worried edge. "She was seriously injured in the bitter battle yesterday, and her soul was wounded. It's a pity there was no appropriate medicine to treat her. All she can do is rest."

Zu An was stunned by this revelation. So the crown princess had gone to the hospital looking for medicine for her maid! But why did she suddenly give the medicine to me?

Rong Mo might just faint if she knew about this.

He remembered how infatuated the crown princess was with his other identity, and a sudden thought occurred to him. He examined this beauty up close. She had beautiful eyes and an oval face, and her lips were moist and red. He had to admit that she really was a gorgeous specimen. She was good enough to be considered a good match for him.

His eyes landed on the red beauty mark between her eyebrows. How is this thing made? It looks like a plum blossom sometimes, and at other times, a clover. It looks pretty classy.

The crown princess was about to say something else, but she noticed that he was staring at her as soon as she looked up at him. She frowned. "Lord Zu, please remember your status."

Why is he staring at me like this? Is this guy tired of living?

If it had been anyone else, she might've exploded on the spot, but she knew that he was only a commoner from Brightmoon City, and had only made it to his station through a series of coincidental opportunities. It was only natural that he didn't understand some of the rules.

If she stirred something up, rumors might surface. Her social standing was rather precarious right now, and countless eyes were watching her. The fewer complications, the better.

Zu An was speechless when he saw the crown princess turn her head away, as though avoiding a pervert's gaze. Do you have to go that far? I was just looking at your beauty mark. I wasn't lusting after you or anything.

...

Their party soon reached the Palace of Peace. The crown princess and crown prince entered to pay their respects, and the empress smiled in return. She didn't give Zu An a single look. The empress and the crown princess chatted amiably.

Zu An snorted in disdain. Look at this loving mother-and-child act. The crown princess clearly mistrusts the empress, and the empress revealed her dissatisfaction with the crown princess just yesterday. Yet when they meet face-to-face, they look like besties!

Tsk, women are truly terrifying.

After exchanging some small talk, the empress bestowed rewards upon the others within the eastern palace, awarding them for their service in protecting the crown prince and princess.

The crown princess gave Zu An a sidelong glance. Rewarding the others was one thing, but this fellow had left early yesterday. What bullsh*t contributions did he make?

Calm down, calm down. You're a wise and virtuous lady. How can you use such crude words?

An impulse came over the fat crown prince, and he began to throw a tantrum, demanding food. The empress was just about to send them away, but when she saw this, she smiled. She ordered the maids to take them aside for some refreshments.

The crown princess had no choice but to go along. She didn't have to worry about the food being poisoned, because the crown prince was the child of the empress' older sister. They were on the same side, united against King Qi.

The way her husband—in name only—inhaled the food was utterly embarrassing. Unfortunately, she couldn't reveal her true feelings, and forced herself to stare blankly to one side. Lord Eleven, who had saved her from the dangerous crisis, unwittingly appeared in her mind again, and she let out an internal sigh.

The others from the eastern palace were also brought to a different part of the palace for refreshments. All of them were extremely moved by the empress' show of appreciation.

Zu An was secretly taken to another palace by Little Gui. There, the empress was sitting comfortably on a recliner, her dress outlining her voluptuous curves.

Her ass is wider than her shoulders, her thighs thicker than a goddess'...

Zu An silently evaluated her. He had no idea what the emperor was thinking either, ignoring such a stunning woman. She's experiencing a drought, man!

The empress casually waved Little Gui away. Eunuch Lu seemed to have been given instructions beforehand. He too withdrew outside.

Zu An couldn't help but chuckle. "The empress had everyone else withdraw, and only kept the two of them here. Don't tell me you're lusting after my body?"

The empress' expression grew as cold and dark as a winter storm. "Filthy servant, you're growing more daring by the day! Believe me when I say that I can have you dragged out and beaten to death by the rod on the spot!"

Zu An lost his smile as well. "Empress, I've shown you the necessary respect in front of others, yet you bring me to such a private place only to threaten me. Could it be that you've gotten something wrong?"

The empress' heart skipped a beat when she noticed his invasive gaze. For some reason, her heart, which had been dry for far too long, felt as though it had been watered by a youthful spring rain.

She straightened rather unnaturally, and her voice lost some of its edge. "This empress... I brought you here to ask you what happened to that assassin."

Her sudden change in attitude and the more informal way she was speaking to him, left Zu An slightly shocked. Do I have to be fierce to you before you act civilly? Could you somehow be a masochist?

"Don't worry," he replied quietly. "That assassin is already under my control. He won't cause any more trouble."

The empress' expression flickered. "You didn't kill him?"

Zu An smiled. "What if the empress secretly kills me after I kill him?"

The empress' expression fluctuated several times. This thought had crossed her mind before. She had indeed planned to have Eunuch Lu find an opportunity to silence him. Even though killing a crown prince's secretary was rather troublesome, it was a risk worth taking, for the sake of her reputation. She didn't want anyone to have any leverage against her.

“Relax,” Zu An said. “As long as I’m safe and sound, that person will always be under my control. But if something happens to me, I can’t promise that rumors won’t spring up all over the place.”

You have successfully trolled Liu Ning for 444 Rage points!

The empress ground her teeth in anger. She obviously knew that he was threatening her, but worst of all, she couldn’t do a thing about it.

“Do you know that both of us will be finished if that assassin escapes?” she said grimly.

“I’ve made the appropriate arrangements. There won’t be any complications,” said Zu An with great confidence.

“I hope you don’t disappoint me. Get lost.” The empress rubbed her temples. She felt extremely vexed.

Zu An’s face turned cold. He took a step forward and pinched her cheek. “Woman, don’t talk to me like that.”

He knew that, in this strange sort of relationship, the weaker he appeared, the easier it would be for her to step all over him. He had to take the initiative to control the situation.

The empress was stunned. She never thought that this fellow would dare to be so rude to her!

Chapter 638: Lethal Move

The last time, the assassins had thrown the place into chaos, and no one had been paying attention to them. Now, though, the crown prince and princess weren’t far away, and the same could be said for the rest of the people from the eastern palace. Eunuch Lu and the other eunuchs were guarding the entrance as well.

How dare he!

For some reason, though, this feeling of oppression was a completely new experience for her. Even though her mind told her to reject him, and that she should hate him for doing this, every cell in her body was crying out in pleasure. Her body and her heart had lain dormant for far too long. This fellow was kindling in her the same feelings that she experienced when she first met the emperor.

She took a deep breath and dispelled those thoughts from her mind. She did her best to keep her voice from shaking. “Do you know what you are doing right now?”

Zu An calmly said, “I only want the empress to understand our current relationship. I won’t be so polite if you call me a filthy servant again.”

The empress’ breathing became hurried, and her ample chest heaved. Her usually-dignified eyes were on the verge of tearing. “What sort of impoliteness do you have in mind?”

Zu An almost choked. He really hadn’t expected this... He was only planning to scare her a little and gain some respect. Wasn’t her reaction a little over the top?

The empress' smile was extremely dangerous. "Brat, don't pretend as though you'd really do anything to me. Even if I just lie here and let you do what you wish, would you really dare?"

For some reason, she felt a twinge of anticipation.

Frightened by it, she quickly tried to suppress it.

Zu An was left speechless.

He had to admit that he really didn't dare cross that line.

The empress was way too powerful. She could have him killed with a single thought. Even though the emperor rarely left the palace, secrets rarely remained secrets forever. With his divine senses, it would be hard for anything to slip past him.

Even though the empress was a mature and juicy peach, ripe for picking, he didn't dare take such a huge risk. He still had a lot of things he wanted to do, after all.

Seeing his momentary hesitation, the empress chuckled and pushed his hand away. "It's useless to try to bluff this empress. In the future, we'll both just mind our own business and pretend that nothing ever happened. Please do not vainly try to use that matter against me."

This was actually all Zu An was hoping for as well. It would have been a little shameful to admit it, though.

Mature women weren't the same as young maidens after all. Sigh, why do I feel like I was played? This is so embarrassing.

Just then, someone suddenly walked in through the doorway.

Zu An and the empress immediately straightened and put some distance between each other.

The empress was clearly unhappy. "Why did you come inside?"

The one who had entered was Eunuch Lu. He peered at Zu An with his hawk-like eyes. "Empress, do you want this old servant to kill him?"

Zu An was alarmed. This man facing him was at the ninth rank, and he'd been standing at the doorway, which was close by. If he had wanted to, he could have easily eavesdropped on them.

I was too careless!

He wasn't utterly terrified, though. Although his current cultivation was not enough to defeat this old eunuch, he could protect himself well enough. Furthermore, there was no way the empress would want this matter to leak out, which meant that she would not call anyone else to help.

The empress looked at him in surprise. She didn't expect him to still be calm in this situation. She shook her head. "There's no need. I know what I'm doing."

She gave the eunuch a look of displeasure. "Didn't I tell you to wait outside? Who told you to come in?"

Eunuch Lu's sinister expression immediately morphed into an apologetic smile. "Your Highness, I just received some important information that you need to know about."

Zu An was completely speechless. This guy's expression had changed way too quickly. Simps really are a different breed... Keep on licking her boots, I guess. No matter how hard you try, you won't get a single crumb.

"Speak." The empress lay back down on her recliner, assuming her usual indifference.

Eunuch Lu's eyes burned with passion as he took in her wonderful curves. Unfortunately, the fire quickly dimmed. Something occurred to him, and he turned around to look at Zu An, his expression slightly uncertain.

"It's fine. Lord Zu will be one of us in the future." The empress chuckled. She didn't mind using these insignificant matters to reel Zu An in.

Zu An was speechless when he saw Eunuch Lu's hate-filled eyes. Bro, you don't even have a pipi. Why are you treating everyone as your rival in love?

Eunuch Lu made his report. "Reporting to the empress. The Left Guard General Cheng Xiong is currently investigating the Embroidered Envoy within the palace."

"Investigating the Embroidered Envoy? Has he gone mad?" The empress was stunned. The Embroidered Envoy were the emperor's trusted aides. How could Cheng Xiong be that bold?

Zu An secretly panicked. This was probably a scheme directed against him.

Eunuch Lu continued, "received information that an assassin was dressed in the uniform of the Embroidered Envoy. That is why the number of Embroidered Envoy uniforms is being checked. Those within the Embroidered Envoy are unhappy with this, and are currently opposing him."

Zu An felt as if a bucket of cold water was dumped on him. It was clear as day. Cheng Xiong was coming after him!

Cheng Xiong must have been disheartened by his failure the night before, but he had surely planned to retaliate in an even stronger fashion. This time, his investigation had been extremely thorough. He had even managed to find out that he had used his Embroidered Envoy uniform to sneak Snow out!

He seemed to be making an enemy of the whole Embroidered Envoy, but in reality, this was a lethal strike aimed at him.

Yun Jianyue was still hiding in his residence. She had been fortunate enough to escape detection yesterday, but if the search continued, it would grow more difficult for her to hide.

What should I do? What am I supposed to do now?

His mind moved at lightning speed. At the same time, he felt a twinge of regret. He'd underestimated the intelligence of the people of this world. These weren't NPCs from the novels he'd read or the games he'd played. They were all sharp-witted individuals, worthy of their current positions of power.

He tried to think of countermeasures. His first thought was to ask the empress for help, but what was he supposed to say? How could he secure the empress' help to aid the Embroidered Envoy, unless he revealed his own identity as one of them?

If he revealed his identity, though, was he then supposed to explain to her that he had helped an assassin escape?

She might assume that he knew the assassins, which would make the situation even more problematic.

Furthermore, she had the Liu clan backing her. If she found out about his status as an Embroidered Envoy, it would be impossible to ensure that she didn't reveal it to her clan. That would make things even more dangerous for him, as both the emperor and King Qi would want him gone.

Should he contact Zhuxie Chixin? He couldn't just let these people climb all over him. Besides, they had gotten along quite well the day before...

No way, no way. Things will become even more complicated if that old fox Zhuxie Chixin found out that I let an assassin go.

As his mind worked, the empress, reclining on her seat, flashed a slow smile. "Cheng Xiong is someone in King Qi's faction. He's worried that His Majesty might use this as an excuse to transfer him away from his important position, so he is already trying everything he can to prevent it. It's fine. Let him and the Embroidered Envoy have their little dogfight."

Zu An was surprised. Cheng Xiong is in King Qi's faction?

No wonder he cared so much about this investigation! Wait, there's something I can do.

"Empress, if there is nothing else, I'll take my leave." Zu An bowed to the empress again. He had to show her proper etiquette in front of others.

"Eunuch Lu, escort him out for me." The empress waved her hand. She didn't seem to be in the mood to entertain Eunuch Lu privately.

"Understood." Eunuch Lu led Zu An out, his expression rather awful.

I touched the goddess he dreams about every night, so it's normal for him to hate me. I suppose there's no getting along with him.

They left the room, and Eunuch Lu closed the door. He was about to speak, but hesitated slightly, before finally saying it anyway. "You're a thief without the guts to match. Are you really that scared of His Majesty finding out?"

Zu An was taken aback by his tone. This wasn't what he was expecting! Why did he feel like this eunuch was secretly encouraging his actions?

Hadn't he always fancied the empress? Why would he allow another man to get close to her? He even seemed pretty excited about it.

Eunuch Lu... or should I say, Eunuch Green?[1]

Chapter 639: Kill the Criminal

Zu An smiled in embarrassment. "Eunuch has misunderstood. I have utmost respect for the empress. Why would I do anything that offends her?"

"Heh." Eunuch Lu smirked.

Zu An really didn't want to talk too much with this old creep. After a few more sentences, he bid him farewell.

He quickly arrived at the side chamber. The crown prince was stuffing his face, his mouth and fingers covered in grease.

The crown princess' expression was completely cold. She clearly wanted to lecture the crown prince, yet she was worried that this was the Palace of Peace, so it was bad if others saw her lecture the crown prince. She could only hold it all in, but the more she endured, the more angry she got. She said with a sneer, "Crown prince, have you finished your meal? It is time for us to go back."

The fatty shook his head. "They said that there's still a lot of food coming! There's steamed lamb, steamed bear's paw, steamed deer tail, roast duck, roast chicken, roast goose, stewed pork, stewed duck, stewed chicken, spiced meat, air-dried meat, sausages, assorted vegetables, smoked chicken, pork soup, sticky rice duck..."

The crown princess' eyelids jumped when she heard all of this. This fella couldn't even remember more than three sentences from the Three Character Classic, yet he remembered the names of all of these dishes. Were you a pig in your last life?

When Zu An arrived, he almost saw steam come out of her head.

He hesitated. Would now be a bad time to talk to her?

But the current matters were pressing. He couldn't be bothered with all of that right now and braced himself. "Crown princess."

"What is it?" The crown princess was extremely unhappy.

Zu An was annoyed. This woman really was fickle. She was so nice when I wore that mask, why are you completely different now?

He could only say patiently, "The empress bestowed us many things, but I wasn't even in the eastern palace yesterday. I feel guilty accepting all of this, so how about we pass them onto people who really need these goods?"

"Those who really need it?" The crown princess felt like this guy at least had some self-awareness.

"Forget it, just take them. Those who deserve rewards already received them, so you can just keep what you were given."

As a crown princess, she naturally wouldn't do something like take the rewards of her subordinates. Otherwise, the empress would become the philanthropist, while she became the evil person.

"Hm, wait..." She suddenly thought of something. There was indeed someone who didn't receive any rewards.

She suddenly felt excited and called over the big fatty. "Crown prince, we should express our thanks to golden token Sir Eleven. He saved us yesterday."

The nervous Zu An sighed in relief when he heard her say this. Thank goodness the crown princess was smart.

It was because she was smart that even though Zu An wanted to drag the crown princess straight over to deal with Cheng Xiong, he was worried that she might smell something fishy afterwards.

He couldn't let anyone make the slightest connection between the crown prince's secretary and Golden Token Eleven.

That was why he could only make tactful suggestions and make the crown princess think of Golden Token Eleven herself. That way, there wouldn't be any problems.

The crown prince was completely immersed in the food right now. When he heard this, he waved his hands and said, "I'm not going. I didn't finish eating yet."

"Eat, eat, eat, that's all you know how to do!" The crown princess finally couldn't hold it in anymore. Her face was covered in disgust when she saw the crown prince's jiggling fat. "You don't even care about the one who saved your life? Once his majesty and the lesser tutor find out about this, they're going to scold you again!"

The crown prince protected the food in front of him as if he was worried that she might just swipe all of it onto the floor. After all, it wouldn't be the first time she did that.

After successfully protecting the food, he sighed in relief and said, "Can't we just have that imperial guard come over and give him some reward? Why do we have to run all the way there?"

Zu An panicked. What the crown prince said wasn't entirely without reason. All of the guards and officials were the royal family's subjects. Why did the master have to visit the subject themselves?

Fortunately, the crown princess harrumphed and said, "We obviously need to express our sincerity when others save our lives. Furthermore, as the royal family, we should be winning over our subjects with goodwill. This is something that should be little effort but great benefits."

But regardless of how she tried to reason with him, the crown prince remained unmoved. "Go by yourself then, if you really wanna go."

Food was clearly a higher priority than the one who saved his life.

The crown princess gritted her teeth. She decided she wasn't going to say anything else. She waved her hand and said, "We're going!"

Zu An followed behind her. He sighed when he heard the clinking of the decorations on her dress. The crown princess was definitely in a horrible mood, or else her dress wouldn't be making so much noise.

High ranking officials always loved to wear jade ornaments on them. This served to express their honesty and upright character, as they would make noises wherever they went, so they couldn't sneak around with them on. At the same time, this was a type of decoration, as well as a way to help restrict

one's bearing and only allowing a graceful gait that wasn't too fast or too slow. Only at the perfect speed would the jade pendants make the most pleasant sounding noises.

That was why the noise coming from the crown princess' dress was already a bit discourteous. She was definitely angered quite badly by the crown prince.

He already quietly left the troop a while ago. He brought his Golden Token Eleven uniform out from his Brilliant Glass Bead and quickly changed along the way, hurrying to his own palace residence.

I hope I can make it in time!

He prayed inside. Cheng Xiong made it clear that he was going to target him. He might make it look like he was targeting the other Embroidered Envoys, but he will definitely head his way soon.

Sure enough, Cheng Xiong already surrounded the courtyard with a large group of imperial guards.

Cheng Xiong said, "Sir Eleven, we are carrying out a routine inspection. If you do not reply, I will come inside with my men."

Seeing that there was no response after saying this, his lips curled upwards. Then, he said to his subordinates, "Since Sir Eleven is not here, then just open the door."

Zu An noticed that there were two imperial guards who were dressed differently. They didn't look like imperial guards but rather like librarian researchers. These were probably rune masters! They specialized in engraving runes and were capable of bringing about many miraculous things.

The runes of these courtyards were all made by them, so of course they could unlock them.

Zu An harrumphed when he saw that they were about to break open the formation. He walked over. "What are you all doing?"

Cheng Xiong smirked when he saw him arrive, and then he put on an embarrassed smile. "Sir Eleven came back at just the right time. You saved us the effort of breaking down the door. We are examining the situation with the Embroidered Envoy's uniforms. I ask sir to bring them out so everyone can take a look."

Zu An sneered. "Bastards, what right do you have to investigate the Embroidered Envoy? Am I supposed to do whatever you tell me to do? Who do you think you are?"

Cheng Xiong's breathing stopped. He didn't expect this guy to straight up drop the pretenses!

You have successfully trolled Cheng Xiong for +888 Rage points!

Don't blame me for being rude then!

Chng Xiong's expression immediately became cold. "The imperial guards reported seeing someone dressed in an Embroidered Envoy uniform that shouldn't be. That is why we are investigating the Embroidered Envoy's uniforms."

Zu An cut him off. "What a joke. Since the palace guards noticed that it was an assassin, why didn't they arrest him on the spot and insist on doing all of this afterwards? I have enough reason to suspect that you are deliberately making false charges."

Someone like Cheng Xiong who reached his position was naturally someone with enough resolution. He immediately said, "The truth will come to light. If Sir Eleven has no guilt, then why aren't you letting us investigate this situation? You could easily convince us with the truth."

Zu An sneered. "What kind of logic is that? You are throwing sh*t at my face and demanding I prove my innocence? Then what if I said that you ate two bowls of sh*t for breakfast, and so we should have your stomach cut open for everyone to see. That way, we can prove your innocence by seeing if there is sh*t inside or not!"

The surrounding imperial guards all did their best to hold in their laughter. They wanted to laugh, but couldn't. It really was quite the terrible feeling.

"You bastard!" Cheng Xiong roared in anger.

You have successfully trolled Cheng Xiong for +999 Rage points!

"Arrest this man! Cut him down if he resists!" He was already full of killing intent, to the extent where he was starting to feel excitement. As the investigator of this case, he currently had the authority and reason for his suspicion. As long as this fella resisted, then he could claim that he was resisting due to guilt, so killing him was a logical choice. Zhuxie Chixin and the others wouldn't be able to say anything afterwards.

Chapter 640: A Formidable Woman

"Yes sir!" The surrounding guards were all his direct subordinates. When they heard this, they charged and surrounded Zu An. The other party was a golden token envoy, so they didn't dare act carelessly. However, they had their general leading them and imperial guards to back them up. This fella was all alone, so he was dead for sure.

Zu An's expression was grave. He focused all of his concentration in preparation of a sudden attack.

An icily arrogant voice sounded by his ears. "Should I help out?"

Zu An couldn't help but chuckle. Turns out Yun Jianyue was paying attention to the situation the entire time. He chuckled when he thought about how she was peeping through the door's cracks.

"There's no need. I'll be even more dead if you come out right now." Zu An quickly replied through ki.

What kind of joke is this? If Yun Jianyue exposed herself, then he would be dead many times over!

"Hmph! You're dead for sure if I don't make an appearance." Yun Jianyue was clearly unhappy to be treated as a burden.

"Relax, I have a plan." Zu An quickly replied while looking nervously in a direction. Crown princess, why aren't you here yet? Your future man is in danger!

As if she heard his prayer, a lavishly dressed figure appeared nearby.

Zu An thought of something. He fiercely berated, "Cheng Xiong, is it because I saved the crown princess and ruined your plans last night that you are so determined to get rid of me?"

The crown princess frowned when she heard this. She was confused as to why there were so many imperial guards surrounding that place, but she immediately came to some conclusions when she heard this voice.

With her status, she naturally understood that Cheng Xiong was a part of King Qi's faction. Could it be that they really were behind yesterday's attack?

The conflict between the crown prince and King Qi was already reaching its climax. Nothing was too surprising at this point.

Cheng Xiong was about to give the order to attack, but when he heard this, he was shocked and furious. "Bastard, what kind of nonsense are you spouting?!"

You have successfully trolled Cheng Xiong for +444 +444 +444...

The words Zu An spoke could send him straight to death! If he carried this type of criminal charge, then his entire clan would be eradicated!

Zu An said coldly, "No secrets can remain secrets forever unless everyone involved is dead. If this wasn't your objective, then why did you charge at me as if you've lost your mind? Are golden envoy tokens this easy to bully?"

With this, Cheng Xiong's soldiers couldn't help but look at their general. This really was quite strange! The Embroidered Envoy were figures that were usually avoided. It was already a blessing if these envoys didn't come looking for you! Yet you're provoking one of them on purpose, moreover a golden token envoy?!

Cheng Xiong was about to explode from anger. Framing others wasn't anything new for him, but this time, he really felt like Zu An was suspicious, that he had something to do with the assassins. Yet now, he was the one being suspected instead!

"Scoundrel! You dare slander my name? Die!" He brandished his blade. A wave of surging power cleaved down at Zu An.

He also had other intentions for doing this. He wanted to witness Zu An's combat skills. Once it was revealed that he was of the flame element, furthermore able to use that flame blade from last night, then that would prove everything.

Zu An harrumphed. He sent his palm towards the blade. The Heaven Devouring Sutra sucked away all of the ki on his blade.

"What is the name of this technique?" Cheng Xiong was incredibly bewildered. Whenever they fought, his strength would suddenly vanish. He knew that he might not be able to defeat his opponent one on one. "What are you all staring at? Charge at him!"

The palace's imperial guards all had their formation techniques they excelled at. Once they fought together, a single opponent stood no chance against them.

Those guards already completed their formations. They raised their bows to fire at their opponent. Suddenly, a dignified voice sounded from the side. "Halt! What are you all doing?"

Everyone turned their heads. They immediately bowed down in respect when they saw who it was. "We greet the crown princess!"

Cheng Xiong was alarmed. Why is this woman here?! However, he bowed at once as well, not daring to show any negligence.

The crown princess' eyes coldly scanned this place. "You all really are something! I didn't see all of you doing much when the assassins attacked yesterday, yet aren't you vigorous and lively now?"

The imperial guards were all ashamed after being criticized like this by the crown princess.

Cheng Xiong was comparatively more calm. He quickly explained, "The crown princess has misunderstood. We are only investigating."

He then explained how the palace gate guards noticed that there was someone who blended in with an Embroidered Envoy uniform.

The crown princess harrumphed. "Since you know that that person was an assassin, then why didn't you catch him?"

Zu An almost broke out laughing. That's my girl! Her thoughts are the same as mine.

Cheng Xiong stopped breathing for a moment. He quickly explained, "We only found out later on."

The crown princess turned around to give Zu An a look. She thought to herself, Sir Eleven is just as cool and handsome as I remember. Her lips couldn't help but curl upwards. However, when she turned around to look at Cheng Xiong again, her face already became much more emotionless. "Since you didn't notice anything back then, then how can you be so certain that this Embroidered Envoy is the assassin? Do you all have any proof?"

"This..." Cheng Xiong was speechless. After all, these were all only his own personal speculations. Even though everything made sense, he lacked concrete proof. "The reason we are searching the Embroidered Envoy's uniforms is precisely to look for proof. Those innocent definitely have all of their uniforms, while the one who helped an assassin escape is missing a set."

The crown princess gave Zu An a look when she saw how determined Cheng Xiong was.

Zu An sneered and said, "I previously already asked, how can your one-sided statement alone demand innocence? In the future, can I accuse you of any random crime and then overturn your entire home as a result? General Cheng, can you accept this type of result?"

The crown princess' thoughts moved quickly. After Zu An's earlier reminder, she now really suspected that King Qi's faction was trying to deal with those loyal to the crown prince. "Indeed. General Cheng, your argument is not convincing enough."

Cheng Xiong endured his rage and said, "Crown princess, this general really isn't speaking without thinking. Yesterday, there were guards who walked around this area and happened to see two Embroidered Envoy walk out from his house. They can serve as proof. Everyone knows that Embroidered Envoy always act alone, who would invite another one into their private residence? That is why the other one was definitely an assassin!"

He sneered. The moment Zu An failed to give a proper response, he would immediately close out this victory and force him to talk about the other Embroidered Envoy's identity. It would be hard for him to escape then.

The crown princess looked at Zu An with a frown. "Did this type of thing happen?"

Zu An shook his head. "All of this is nonsense. When did I come out with another Embroidered Envoy? Those imperial guards are all your subordinates, so they will obviously do what you tell them to do. General Cheng, you've truly gone quite far in order to frame me."

Cheng Xiong almost spat out blood. This man was lying through his teeth! There is someone this shameless in this world?!

Whenever he framed others, everything would be arranged to perfection. He could accuse others of guilt even if they didn't have any. Yet today, he knew that this person was guilty, yet he instead felt helpless in taking him down!

You have successfully trolled Cheng Xiong for +999 +999 +999...

Cheng Xiong quickly said, "Crown princess, please do not let this person deceive you. He harbors evil intentions and has colluded with the assassins. He has definitely done atrocious things in this conspiracy."

The crown princess cut him off. "Enough. If Sir Eleven has truly colluded with the assassins, then why would he go so far to fend off the assassins and save me... ahem... and the crown prince?"

Cheng Xiong subconsciously replied, "The assassins by the Palace of Peace and the Eastern Palace might not be from the same camp. He has colluded with the assassins from the Palace of Peace, but that doesn't mean that he is related to the assassins by the Eastern Palace."

The crown princess' expression sunk at once. "He rescued me and the crown prince, yet colluded with the Palace of Peace's assassins. Is General Cheng claiming that we wanted to kill the empress?"

Cheng Xiong was horrified. "This general doesn't dare! That is not what I was trying to say..."

He wanted to say something else, but he was immediately cut off by the crown princess. "Enough. Sir Eleven is someone who his majesty and Zhuxie Chixin personally approve of. If there was something wrong with him, then perhaps it means that General Cheng thinks that his majesty and Sir Zhuxie aren't wise enough, that they would choose the wrong person?"

Cheng Xiong was sweating buckets. "This general absolutely does not dare."

This woman really was formidable. She was accusing him of things one after another, and he didn't dare shoulder a single one of them.

Knowing that there was no way he could take down Zu An with the crown princess here, he decisively had his subordinates withdraw from this place. At the same time, he began to think to himself, why the crown princess would appear at this time. He was going to prepare more carefully next time. He wouldn't talk to Zu An and would instead just arrest him on the spot.