

Immortal 641

Chapter 641: As If Waking From a Dream

When Cheng Xiong and his men left, the crown princess turned around. Her originally vicious expression immediately eased up, her dignified eyes carrying a bit of gentleness. "Sir Eleven, are you alright?"

The scene of how she reprimanded Cheng Xiong reappeared in his head. Now that was what I call dashing!

He stared blankly for a moment when he saw her smile gently towards him.

"Sir Eleven?" The crown princess blushed when she saw the other party stare at her like this. She coughed lightly to remind him.

It really was strange. Zu An looked at her in a similar manner before, yet she found it annoying back then. She even scolded him for it. Yet when Sir Eleven did this, she immediately felt her heart begin to pound.

What is going on with me?

Zu An snapped out of his daze and said, "Thank you crown princess for helping me out of my trouble. I am fine."

The crown princess was clearly still worried. "I heard that your soul was wounded at the hospital last time, and you just faced Cheng Xiong. Did your injuries flare up again?"

Zu An smiled. "Someone like Cheng Xiong isn't enough to injure me."

"Sir Eleven's cultivation is profound as expected! It really is admirable." When she saw his confident appearance, the crown princess thought to herself, this is what a real man should be like!

Zu An cupped his hands. "This is thanks to the crown princess' grace. I wouldn't have been able to recover so quickly without the medicine."

The crown princess blushed. "I'm glad I was able to help."

After saying this, she didn't dare meet his eyes anymore and quickly said. "You saved me and the crown prince, but we never had a chance to properly thank you. The crown prince was quite frightened by the ordeal and could not make it, that is why he told me to come and grant Sir Eleven some gifts in his place. I hope sir does not refuse."

A group of maids and eunuchs brought over plates of gold, silver, and precious gems. There were also many expensive medicines.

Zu An thought to himself that the princess didn't have it easy. She was clearly furious at the crown prince, yet she still protected her husband on the surface.

Zu An didn't act pretentious when he saw these treasures. "Thank you, crown prince and crown princess for your blessings!"

He wasn't as noble and virtuous as the leads in those television dramas. Money was good stuff, the more the better!

The crown princess felt relieved when she saw him accept the gifts. She was worried that he would refuse her kindness, but now that he received it, both sides were on friendly terms. Even though she was a noble crown princess, the status of golden token envoys were also quite special. Obtaining his friendship was extremely beneficial towards the crown prince's future.

This was my purpose in coming here, yup. Nothing else.

She continued to convince herself like this. Then, she nodded towards Zu An with a smile. It wasn't convenient for her to speak too much to another man with her status. She slowly left after granting him this gift.

Zu An then stored the treasures into his Brilliant Glass Bead before quickly disappearing from this place.

Yun Jianyue, who was waiting for him to come in couldn't help but stomp her feet. "This rascal!"

Meanwhile, Zu An found a secluded place and quickly removed his Embroidered Envoy uniform. Then, he welcomed the crown princess' troops.

The crown princess furrowed when she saw his arrival. "Where did you go just now?"

Zu An laughed in embarrassment. "My stomach felt weird, so I went to the bathroom."

The crown princess: "....."

This guy is always going to the bathroom whenever I see him! Is there something wrong with his body?

Also, why are you telling me those details? Disgusting.

Compared to Sir Eleven, it really is like the clouds and dirt!

She subconsciously took a step back, as if she was worried that she would be contaminated by him if she was even a bit closer. "The crown prince is resting today, and the lesser tutor is also nursing his wounds. There is nothing else that needs attention in the palace, so you can return for now."

Zu An was worried that he might be juggling too many things right now. He was overjoyed when he heard this. "Thank you crown princess!"

The crown princess waved her hand and left with her servants with an expression of disdain.

Zu An quickly returned to his own courtyard. Yun Jianyue was currently lying on the silk band, her figure swaying there, as if she liked the feeling of sleeping here.

She might fall off if she fell asleep, but lying down here during the day wasn't an issue. Hmph, it feels quite nice up here. Once I go back, I'm going to have one of these set up there too.

"Big sis sect master really is elegant and refined! I was almost scared to death back then." Zu An sat down with a big smile. He poured a cup of tea to drink. Running back and forth today left him quite tired. It really would be great if he could transform like the monkey king.

But when he sipped on this tea while admiring the amazing beauty before him, he felt relaxed and carefree.

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "Your relationship with the crown princess seems pretty good. With her protection, nothing would've happened to you."

She offered her help, yet he rejected her without hesitation, only to rely on another woman! Hmph! Do you think I don't have my own pride?

Zu An explained, "That's because I saved her before, so she is merely returning the favor. There's nothing else between us."

In front of a girl, it's always better not to get into the details of your relationship with other women. This is my fuccboi cultivation's very doctrine!

But how could he have known that this would piss the other party off? Yun Jianyue suddenly got up, the silk band's restriction making her bottom look even more seductive. "It makes me angry just thinking about it! If it wasn't because of you, we would've already killed the crown prince and princess, successfully framing King Qi! We wouldn't have had to face the emperor either! I wouldn't have been injured..." She was only talking about it casually at first, but she got more and more angry as she continued.

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +555 +555 +555...

Zu An felt like he had poked a hornet's nest. He quickly said, "I don't really understand what you all are trying to do either. Right now, King Qi and the crown prince's struggle has reached a climax. By getting rid of the crown prince, wouldn't that be helping King Qi? No matter how furious the emperor is, he still cannot immediately end King Qi's life. Once he calms down, he will have realized that there is something fishy about the entire matter."

If King Qi rose to the throne, then he would be much more powerful than a stupid crown prince will ever be. At that point, the Devil Sect's survival would only become increasingly difficult.

Yun Jianyue harrumphed. "That's not something you need to worry about. We have our own thoughts on the matter."

Zu An frowned. "But his majesty already knows your identity now. Your attempts to frame King Qi have already failed!"

"Wasn't it all because of you that my identity was exposed?" Yun Jianyue grinded her teeth in anger. "As for the emperor knowing my identity, so what? Who said that the Holy Sect cannot work under King Qi?"

Zu An had a strange look on his face. Were pretty girls all two-faced? King Qi really had quite the drama on his side to deal with it seems.

Feeling the resentment towards him, Zu An quickly said, "I met with Honglei when I left the palace earlier and told her everything. Also, this is the hammock I bought for you."

Yun Jianyue's rage decreased considerably when she saw how he was busying about for her, and he even saved her life. "Honglei is fine, right?"

"She's fine. She was just a bit broken-hearted over her companions being captured." Zu An replied.

After a bit of hesitation, Yun Jianyue still said, "It seems like you're doing quite well for yourself in the palace. If there is a chance, help the Holy Sect free the captives. If you cannot save them, it will be good if you can quickly end their suffering."

Zu An rolled his eyes. "I don't even know if I'll survive, do you think I have the leisure of saving other people?"

Yun Jianyue said in annoyance, "I'm telling you to make the first move to gain an upper hand, but you just don't get it."

"What do you mean make the first move? You make it sound so easy." Zu An was a bit upset.

Yun Jianyue said with a sneer, "Fool, didn't the emperor put you in charge of finding out who leaked out the information that he wasn't in the palace? You can't even deal with Cheng Xiong with imperial authority on your side?"

Zu An's face lit up. "The one who told you was Cheng Xiong? Wait, that doesn't seem right."

He quickly rejected this thought. If Yun Jianyue's insider was Cheng Xiong, then she definitely wouldn't have told him in this manner.

Yun Jianyue had an ambiguous smile on her face. She asked another question in return. "Tell me, if his majesty put you in charge of the investigation, then doesn't that mean he is already suspecting someone? Who else could this suspect be?"

Chapter 642: Keyboard, Come!

Zu An suddenly realized something. Suspects passed over his mind one after another.

Zhuxie Chixin? No, he was the emperor's trusted aide for many years. Even if the emperor suspected him, he wouldn't do it so directly?

His own eunuchs? That didn't seem right either. If he really suspected them, then he could just have them tortured for a confession. There is no need to put a golden token envoy like me in charge.

That means there are only the imperial guard generals left...

If he was still confused at first, once he learned that Cheng Xiong was part of King Qi's faction, many of his doubts disappeared.

"It is Cheng Xiong!" Zu An blurted out.

Yun Jianyue nodded, looking like she was proud of him. "Indeed. Because of successive generations of inheritance, King Qi's strength in the military is extremely great, not only in the local armies but even in the imperial palace. If you were the emperor, would you feel relieved leaving a vital position like the Left Guard General to someone under King Qi's faction?"

"Of course not." Zu An became excited as well. He continued off of her analysis, "We've found out that the assassins are related to King Qi... Actually even if the assassins were unrelated to King Qi, the emperor would never let such a good chance go. He will use this chance to shift the blame onto King Qi and use this as an excuse to purge King Qi's faction."

No wonder Yun Jianyue was so confident. It didn't matter at all if she was exposed, because she was sure that the emperor would still act according to their plans. They could use this good chance to cut off King Qi's wings. This wasn't a conspiracy, but rather an overt plot! That was why she didn't care about being exposed at all.

He gave Yun Jianyue a complicated look. "Big sis sect master, you really are treacherous."

"Your praise is too kind." Yun Jianyue was full of delight. "Kid, you're not too bad either."

"Then what should I do now?" Zu An asked. With a two-faced queen like this on his side, he didn't have to waste his own brainpower.

Yun Jianyue thought for a bit. Her beautiful face became rather serious while deep in thought.

A while later, she said, "You should pay Zhuxie Chixin a visit first. As the leader of the Embroidered Envoy, he naturally has a duty to act when his subordinates are being bullied. Furthermore, he is the emperor's trusted aide, so he will help the emperor get rid of Cheng Xiong, so he will naturally be a huge help. However, there is a problem. That man has always been mistrustful, so you should be ready for his questioning before you meet him. Once you got him on your side, you should..."

Zu An was feeling hard-pressed, but after hearing her meticulous analysis, everything became much clearer. He sighed in admiration. "Whoever marries you in the future will have a wife as awesome as Zhuge Liang!"

"Who is Zhuge Liang?" Yun Jianyue frowned, but she then said with a snort, "Why do I need to marry anyone? Even if I need men, I'll just take in some male pets. Are there any men worthy of marrying me in this world?"

Zu An had a weird look on his face. A while later, he said with a sigh, "Big sis sect master is tough after all!"

Yun Jianyue's eyelids jumped. Then, she turned around arrogantly and began to fix her hammock. She clearly didn't intend to sleep on the same bed as this man again.

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Zu An left to seek out Zhuxie Chixin. After his conflict with Cheng Xiong, as an Embroidered Envoy, he obviously had to complain to his boss about it.

However, he was suddenly carried away by an impulse. It seems like it's been a while since he pulled his keyboard system's lottery... There was so much going around in the palace and there was danger lurking at every corner. Having some more life-saving measures was always a good thing.

As such, he found a secluded place to bring out the Rage System.

After not checking for a while, he unwittingly already gathered 285,132 Rage points.

He started pulling right away. He did stuff like wash his face and pray before, but he already grew accustomed to this process. He didn't feel like bothering with these tricks anymore.

Thank you for playing... Thank you for playing... ki fruit... Thank you for playing...

Huh? Where did the tiger talismans go?

Zu An became a bit disappointed. He pulled Daji with the tiger talismans last time. Even though Daji's current strength was only at the peak of the fourth rank, the greatest benefit was that he was able to use her flame element through resonance! This allowed him to cultivate flame system arts!

If he could pull a valkyrie from a different element, then that would grant him an ability from a different element!

Zu An's eyes suddenly lit up while feeling disappointment. He noticed that the keyboard's indicator stopped over the J key. Unfortunately, it was a multi-pull, so the words flew past the screen quickly. He couldn't see what exactly it was.

When the pulls finally finished, he saw that he obtained a new skill and 280 ki fruits.

He impatiently scrolled towards the description for the new ability.

Keyboard, come![1]

Skill description: As a keyboard warrior, Keyboard Come is your most important skill. When you experience injustice, shout 'Keyboard, Come!' loud and proud! Make sure your voice is full of spirit, let the people know what it means to speak things into existence!

Once the skill is activated, all words you speak will become reality.

Special note: The use of this ability consumes soul force, so please refrain from excessive trolling. The greater your trolling, the greater the rebound that takes place an hour later. Your soul will suffer an intense shock.

Only after reaching the master level will the soul stabilize, thus allowing more liberal use of this skill.

Please remember that if you troll too hard, even a grandmaster's soul won't be able to handle the rebound. You will perish before your words fully come into effect.

As a keyboard warrior, you could troll as hard as you could behind a computer screen, but in front of real people, it is best if you act cautiously!

Zu An was completely stupefied after he read the description.

Keyboard come? Speak things into existence? What kind of ridiculous skill is this? So this was a keyboard warrior's final form!

As for the limitations, it was something completely understandable. If he boasted that he created this very world, he might just explode as soon as this thought appears in his head!

He might not even have to go that far. Saying that he was stronger than the emperor might be enough to end his existence.

What was the limit to this skill?

Zu An felt like it was a bit of a pain. He wanted to give it a try, but he was worried that he might burn himself so badly he'll be too embarrassed to speak up about how he died in the afterlife. He died from boasting too much? That's way too embarrassing!

As such, he could only put this skill aside for now. He fed the 280 ki fruits to Daji. Daji was at the peak of the fourth rank before, but after ingesting these ki fruits, she jumped to mid-stage fifth rank. The fifth rank needed 600 ki fruits in total.

Zu An really was incredibly envious whenever he saw how little fruits she needed to raise her cultivation. For himself, the ki fruits were reasonable when he first started cultivation, but later on, he couldn't rely on these ki fruits for his cultivation at all.

After completing all of this, he headed to the Embroidered Envoy's government office.

The Embroidered Envoy had their own place to work in the imperial palace. This was a remote palace called the Embroidery House.

He almost choked when he first saw this name. This name is way too feminine, right? It doesn't match the Embroidered Envoy's badass style at all!

Zhuxie Chixin already rushed over when he heard the news. He listened to his subordinates complain about Cheng Xiong with a sullen face.

It was always the Embroidered Envoy who investigated others, yet they were the ones who were being investigated today. They felt incredibly wronged.

He waved his hand towards Zu An when he saw Zu An arrive. "Eleven, come with me. The others, return to your posts. I will personally deal with today's matters."

Zu An followed him upstairs. This was where he dealt with administrative work.

Zhuxie Chixin slowly sat down on his chair and gestured for Zu An to sit down as well. Then, he said, "You and Cheng Xiong have a grudge between you?"

Zu An shook his head. "I only met him these past few days. How can there be a grudge?"

"Then why is he so determined to scheme against you?" Zhuxie Chixin was confused. With his ability to discern judgments, he could obviously tell that Zu An was Cheng Xiong's objective.

Zu An pretended to hesitate for a moment, and then he said, "I suspect that he has already guessed at what I am investigating. That is why he wanted to make the first move."

"You are saying that he was the one who leaked out information regarding his majesty's absence?" Zhuxie Chixin calmly looked at him. There was nothing visible from his expression.

Zu An shook his head. "I have no proof, but this seems to be the only possibility."

Zhuxie Chixin shook his head. "No, there is one other possibility. That Cheng Xiong's suspicions aren't wrong and that you did collude with the assassins."

His expression became incredibly sharp the moment he finished speaking. His aura immediately enveloped Zu An's entire body.

Chapter 643: Face Bathed in Tears

In that instant, all of Zu An's fine hairs stood on end. There was no escaping from the killing intent of a pseudo grandmaster under this amount of distance.

Even though Zu An fought against Yun Jianyue that evening by the eastern palace, she didn't use her full strength back then to hide her identity. Later on, when Zu An fought her in the rock garden, she was already seriously injured by the emperor's attacks, so her strength dropped considerably. It was to the extent where he subconsciously began to underestimate grandmasters.

Only after experiencing it directly like this did he understand how great the difference between them was. He even wondered if he could survive three attacks from the other party if they really fought.

While he was sweating, his reactions were fast as well. He forcefully suppressed any thoughts of resistance and replied, "What is the chief commander saying? I do not understand."

Zhuxie Chixin sneered. His voice was incredibly sinister. "I've already investigated this on my own. Cheng Xiong did not suspect you without reason. That day, there were two golden token envoys who left the palace gates. However, I know fully well that the other golden token envoys had their missions, so there was no way they would appear in the palace."

Zu An felt a thud noise sound inside of him. However, his mouth already instinctively began to refute. "I'm being wronged here! That's the one-sided testimony of those palace guards, and they are Cheng Xiong's subordinates. Wouldn't they say anything Cheng Xiong told them to say?"

"Is that so?" Zhuxie Chixin stared at him. "It's not difficult for us to prove whether you are being wronged or not. Hand over all of your uniforms for me to inspect. Every single Embroidered Envoy uniform is special, and their use is strictly recorded. They cannot be imitated through outsider methods."

Zu An's breathing stopped. He didn't expect Zhuxie Chixin to actually want the uniforms. One set of uniform was taken by Snow, so how was he supposed to bring it out?

How was he going to explain that he was missing a set? No, he would become suspicious no matter how he tried to explain himself.

Zhuxie Chixin said, "I recall telling you that there is a small storage space in your waist tile. The goods of an Embroidered Envoy can all be stored there. Do not tell me that you cannot bring it out, or that one set was stolen."

The waist tokens of Embroidered Envoy were indeed special. They could issue orders uni-directionally, and they had storage capabilities as well. As one's rank climbed higher, the storage space would become larger and larger, but it would still only be a square meter at the greatest. It couldn't compare to the Brilliant Glass Bead's storage space at all.

As Zhuxie Chixin's killing intent grew stronger and stronger, Zu An knew that his hesitation already drew suspicion. He could only brace himself and say, "The truth will reveal itself in time. I merely have to bring out my uniforms for the chief commander to see."

He slowly took out his uniform one set after another. The other party couldn't tell that he didn't use the waist token but the Brilliant Glass Bead.

Zhuxie Chixin slowly nodded when he saw Zu An bring out the uniforms one after another. "You were issued eight sets of uniforms last time, four for winter, four for summer. You've brought out seven sets. Where is the last one?"

His eyes became incredibly penetrating while saying this, as if he would immediately act as soon as the eighth set didn't appear.

Zu An swallowed. "Of course it's..."

He paused for a moment, and then he said one word after another, "The eighth set of Embroidered Envoy uniform is in my waist token's storage."

Zhuxie Chixin frowned. Why was this fella's tone becoming so strange?

However, his furrowed brows eased up, because the other party slowly removed another set of uniform.

He was still a bit worried and examined this uniform. It was indeed the golden token envoy uniform. These uniforms were specially crafted with many secret markings that not even the golden token envoy could know about. That was why no one could imitate them.

He thus smiled and said, "I was just going to say that there was no way you could have been colluding with the assassins. It was definitely Cheng Xiong who was trying to frame you."

Zu An felt the pressure ease. The killing intent surrounding him instantly disappeared. He cursed inwardly, you almost killed me just now, yet you now look like you've always trusted me?

Bastard, where did that look of absolute confidence you showed me last time in my house go? Look at you now, turning against me so quickly.

But he didn't reveal any of this on the surface. He said with a smile, "It is natural for the chief commander to be suspicious. We indeed cannot let any point of suspicion go. I've learned quite a bit from this matter."

The reason why he was able to bring out the disappeared uniform was because he used the 'Keyboard Come' ability. He didn't expect to be able to make an identical set of uniform out of nothing!

This shouldn't be too major, right? I hope the rebound isn't too serious.

Zhuxie Chixin's expression became more gentle. This junior knew how to speak well, and he was also tactful as well. He's a capable man. "It looks like Cheng Xiong is trying to frame you. Brother Zu, is there anything you need help with? This big bro will help you out."

Since he suspected the other party just now, he obviously needed to ease the relationship a bit. This kid is a smart person, so he should be able to tell what to do.

Sure enough, Zu An looked extremely happy and said, "Thank you, chief commander! There really are some matters I need your help with."

"Please speak freely." Zhuxie Chixin's expression eased even more. He remembered what he shared with Zu An in private, so he definitely didn't want to tarnish this friendship.

"I wanted to ask the chief commander to help me keep an eye on Cheng Xiong and his clan. I wish to know everything about him in detail." Zu An wanted to take down Cheng Xiong, but he didn't know enough about this person. He needed to investigate a bit first and then see if there were any areas he could make use of.

He was already overloaded from his roles as an Embroidered Envoy and the crown prince's secretary, how could he have the extra time to pay attention to that side? He could only seek out the help of others.

Unfortunately, even though he was a golden token envoy, it was only a nominal position. The emperor didn't actually assign him any subordinates, so he could only ask Zhuxie Chixin for help.

"That's not an issue at all. Keeping an eye on someone is the Embroidered Envoy's specialty. We will send a silver token envoy and some subordinates to take care of this matter." Zhuxie Chixin immediately agreed. This wasn't anything too hard, and doing so would easily improve their relationship. Furthermore, if he really did find out something, then his majesty would consider it his contribution as well, so everything worked out.

Zu An sighed in relief. Then, perhaps it was because Zhuxie Chixin felt guilty, but he stayed behind for some tea and they chatted for a while. When he felt like their relationship's tension had eased a bit, he then let Zu An go.

Zu An's smile immediately vanished when he left the Embroidery House. His expression was incredibly pale, and there was a stinging pain in his brain. The back of his head felt a bit chilly, as if something had been fished out.

He felt like vomiting. It was similar to the nausea of playing a 3D game for too long.

Zu An immediately realized that this was the rebound of using Keyboard Come. It used up his soul force, which was equivalent to wounding his soul.

His breathing became more and more rushed. He didn't want anyone to see that something was wrong, so he quickly returned to his own residence.

His hands were shaking as he unlocked the door. Then, he felt dizzy and collapsed.

I'm done for... my handsome face is going to be ruined if I fall flat on it... I depend on this face for a living...

Huh? What is this? So big... so soft...

He felt like he fell into a warm embrace. There was a nice smell, and then he heard a cry of alarm. Then, he didn't remember anything else.

...

Yun Jianyue was resting in the room. When she heard the noise outside, she knew that Zu An returned.

She didn't really feel like doing anything. After all, why would the dignified sect master of the Holy Sect greet a man's return like a married woman?

However, she quickly frowned, because she heard that Zu An's steps were unsteady. He seemed to have been injured.

Why would he be injured though? To the extent where even his steps would become unstable?

Her expression became serious. She understood Zu An's cultivation well. Even though his rank wasn't high, his real strength was powerful. Even though she was seriously injured back then, her strength couldn't be evaluated through conventional means. However, she was almost done in by him.

With this type of cultivation, who could hurt him?

Could it be that Zhuxie Chixin did something?

She couldn't sit still any longer when she thought of this. She quickly rushed out to greet him. After all, Zu An's safety was tied to her own.

Yet when she opened the door, he fell right into her arms, his face falling straight into her soft chest.

Chapter 644: Sailing Through a Sea of Bitterness

Yun Jianyue: "???"

She was concerned, so she opened the door a bit too quickly. She didn't expect this type of thing to happen.

Killing intent flashed past her eyes when she saw his head buried in her chest. This guy even took his mask off beforehand!

Her fingers were like hooks. They were about to take his life when she suddenly voiced her surprise.

With her cultivation, she naturally noticed that his soul was wounded.

"Hm? Could it be that the emperor made a move? That doesn't make sense... If the emperor attacked him, then how could Zu An still be alive?" Yun Jianyue removed the man from her breasts and carefully examined his condition. Her expression flickered continuously, as if she was clearly engaged in intense internal conflict.

...

When Zu An woke up again, he noticed that he was sitting on his bed. Yun Jianyue was sitting across from him, her beautiful long hair flying about on their own.

What was even more shocking was that they were holding hands. He could clearly feel how soft her hands were.

"Don't think any random thoughts and focus your mind. Absorb the medicinal force." Yun Jianyue said coldly. She immediately realized that he woke up.

Zu An felt like he was enveloped in a medicinal aura. He lowered his head and saw the Five Aggregates Root floating between them, spinning on its own. It was likely floating because of Yun Jianyue's aura. Its divine radiance slowly moved towards his nostrils.

Yun Jianyue retracted her hands. "You fainted just now, so you couldn't operate ki on your own. That was why I lent you a helping hand. Since you are awake now, then you can start moving on your own."

"Start moving on my own?" Zu An had a strange look. I'd love it if I could do it myself. But when he saw her ice-cold expression, he knew that it wasn't what he was thinking.

Thus, he started his inner ki flow, using the medicinal force to nurse his wounded soul.

Sigh, Keyboard Come's side effects are too strong. It wasn't even a big deal, yet my soul almost exploded! Do I really have to wait until master rank before I can use it more often?

As such, he asked, "Big sis sect master, how do you train your soul?"

"Soul?" Yun Jianyue sneered. "Ask me that question after you reach the master rank."

"Only masters can forge their souls?" Zu An wasn't willing to give up.

"Of course." Yun Jianyue said indifferently. "The first to ninth rank are for tempering the body. Only when the body is strong enough can it support a more powerful soul. Cultivation is like setting sail in a sea of bitterness. The stronger the body, the steadier the boat, so it won't be torn apart by the tempest. Once the soul is fortified, then there will be a helm and a sail, allowing you to traverse this sea faster..."

Zu An didn't really know what she was saying, but it sounded pretty awesome. He asked, "Has anyone crossed this sea of bitterness?"

Yun Jianyue's breathing stopped. Do you know what you are asking? Her expression gradually calmed.

"No. There are only people who have sailed a bit further than the others."

Zu An replied with an 'oh'. He had a rough idea of what she meant. It looks like it was best if he didn't think about forging the soul with his current cultivation rank.

"By the way, I remember falling into something soft when I just came back." A while later, Zu An opened his eyes again. He couldn't help but voice his thoughts.

Yun Jianyue's eyelids jumped. She coldly said, "You remember wrong."

You have successfully trolled Yun Jianyue for +444 +444 +444...

Zu An was alarmed when he saw the Rage points. Could it be...

He knew that it was best if he didn't pursue this topic when he saw her expression.

A while later, he suddenly felt the medicinal smell disappear. When he opened his eyes, he saw that Yun Jianyue was storing away the Five Aggregates Root.

He became gloomy. "Come on, I was the one who brought back this thing! Why are you being so stingy?"

Yun Jianyue raised her brows. "You don't understand anything! Even though this medicine is good for the soul, too much is just as bad as not enough. Once you take in too much of it, it will instead wound your soul. Even I don't dare to take in too much of it with my cultivation. You can continue if you want to die."

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

Zu An quickly laughed in apology. "It's my misunderstanding, big sis sect master... How about I give you a shoulder massage in apology?"

He was also a bit curious. He remembered only receiving single digits when he was in Brightmoon City, yet now, he often received them in strings. Looks like the stronger the person, the more soul force they can offer...

Yun Jianyue took a step to the side to avoid his arms. "You wanted to give me a shoulder massage? Should I even bother exposing you?"

Zu An laughed awkwardly. "At least my respect and adoration for big sis sect master are definitely not fake."

Yun Jianyue didn't feel like paying him any more attention. She asked, "What happened after you visited Zhuxie Chixin? Why was your soul wounded?"

Zu An's expression became serious. "Zhuxie Chixin was suspicious of me as well..."

He roughly recounted what happened.

Yun Jianyue nodded. "Zhuxie Chixin is an old fox. It would be more strange if he wasn't suspicious. So, how did you deceive him?"

Zu An explained without giving away the details, "I got another set of clothes from a different Embroidered Envoy..."

How could he tell her about a skill like Keyboard Come? She's not even part of his harem.

Yun Jianyue frowned. She clearly didn't believe this explanation. "Yours is a golden token envoy uniform, how can you just pass someone else's as yours? Furthermore, you still haven't explained to me why your soul was wounded."

When Zu An was at a loss for how to explain things, Yun Jianyue's expression changed slightly. "Someone is here."

With a flash, she hid behind the curtains. It really was a pity how practiced this seemed.

A knocking sounded outside. "Is Sir Eleven inside?"

Zu An put on his mask again. When he was sure that nothing was wrong, he then walked out. He saw a chubby eunuch standing outside and quickly greeted him with one hand cupped in another. "So it was Eunuch Wen."

“Sir Eleven is too polite.” Eunuch Wen was beaming. This new golden token envoy actually knew how to be courteous, which immediately made him seem pleasing. “His majesty has invited sir to the imperial study.”

Zu An was alarmed. Is he going to ask about the results of the investigation? But it has only been a day or so, how am I supposed to find out the results so quickly?

However, there was nothing strange with his expression on the surface. “Alright. Let me get my waist token first.”

Eunuch Wen nodded. As long as Zu An didn’t run away, he could wait for him to get something.

Zu An pretended to be grabbing his waist token while conversing with Yun Jianyue.

“I heard everything.” Yun Jianyue paused for a moment, and then she added, “Be careful.”

Zu An’s eyebrows raised when he heard this, and his eyes brightened. Seems like I didn’t get on her good side for nothing. She’s even starting to show me concern now!

After closing the door, he followed Eunuch Wen to the study. Zu An slipped a jadeite bracelet into his hands along the way, something the crown princess gave him earlier. “I wonder what his majesty needs me for this time?”

Eunuch Wen sighed. “Sir Eleven, you are forcing me to do a wrong here.”

Even so, he still put the bracelet straight into his sleeves. Then, he said, “How can us servants rashly try to guess at what his majesty needs sir for? However, his majesty’s mood seems to be quite terrible today. Oh, right, the Left Guard General seems to be in the imperial study as well.”

As the emperor’s personal eunuch, how could any rumors in the palace escape his ears? Cheng Xiong and Zu An had some conflict before, and then even the crown princess came to bail him out. He knew a bit about all of this.

The reason why he took his gift wasn’t because he took a liking to Zu An’s etiquette, but rather because the crown princess favored him. Furthermore, Cheng Xiong was someone under King Qi’s faction. This was why he spoke out in reminder to establish good faith.

“Thank you, Eunuch Wen.” Zu An panicked a bit. Dammit, it’s Cheng Xiong again! I just can’t get rid of that bastard! I wonder what he came up with this time.

He even wondered if he could make it out of the study alive this time. Hmph, I’ll just stake it all with Keyboard Come if I have to!

His panicked mind gradually calmed after this thought.

Chapter 645: Mysterious Master

The two of them quickly arrived at the imperial study. Eunuch Wen bowed respectfully at the entrance. “Your majesty, Sir Eleven has arrived.”

"Let him in." A dignified voice sounded from within.

Eunuch Wen moved to the side and gestured for Zu An to go in.

Zu An nodded with a smile, but he was panicking inside. Could it be that the emperor already came back? That means that big sis sect master is in danger!

Zu An immediately sighed in relief when he saw the giant mirror on the dragon throne inside. Thankfully, it is still just a divine will he is facing.

But why does it look so strange? It looks like a portrait of the deceased. Is he not afraid of this being inauspicious?

There was another person in the room. Cheng Xiong was standing respectfully to the side, but he was looking at Zu An with a sneer, as if he already foresaw his miserable ending.

Zu An didn't pay him any attention. He greeted the emperor. "I pay my respects to your majesty!"

The man in the dragon robes within the mirror opened his eyes. He didn't speak any unnecessary words and immediately talked about the main matter at hand. "Left Guard General has claimed that you have colluded with the assassins. Is this true?"

Zu An already had a feeling that this was the case, so he didn't panic. "Your majesty, this subject is being wronged. How could I possibly collude with the assassins? General Cheng is completely slandering me."

"Slander?" Cheng Xiong sneered. "Didn't you seek out soul healing medicine from the imperial hospital not too long ago?"

Zu An felt a thud noise inside of him. This was where the issue was after all.

He replied, "Correct, I have."

Many people saw him do this, so there was no need to refute it.

Cheng Xiong said, "Why would a grandmaster bother attacking the soul of a nobody like you? Furthermore, the female assassin only showed strength at the master rank at first, so there is no way she would use any soul attack methods. Thus, how could you have your soul damaged? In my opinion, the soul healing medicine was most likely for that female assassins."

Zu An almost gave this man a thumbs up. This fella already practically guessed at everything himself!

Of course, there was no way he would admit to that. "General Cheng is not a grandmaster, so how do you know what a grandmaster thinks? What difference is there between what you say and a random countryside wife claiming that the empress eats flour cakes too?"

"You...!" Cheng Xiong was so angry his entire body was shaking. This fella's mouth really was too formidable. He always felt like he fell behind a bit.

You have successfully trolled Cheng Xiong for +311 +311 +311...

"Impudent!" The emperor in the mirror opened his eyes. His dignified gaze landed on Zu An. He was clearly unhappy with hearing the empress being used in an analogy.

Only now did Zu An realize that there was an empress in this world. He was already used to using these phrases in his past world.

Fortunately, the emperor didn't argue with him over this point. His eyes were like burning torches as he looked at Zu An. "I do not recall your soul being injured the last time you arrived at the imperial study."

The corners of Cheng Xiong's mouths were already about to reach his ears. Now that even his majesty said this, everything was already settled. All he had to do now was watch a good show.

Zu An's mind sunk. He quickly explained, "Back then, I didn't realize that I was injured. Only after I left the imperial study did my soul injuries erupt."

The emperor frowned. Grandmasters indeed had such methods.

Cheng Xiong sneered. "Sir Eleven, these lies are meaningless. With his majesty's cultivation, he can easily tell whether your soul is injured or not from a single glance."

Then, he bowed towards the emperor. "Your majesty, please preside over this manner!"

The emperor nodded. His sharp eyes stared at Zu An. Two faint streaks of golden light surrounded Zu An as if they were tangible. He wasn't given the slightest chance to retaliate.

Let's see how you make it out of this one! Cheng Xiong felt incredible right now. This fella was just way too hard to deal with. He tried different things again and again, yet he failed to make any progress several times. Fortunately, they had such a powerful emperor. No one could deceive him.

Zu An had a strange look on his face. This really was a coincidence. He just used Keyboard Come, which caused him to suffer a soul injury, and he even used the Five Aggregates Root to treat himself. Now, this was exactly what he was being tested on. He almost had a feeling like he was taking an open-book exam!

The emperor gave him a look and then calmly said, "His soul is indeed injured, and there are traces of the Five Aggregates Root's aura."

"What?!" Cheng Xiong's smile immediately froze.

How could this be?!

He quickly said, "Is there a mistake..."

But the emperor immediately cut him off before he even finished his sentence. "Are you doubting my judgment?"

Cheng Xiong was covered in cold sweat. "This subject doesn't dare! But when the assassins invaded, the palace gate guards reported two golden token envoy leaving. However, my investigation showed that there couldn't have been any other golden token envoys apart from Sir Eleven. This means that he definitely used his uniform to secretly send out an assassin! We will find out the truth if we investigate his uniforms."

"Oh?" The emperor looked at Zu An again.

Zu An was alarmed. Even though he used Keyboard Come to make a uniform out of thin air, some time had already passed. That uniform already disappeared.

The effects of Keyboard Come were only temporary and would disappear after a while. Otherwise, couldn't he just brag that he was number one in the world and that his soul was invincible? That would mean that his soul wouldn't take any damage.

A quiet voice sounded at this time. "There is no need for further investigation. I looked into it myself. Sir Eleven's uniform was complete, and there were no signs of being worn by anyone else." Zhuxie Chixin walked in. His long and narrow eyes gave Cheng Xiong a look.

Cheng Xiong began to panic. "Your majesty, the Embroidered Envoy might be shielding each other..."

Zhuxie Chixin's expression sunk. "Please watch what you say, General Cheng. When have I ever shielded a subordinate in all these years? It is instead a certain someone who loves to frame others."

"Enough, do not discuss this matter further. Do not fight amongst yourselves in private and focus on your investigations. Zhuxie Chixin, stay behind. Everyone else can leave." The emperor said coldly, and then he closed his eyes. He didn't look like he had any interest in speaking more.

"Understood!" Cheng Xiong didn't dare to say anything else. He quickly withdrew.

Zu An gave Zhuxie Chixin a grateful look, and then he left as well. He didn't dare to say anything while inside, but once they were outside, he said, "General Cheng, why have you targeted me again and again? I wonder how I offended you?"

Cheng Xiong said indifferently, "I do not know what Sir Eleven is saying. This general never acts based on grudges and always acts impartially."

Zu An had to admire this guy's shamelessness. He obviously didn't keep him here to discuss reason with him, but to collect Rage points. "I really appreciate how even though the general clearly hates me, there's nothing you can do but appear helpless, ha ha ha."

He strutted off after saying this.

Cheng Xiong was left standing there by himself. His face began to twist, smoke rising from the top of his head.

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

Cheng Xiong's trusted aides quietly walked over. "General, why do we keep going after him? He is a golden token envoy after all and not that easy to deal with.

A golden token envoy alone was already hard enough to deal with, and this one even had Zhuxie Chixin backing him. They felt like Cheng Xiong really did make a miscalculation this time.

Cheng Xiong snorted and said, "You all know nothing! His majesty has wanted to take out King Qi's faction for a while now, and this assassination is the best reason to do so. He clearly plans to remove me first. I need to strike first and find a scapegoat to get through this ordeal."

Whether or not he found out the truth of this matter actually didn't matter at all. What was important was that he had to find someone to shoulder the blame.

Golden Token Eleven looked like the most suitable candidate. He had enough status, and his foundation wasn't firm enough yet. Furthermore, this fella's relationship with the assassins was suspicious to begin with. He was the perfect scapegoat!

Zu An was just about to return to his big sis sect master after leaving the imperial study and discuss Cheng Xiong's matter together, but a servant girl suddenly approached him. "Sir Eleven, my master invites you for a meeting."

"Who is your master?" Zu An was curious. Who else did he know among the harem chambers?"

That maid didn't reply. "Sir Eleven will know once you arrive."

Chapter 646: Flower Tea

Zu An frowned. His first reaction was if Cheng Xiong set up another trap for him.

But he quickly realized that Cheng Xiong went all out in front of the emperor. There was no way he would launch another attack so quickly.

"Please lead the way, pretty sis." He was curious, so he decided to just see where this went.

The palace maid blushed when she heard him call her pretty sis. She had never been addressed this way before! This Embroidered Envoy didn't seem as scary as his colleagues and instead seemed a lot more friendly.

She quickly brought him to a secluded palace. There were all types of beautiful flowers inside. It was a delightful scene.

Zu An was quite shocked. These flowers were clearly not native to this place. There were some flowers around his own courtyard too, but they were far inferior to the flowers here.

These flowers had definitely been meticulously planted by someone. Thus, he asked the maid with a smile, "This pretty sis has a delicate touch, you grew so many pretty flowers."

That maid's face blushed. "These were planted by her highness."

"Her highness?" Zu An was alarmed. This was definitely not the Palace of Peace, so which highness was this?"

"Is Sir Eleven someone fond of flowers?" A gentle voice sounded.

Zu An raised his head. He saw a beautiful silhouette standing within some flower clusters nearby. She held a pair of shears in hand and was currently trimming the branches and leaves. The maid bowed before slowly withdrawing.

"Greetings, Concubine Bai." Zu An immediately recognized her. She showed him favor when he first entered the palace. This gentle and graceful woman had left him with a deep impression then.

Back then, she wasn't even willing to speak too much to another man. Why did she specially ask for him today then?

Concubine Bai handed the shears to the maid beside her. She wiped her hands on the moist towel that was brought over. Then, she looked at Zu An and said, "Sir Eleven is too courteous."

She was a gentle person to begin with, and she was even more finely spoken. This made others who faced her feel a natural feeling of tenderness towards her. That dumb crown prince really was quite lucky to have such a graceful flower of a concubine on top of his stunning wife, the crown princess.

"I heard Sir Eleven praise these flowers in the courtyard. It looks like sir is someone who also appreciates flowers." Concubine Bai's expression became more and more gentle, as if she met a kindred spirit.

"I am indeed fond of flowers as well." But inwardly, Zu An added, but the flowers I like are women like you.

He subconsciously looked around. He didn't see any ambushes waiting.

It wasn't his fault for being overly suspicious. He really was scared quite badly from all the events that popped up these past few days. What if this woman was in cahoots with Cheng Xiong, and then he jumped out to frame him of harassing her?

"I wonder what Concubine Bai has brought me here for today?" Zu An asked carefully. Pretty girls were pretty, but it would be really bad if he let it affect his decision.

Concubine Bai revealed a faint laugh. "You saved the crown prince and princess earlier. I haven't had a chance to thank you for that yet, so I invited you here today."

Zu An was stunned. He didn't expect it to be this reason. However, as the crown prince's concubine, it was normal for her to want to thank him.

He cupped his hands. "That's my duty. I do not dare claim credit for it."

Concubine Bai said, "The crown princess has already awarded you today, if I do not do the same, others might feel that I do not care about the crown prince's safety. Could it be that Sir Eleven wants to place me in such a difficult spot?"

Those eyes swirled like sparkling gems.

Zu An praised her for being formidable inside. This woman already gave birth to a child, yet look at how lovely she still looks.

He quickly replied, "This subordinate does not dare."

Concubine Bai continued, "Could it be that Sir Eleven feels that my gifts cannot compare to the crown princess'? But that makes sense, as a concubine like me does not have much to offer."

Zu An knew that she was only saying this on the surface, but he was still moved by her words. He thought to himself, there were no women who were easy to deal with in the palace.

"Concubine Bai speaks too seriously. This subordinate is extremely grateful."

Concubine Bai nodded in satisfaction. She had the maids and eunuchs who were holding pearls and jewels wait on the side first.

She slowly sat down on the gazebo nearby, and then she poured a cup of tea while gesturing for him to have a seat. "Sir Eleven, please have a seat."

Zu An was stunned. Sitting this close is not good, right?

Concubine Bai continued, "I can't help but feel that some gifts alone make me seem too cold, that it won't be able to fully express my gratitude for saving the crown prince's life. That is why I wanted to invite sir for a cup of flower tea. Even though it isn't anything precious, it is a rare experience."

Zu An replied, "Concubine Bai is too polite. If this kind of tea isn't precious, then what is precious in this world?"

He sat down across from her under the gazebo as well. This was a place with an open view all around them, and there were maids and eunuchs standing around them as well, so there shouldn't be any misunderstandings.

From how she invited him to some tea, he could tell that this was most likely to express her good faith.

A gentle smile flashed past Concubine Bai's eyes, one that made one unknowingly calm down. "Sir Eleven, please."

While she was pouring tea, she brought out a white bowl. It was an exquisite white like that of milk. Perhaps it was because it hadn't been long since she had a child, but her movements made her chest look even a bit larger.

Zu An didn't dare look in that direction. He stared at the tea in front of him.

Unlike the green or brown colored teas he was used to, the tea in his cup had a rose tinge. When paired with this emerald green porcelain cup, it really was a pleasing sight.

He released a sincere sigh. "This tea is just like Concubine Bai, even the white jade and pearls pale in comparison. Not even the first budding of roses is as beautiful."

But Zu An felt regret the moment these words came out of his mouth. He was so used to flirting with girls that he forgot this was the imperial palace! Her status was special, and these words really were inappropriate.

Sure enough, Concubine Bai's expression changed slightly and she adjusted her seating a bit when she heard this, as if she was trying to widen the distance. However, she noticed the clear expression in the other party's eyes, that he wasn't the lecher she imagined. She sighed in relief and knew that this was heartfelt praise.

A light blush flashed past Concubine Bai's face, just like the tea in the cup. "Sir Eleven is too kind with your praise."

Zu An chuckled awkwardly. Now wasn't a good time for him to say anything else, so he could only sip on the tea. When he picked up the teacup, he immediately smelled a special fragrance. It was different from the smell of any cosmetics, but rather a fresh and clean aroma. "What an incredible aroma!"

Concubine Bai smiled and said, "This tea combines the fragrance of many flowers, so it carries their aromas. I've spent a long time researching how to prevent the fragrance from being too strong."

"Concubine Bai is elegant and refined as expected." Zu An said in praise. He was worried at first, thinking that the tea might be poisonous, but he could feel the aroma filling his mouth with just a small sip. He couldn't help but drink a bit more.

Either way, Concubine Bai wouldn't dare to publicly assassinate a golden token envoy, right? If it's an aphrodisiac... Um... I guess I have the most powerful aphrodisiacs on me. This tea doesn't taste anything like that familiar feeling.

Concubine Bai looked pleased when she saw him take a few more sips. After all, everyone loved to receive the acknowledgement of others.

However, she suddenly remembered that the other party compared the tea to her. If he keeps drinking it, doesn't that mean...

Her heartbeat quickened. She quickly changed the topic. "I heard that there was a grandmaster among the assassins this time?"

Zu An lowered his teacup. "Indeed, and it was even a woman."

This was public knowledge, so there was no need to hide it.

A hint of admiration flashed past Concubine Bai's eyes. "It is quite admirable that Sir Eleven was able to protect the crown prince despite facing a grandmaster."

Zu An's face heated up. "To be honest, I wouldn't even be able to take a single one of her blows. The one who defeated her was his majesty."

Concubine Bai smiled. "Sir Eleven is too humble. Surviving a grandmaster's sword unscathed is still something worth being proud of. Furthermore, I heard from the maids that it was because Sir Eleven fought valiantly that you were able to fend the enemies off until his majesty arrived. That is why you are still the official with the most outstanding service."

"Concubine Bai overpraises." Zu An was even starting to become swept along a bit. This woman was pretty, her voice was soothing, and everything she said made him feel good. It really was hard for his mind to not wander.

"By the way, I heard that the female assassin was wounded, but she escaped. Have you captured her yet? What if she is hiding somewhere inside the palace? I fear that people like us will be in danger." Concubine Bai said with worry. "I'm not too important, but I cannot continue living if something happens to the imperial grandchild."

Chapter 647: Government Courtesan Queen

When he saw Concubine Bai look like she was almost worried to tears, Zu An felt like any man's heart would melt in his situation.

Isn't this girl showing green tea bitch flags? But guys really do fall for this stuff huh...

He quickly consoled her, "Concubine Bai, do not worry. Even though that female assassin has not been captured, his majesty has already wounded her seriously. Even if she isn't dead, she is already crippled badly. How could she still stir up trouble in her situation?"

"His majesty is indeed number one after all." Concubine Bai muttered to herself, her expression in a bit of a daze.

Zu An continued, "Furthermore, Sir Zhuxie has already launched a full force investigation for her arrest. That female assassin is busy hiding herself. How can she dare stir up trouble in the palace?"

Either way, big sis sect master couldn't hear him right now anyway. It was probably okay to say these things.

Concubine Bai smiled and said, "Thank you Sir Eleven for consoling me. I feel much better now."

The sound of an infant crying sounded at this time. Concubine Bai quickly got up. "I apologize, but the imperial grandson might be hungry. I'm going to take a look."

Zu An subconsciously glanced at her large breasts. Aren't there specialized wet nurses in the palace? Why does the concubine need to feed him herself?

Concubine Bai's face reddened when she noticed his expression. There was also a bit of bashfulness.

"Then I will take my leave now too." Zu An quickly got up.

Concubine Bai said, "I will have the maids and eunuchs deliver these goods to your courtyard." After saying this, her beautiful figure quickly left.

Then, the maid who brought him here led a group of eunuchs carrying several chests to Zu An's residence.

"What is pretty sis' name?" Zu An gave this delicate and pretty maid a look. He didn't actually have any thoughts about her, but subconsciously wanted to get closer to the subordinates who worked under important people.

Important figures might have to appear virtuous and prestigious, but that wasn't the case for servants like them after all. Having these people on his side would be extremely useful.

"My name is Xin Rui, Sir Eleven." The maid replied bashfully.

"It's a good name." Zu An smiled. "You share your master's temperament. No wonder Concubine Bai trusts you."

Concubine Bai loves flowers after all, even her servant's surname was related to a flower.[1]

Xin Rui replied with a quiet voice, "I do not dare to be compared with my master."

Zu An fully exercised his smooth talk skills he obtained from his past world along the way. Xin Rui was left shaken.

He learned quite a bit about Concubine Bai along the way as well. She does not normally reside in the eastern palace, and she doesn't seem to be that familiar with the crown prince's side. She only resided in her private residence in the palace. Her favourite pastime is raising all types of plants and flowers.

Regardless of whether it was the crown prince or the crown princess, neither of them visits her, and she rarely visits the two of them as well. They seem to live completely independently.

Isn't this crown prince a willing cuckold then?

Zu An began to think to himself. How can a stunning and elegant woman like Concubine Bai favor an idiot fatty like the crown prince? But other than the crown prince, who else could it be?

Is it really the emperor himself?

Sigh, I don't have enough information at all, it's hard to say...

Xin Rui left with everyone after leaving the chests behind. Only after Zu An closed the door, did Yun Jianyue appear from her room and say with a cold expression, "You really are a playboy. You won't even let a maid go."

Zu An's flirting with Xin Rui clearly didn't escape her ears.

"You understand nothing. Danger lurks on every side in this palace, so I obviously need to be careful! I need to do my best to get more people on my side." Zu An harrumphed and didn't want to pay her any more attention.

Yun Jianyue understood this reasoning as well, so she didn't argue any more about this subject. She gave the contents of the chests a look and voiced her surprise. "You really do have luck with women. The crown princess and Concubine Bai are both so eager to send you gifts."

"That's merely because my identity is special." Zu An said, "Oh, by the way, I need to make a trip outside the palace. I cannot let Cheng Xiong continue to act against me like this. I need to retaliate as well."

"Alright." Yun Jianyue nodded and didn't say much else. She returned to the silk band and closed her eyes.

Zu An was speechless. This girl really was getting a bit too immersed in the Xiaolongnu act.

...

Zu An ran into an Embroidered Envoy as soon as he walked out. "Sir Eleven, this is the information Chief Commander Zhuxie ordered for me to deliver."

Zu An received it and took a look. This was a report on Cheng Xiong. He was shocked. "All of this was put together this quickly?"

Only half a day had passed since he spoke with Zhuxie Chixin!

That Embroidered Envoy said with a smile, "The Embroidery House carries detailed information on every official, we've only had to compile some available information so far. Sir, please take your time looking through it. This subordinate will withdraw first."

“Thanks!” Zu An now realized that the Embroidered Envoy were the intelligence force the emperor used to monitor all the officials. It was completely natural for them to have these resources at their disposal.

He began to read through the information carefully.

This Cheng Xiong came from a poor upbringing and climbed up the ranks on the battlefield. Later on he obtained the appreciation of Defense General Qin Se, which granted him rapid promotions. Eventually, he became the Left Guard General, as well as an important member of King Qi’s faction.

Zu An felt a headache when he saw the name Qin Se. He didn’t expect to run into Chuyan’s second grandfather at the end of all of this.

As he continued to read, his brows gradually furrowed.

Once Cheng Xiong established himself from his peers, he completely forgot about his humble upbringing and instead engaged even more eagerly in corruption and abuse of the law.

There were many instances recorded in the Embroidered Envoy’s information where he forcefully seized the property and assets of common people. Once, it was because he wanted another man’s wife that he manipulated that clan’s head until they became bankrupt and homeless. Then, he successfully obtained that man’s wife.

His son Cheng Gang was also an infamous good-for-nothin’ in the capital. There were quite a few instances of him oppressing the people.

Zu An’s eyelids jumped as he read through the information. After some time, he sighed. “Absolute filth!”

But there was one small line of red text at the very bottom. The handwriting was gentle and reserved, giving off a type of awe-inspiring feeling. He could tell right away that this was Zhuxie Chixin’s handwriting.

He wrote that these crimes are not enough to take down a high ranking Left Guard General, so he hopes Zu An does not act rashly.

Zu An frowned and quickly realized that these tyrannical actions were common among these aristocrats and high officials. It was just like how the people of his age would often visit whorehouses and government brothels, these were all common practices. No one would feel that it was strange.

In the eyes of the emperor and court officials, these were all harmless things. At most, they would reprimand Cheng Xiong. It wasn’t enough to remove him from his position.

Zu An felt incredibly frustrated. This world’s people might be used to it, but as a transmigrator, a citizen of the past world, there was no way he would share their views.

As for these commoners who became ruined and destitute, in the eyes of the nobility, it wasn’t a big deal at all. This type of wronged feeling was hard to swallow.

Zu An suddenly noticed something else. It was mentioned that Cheng Gang recently became enamored by a courtesan queen in the government brothel.

Unlike the Immortal Abode of Brightmoon City, the government brothel was run by the state. The women inside were all the females of ruined officials or prisoners of war. Of course, there were some people who were roped in through normal channels, for example, a family who was too poor and had to sell off their young girl...

In general, the quality of girls in these government brothels was higher than that of civilian run ones.

The famous courtesans of history, like Dong Xiaowan, Li Xiangjun, Bian Yujun and Chen Yuanyuan all came from these types of places.

In a place like Brightmoon City, Immortal Abode was already one of the greatest brothels. However, in the capital, the best whorehouse would always be this government brothel.

"Government brothel..." Zu An had an idea. The information here stated that Cheng Gang was making a visit tonight.

...

When he left the palace, Zu An originally planned to visit Chu Chuyan and clear up the misunderstanding from this morning. After all, she was definitely not happy about yesterday's matters.

But after thinking about it, important business came first. Furthermore, she was probably still angry, so he should give it some time for her anger to cool off first.

Zu An arrived at the government brothel at nightfall. There were no girls leaning over the balcony and calling out to ordinary men like in ordinary brothels.

After all, this was a government run facility. Everyone had their pride.

The worker at the entrance noticed that his demeanor wasn't bad and was dressed properly. He quickly smiled and greeted him. "Young master, is there anyone you are interested in?"

"I've admired Lady Shuangyue's grace for quite some time. She is the reason for my visit today." Zu An replied. Lady Shuangyue was precisely the courtesan queen Cheng Gang was interested in.

He felt like this name was familiar as soon as he said it. Where did he hear this name before?

That worker's expression immediately changed. "I'm sorry, young master. Shuangyue's courtyard has been reserved by someone else today. She won't be taking any other customers."

Chapter 648: Completely Played

The government whorehouse wasn't a single building, but rather several courtyards. Ordinary girls would do business together, but every courtesan queen had their own private place.

The government brothel had more than one courtesan queen. As such, it was easy to imagine how large this place was.

"It's been reserved?" Zu An frowned. He didn't expect to run into something like this.

He tossed the worker a silver coin. "Help me think of something. It wasn't easy for me to make this trip."

He wanted to investigate Cheng Gang and that courtesan queen to see if he could get any useful information, but what was going on here?

The worker's eyes lit up when he saw the silver coin. He immediately showed Zu An a huge smile. "Young master, please come inside first. Let me see if Lady Shuangyue can make any accommodations."

He was brought inside and taken through several turns. Eventually, they arrived at a small courtyard. This place was quite refined and didn't have too much feminine qualities. It didn't feel like one came to a brothel, but rather a young lady's chambers.

Zu An was given some tea and asked to wait in the courtyard. That worker quickly went inside to give a report.

Shuangyue was currently dressing and grooming herself in front of a mirror, reclining to her side was a woman. Her seductive figure and charming expression were enough to even move the hearts of other women.

"Shuangyue, you're growing prettier and prettier." The girl who was lying down said with a smile. Her voice was so soothing it could melt bones.

The courtesan queen who sat in front of the mirror rolled her eyes. "Miss, can you stop making fun of me? How can my looks even compare to yours? These men in the capital haven't seen much. If they visited Brightmoon City and met you, would they even touch a courtesan queen like me?"

The girl who was lying down said with a smile, "Come on, you don't need to bring yourself down like that. There are areas where I am inferior to you, like how you are a catwoman. This is something many men cannot resist at all."

The courtesan queen was startled. "Ah, you're making fun of me!"

While the two of them were chatting, a knocking sounded from outside. The worker brought in a message. "Lady, there is a young master outside who wishes to meet you."

The courtesan queen's expression sunk. "Are you stupid? I've already been reserved by Young Master Cheng for the whole night, yet you still dare bring someone in? Did that man bribe you?"

"I do not dare! I will immediately reject that young master." The worker immediately apologized. He quickly left after saying this.

The girl who was lying down got up. She stretched her body lazily, accentuating her stunning curves. "See? There are so many men who are chasing after you. Isn't your charm apparent?"

The courtesan queen scoffed. "They're all some ugly guys."

"Alright, alright, I won't tease you anymore." That woman put away her smile. "By the way, that Cheng Gang seems to have invited some important people today. They should all be from King Qi's faction if I am not mistaken. You must carefully observe what they are discussing."

The flower courtesan voiced her acknowledgment. "I've already fully obtained his trust from these past few days. He won't disappoint."

"That's good. I'm going out for some fresh air first." The girl who was lying down stood up.

The flower courtesan smiled. "Please be careful. If the ugly men of this place see you, they'll go crazy."

"You're getting more and more brave. You're even teasing me now." That girl harrumphed and left through the side door.

Zu An couldn't help but frown when he heard the worker's response.

That worker said, "How about I introduce another flower courtesan to the young master? I promise that she won't be worse than Lady Shuangyue."

He didn't dare offend someone this liberal with money. Furthermore, he already took his money, so he had to take care of him well.

"There's no need." Zu An shook his head. He wondered if he should just sneak in later? Either way, he could control the small creatures in the vicinity. As long as it wasn't too far, he should be able to hear what Cheng Gang and this flower courtesan talked about.

He subconsciously gave the second floor where the courtesan queen was a look. He just happened to see a beautiful figure walk out.

That figure was originally unhappy to see a boorish man look at her, but she immediately smiled brilliantly when she saw who it was.

Zu An also smiled. He said to the worker, "You should go and do what you need to. I'll leave after sitting here for a bit longer."

That worker thought that Zu An was reluctant to part with Shuangyue and wanted to sit here to admire the other party. He sneered inside, but on the outside, he showed a flattering smile. "Then please feel at ease, young master."

He quickly left after saying this out of fear that this man will ask for that silver ingot back.

That figure already arrived at Zu An's side after a fragrant breeze. "Why did you come here?"

Zu An also had a weird look on his face. "What are you doing here? Don't tell me that courtesan queen is you?"

The beautiful woman was naturally Qiu Honglei. She seemed even more stunning under the brothel's lanterns.

But for some reason, Zu An felt extremely unhappy inside.

"You jealous?" Qiu Honglei was a clever girl. She immediately knew what he was thinking and teased with a smile.

Zu An harrumphed. "I heard that the courtesan queen has a good relationship with Cheng clan's young master. Did I come at a bad time?"

Qiu Honglei grabbed his arm. "Don't worry, that courtesan queen isn't me."

Zu An felt his body soften from being embraced. All of his irritation disappeared as well.

Qiu Honglei's eyes suddenly moved around. "Were you the one who bribed that worker just now?"

Zu An's smile froze. He suddenly felt like his reputation was done for. He coughed and said, "Of course not. Am I the type who would spend money to meet with a courtesan queen?"

Qiu Honglei giggled and didn't bother exposing him. She pulled him towards the brothel. "It's easy if you want to meet the courtesan queen. I'll just bring you over."

Zu An was stunned. "You know her?"

"Not only do I know her, you do too." Qiu Honglei said with a laugh.

Zu An was confused. When he entered the room, he saw a familiar figure.

"Miss, why did you come back so... Huh? Young Master Zu?" That courtesan queen was completely shocked.

Zu An's eyelids jumped. "So you were Lady Leng."

This courtesan queen was precisely Qiu Honglei's maid in Immortal Abode, the catwoman Leng Shuangyue!

Ah, what the heck... If I knew that, I wouldn't have spent all that silver.

Leng Shuangyue smiled. "Young master still remembers my name."

Zu An asked with curiosity, "Why are you guys here?"

Leng Shuangyue wanted to say something, but hesitated. She subconsciously looked to Qiu Honglei. Qiu Honglei said, "It's fine, he's one of us. This is precisely our Holy Sect's capital city branch!"

Leng Shuangyue was stunned. She thought to herself that the saintess really trusted this man. She even told him such a high level secret!

Zu An had a strange look on his face. "You guys managed to reach all the way into the government brothel? You guys are quite formidable!"

The government brothel was different from a normal one. This was a facility run by the state, and every girl's identity was documented and their background researched, yet the Devil Sect managed to seep their influence all the way here! This was quite a difficult task.

Qiu Honglei sneered. "As long as there are men involved, there is nothing we cannot deal with."

Zu An thus remembered how powerful the seduction she cultivated was. There were likely other girls who excelled in this field. Normal men wouldn't be able to withstand something like that at all.

"But isn't a place like the government brothel a bit too foul? Aren't your Holy Sect's people making too great of a sacrifice?" Zu An said with a frown.

Qiu Honglei had him sit down on a chair to the side. "I know what you are worried about, but our sect has a special department who specializes in this field. The method they cultivate is special, and mingling between the sexes is actually beneficial towards their cultivation."

Zu An subconsciously glanced at the catwoman. Is this the so-called sexual arts?

Qiu Honglei said in annoyance, "What are you looking at her like that for? She's not sleeping with any guests and is still a virgin! If you like her, I can have her take care of you though."

"Miss!" The catwoman stomped her feet. She was clearly embarrassed and distressed.

Zu An was curious. "Then is Cheng Gang an idiot? I heard that he was quite ensnared with her. Did he not get any benefits at all?"

Qiu Honglei explained, "Our sect's charm technique can place one in an illusion. Even though Shuangyue hasn't reached that level yet, she can make Cheng Gang enter an illusion with the help of some medicines and... alleviate himself."

Zu An now understood what was happening. So that Cheng Gang was being completely played here!

A servant girl knocked on the door and reported, "Miss, Young Master Cheng's group has arrived."

Chapter 649: Don't Touch Me

Leng Shuangyue bowed towards the two of them. "Miss, young master, I need to go out for a bit."

Qiu Honglei waved her hand. "You should go. Take care of them well."

Leng Shuangyue voiced her acknowledgement and slowly left. She closed the door behind her.

Qiu Honglei smiled. "Look at how your eyes are glued to her. If you want her, then I can give her to you. I'm being serious."

Zu An blushed. "What do you mean? I was just preoccupied with some thoughts just now."

Qiu Honglei turned around and sat in his embrace. She hooked her hands around his neck. "It's not like I mind. Either way, I can't service you, so isn't it all the same if I have one of my girls take care of you?"

After what they did in his room, the last barrier between them had been completely shattered. That was why she didn't hold back at all before her lover. She sat intimately in his embrace.

Zu An stiffened up when he felt the soft feeling of her bottom. Qiu Honglei's cheeks blushed. Her misty eyes looked at him. "Naughty."

Zu An gulped. "You shouldn't play with fire like this. You know you can't give yourself to me, yet you're still doing this type of thing."

Qiu Honglei giggled. "Even if a fire starts, so what? Did you forget that this is a government brothel? We can just find some girls to help appease your fire."

This woman!

Zu An groaned. He remembered his objective and used up a lot of willpower to push her away. "Let me see what kind of person this Cheng Gang is for myself."

“Scaredy cat.” Qiu Honglei said this on the surface, but inside, her heart was pounding. If Zu An was playing with fire, then what about her?

Zu An could have other girls help him, but what could she do?

She stuck out her tongue at him. Meanwhile, she told herself that she really couldn’t be doing this type of stuff in the future.

Zu An arrived by the window and opened it a crack to take a look at the situation below.

He saw a stout young man with a thick neck in the lead. As if trying to pose as a culture lover, he wore a blue vest that was popular among the capital’s young masters. He wanted to look scholarly and refined, but because of his built, it didn’t suit him at all.

“That’s Cheng Gang. It’s obvious that he’s a coarse muscle head, yet he still wants to look like a scholar.” Qiu Honglei arrived at his side and introduced him. Her voice was full of disdain.

Zu An’s expression was a bit strange. It wasn’t that girls didn’t like muscular guys, they just didn’t like ugly guys. There was actually a term girls on the internet liked to call this type of men: shrimp men. Only after cutting off the head can you eat them.

“Hm? So the one he invited this time was the Qin clan’s young master.” Qiu Honglei was surprised when she saw the people behind him. “The two in the back with thick brows and big eyes are the State Duke of Triumph’s grandson Qin Guangyuan, while the one with more delicate features is State Duke of Prestige’s grandson Qin Yongde.”

The State Duke of Triumph is Chu Chuyan’s grandfather Qin Zheng, while the State Duke of Prestige is Chu Chuyan’s second grandfather Qin Se.

He had to admit that the Qin clan had good genes. Their attractiveness indexes were all pretty high. Cheng Gang looked like a servant next to the two of them.

This was understandable as well. Qin Zheng and Qin Se weren’t bad looking, and with their high status, they were able to marry beautiful women. This continued for their children, and since they were handsome and beautiful, the chances of giving birth to an ugly child was low.

“Hm? There’s someone you recognize.” Qiu Honglei had a weird look on her face. She nudged Zu An with her elbow. “Your little brother-in-law came too. Should I have my girls take good care of him?”

Zu An’s eyes widened too. He looked at the petite figure in the very back. This really was an attractive kid. Qin Yongde was quite handsome already, but compared to her, he was far off.

Why did that kid run all the way here? Zu An felt a headache. Did you forget that you’re a crossdresser? Coming to this type of place is completely courting death! He quickly replied when he heard Qiu Honglei’s teasing, “There’s no need, just treat him like how you normally do so they don’t find anything off.”

“Young Master Qin, Young Master Chu, this way please.” Cheng Gang’s boorish voice sounded. He made it sound as if he was the master here and he was enthusiastically inviting them over.

Shangyue also skillfully received these guests. She wanted to invite them inside, but the thick browed Qin Guangyuan stopped her. "Let's stay here in the courtyard."

Shuangyue was stunned, but she quickly reacted. "Sure!" She ordered the maids to bring some drinks and fruits out from inside.

Qiu Honglei commented, "I believe they are discussing something classified and are scared of outsiders listening in. That is why they chose a more spacious place."

Zu An nodded. This was what he thought as well.

Cheng Gang laughed and said, "Shuangyue, these are all formidable young masters. However, the star of tonight is young master Chu. This is the first time he has been to this type of place, so it's enough if you take good care of him."

Chu Youzhao blushed, but she quickly returned to normal. "It's fine, I'm okay by myself."

The handsome Qin Yongde chuckled and patted her shoulder. "Youzhao is still a bit shy. We're all men, aren't we? You'll get used to it once we come here more often. This Lady Shuangyue is quite a beauty. She's an excellent choice for your first time."

Chu Youzhao evaded his hand in a tactful manner, but she was hard-pressed inside. I wouldn't have come with them to this place if I knew it was going to be like this! Sigh, it's so tiring pretending to be a guy... There's even all of these stupid things to worry about.

Shuangyue said with a smile, "Young Master Chu really is dashing."

She naturally knew Chu Youzhao's relationship with Brightmoon City's Chu clan. She thought to herself that since he was Zu An's brother-in-law, she really should treat him well.

The others teased, "Even Shuangyue seems to have been charmed by our Brother Youzhao, haha."

Qin Yongde also smiled. "Even Murong clan's first miss has been completely captivated by him, let alone a brothel girl."

Qin Guangyuan frowned slightly. "Second brother, please speak cautiously."

Qin Yongde also realized that comparing Murong clan's first miss with a brothel girl wasn't too suitable. "That was not too good of me. I'll drink three cups as a punishment."

Their group began to drink cheerfully soon afterwards, with each of them having two girls to keep them company. Meanwhile, Chu Youzhao had Shuangyue at her side.

As he watched the Qin brothers and Cheng Gang take advantage of the girls at their side, Zu An felt like he returned to his past world's club scene.

Uh... As a highly experienced keyboard warrior, he obviously never went to those places before. He only heard about them online.

While these fellas were like fish back in water, Chu Youzhao was sitting restlessly. She continued to move to the side and gave that pretty flower courtesan a vigilant look. "Don't touch me."

Shangyue giggled. "Why must Young Master Chu be so nervous? I won't eat you."

Chu Youzhao frowned. These women from brothels really had no sense of shame. However, she couldn't express that right now and could only say, "I'm not used to physical contact with others."

"No problem, then I will sit a bit further away." Shuangyue didn't suspect anything. She had met all types of men in this place with many who were even more strange. "Since this is the young master's first time, this humble one will pour a glass to honor you."

Chu Youzhao bit her lip. She felt extremely humiliated when she saw what the others were doing around her. She didn't refuse the drink, because she needed something to divert her attention.

Shuangyue beamed when she saw that Chu Youzhao was willing to drink. She quickly poured her one glass after another. As the flower courtesan of a government brothel, she was full of tricks to get her clients to drink, so how could the inexperienced Chu Youzhao be a match? She still unknowingly drank a lot even when she had the intent to refuse.

Inside the building, Qiu Honglei smiled. "Your little brother-in-law is quite a gentleman. It's just that he is a bit too feminine."

Zu An rolled his eyes. Is this girl stupid? It's one thing if you come to a brothel, but you're going to drink that much too? Are you not scared that you'll black out here and expose your identity?

A while later, Cheng Gang said with a cough, "Lady Shuangyue, we have something we need to discuss among ourselves."

Leng Shuangyue got up and bowed. "If there is anything sirs need, please let this humble one know." Then, she slowly left with the other girls.

Zu An's face lit up. "They're starting!"

This wait really was quite hard to endure. He had to watch them play around while he couldn't do anything himself.

Qiu Honglei looked worried. "We might not be able to hear anything once they deliberately hide what they are saying."

Chapter 650: Sinister Undertaking

They deliberately chose to discuss in the spacious courtyard precisely because they were worried that there might be a secret eavesdropping room inside.

The building wasn't that far from the courtyard, and those with higher cultivation could still hear what they were saying. However, once Qin Guangyuan brought out a strange rock and put it on the table, the two of them inside discovered that they couldn't hear anything anymore.

"That's a soundproof stone produced by the Royal Academy. It can prevent sound from leaving a certain radius." Qiu Honglei was experienced and knowledgeable. She quickly explained.

“Royal Academy?” Zu An was stunned, but he quickly realized that this was probably the highest educational establishment in the Zhou Dynasty. It was just like the ancient times’ imperial college.

The most outstanding students from places like Brightmoon Academy would be brought to the capital’s Royal Academy to further their studies. Once they graduate from their studies there, they would immediately become officials.

In reality, any students who could enter this Royal Academy were already good enough to become officials. However, everyone wanted to make even greater achievements in the academy before they came out. After all, the greater your cultivation, the higher your starting point in your career. This would have a greater snowballing effect on your future prospects. That was why no one would choose to enter their official careers too early.

“I cannot hear what they are saying. What do we do? Should I have Shuangyue find a way to get closer?” Qiu Honglei was worried.

“There’s no need. I have a way.” Zu An closed his eyes and began to search for small creatures around the courtyard. Apart from small insects, there were mostly mice. However, mice would be easily killed once they got close.

As such, he eventually chose a fox flower cat and made it approach lazily.

Cats were so cute. These people won’t have a bad reaction, right?

Sure enough, they noticed the cat as soon as it approached. But when they saw that it was just a cat, they immediately sighed in relief and didn’t pay it any more attention.

“Why did Brother Cheng call us over today?” Qin Guangyuan sat upright and still. The feeling he gave off seemed extremely steady.

On the other side, Qin Yongde sat in a much more relaxed manner. He leaned lazily into his chair as if there were no bones in his body.

As for Chu Youzhao, her face was flushed red from intoxication, and her sight was a bit blurry. She looked extremely captivating.

Cheng Gang retracted his gaze with shock. He thought to himself that the Chu clan’s young master really was pretty. If he was from an ordinary clan, he might even bring him home to play around with a bit.

Even though he didn’t swing that way, he felt like he wouldn’t mind if that man was as pretty as Chu Youzhao.

He coughed lightly and put away those thoughts. “Everyone should already know that the assassins from the previous attack all admitted that they were sent by King Qi.”

“But we’re clearly being framed!” Chu Youzhao slammed the table. She became much more bold than usual after drinking.

Qin Yongde smiled indifferently. “If even we could tell that this is a setup, then how can his majesty not?”

Qin Guangyuan frowned. "What I fear is precisely that his majesty knows, yet pretends otherwise."

Qin Yongde's smile froze. Chu Youzhao also frowned. They clearly realized that the chances of this were high. Cheng Gang said, "Young master's sight is sharp as expected. This is what my father believes as well. His majesty might use this attack as an excuse to target those under King Qi's faction. My father's current situation is rather precarious and he cannot directly seek out the State Duke of Triumph and State Duke of Prestige, that is why they wish to exchange some thoughts through us."

Zu An nodded inwardly. So the reason they came all the way to the government brothel was to pull a wool over everyone else's eyes.

Qin Guangyuan asked, "Has your esteemed father found out where those assassins came from yet?"

Cheng Gang shook his head. "He does not. We only know that the assassins are led by a young, long-haired woman with grandmaster level cultivation."

"Young woman, grandmaster?" Chu Youzhao said with a high pitched voice. She was always annoyed at the fact that she wasn't born as a man. Otherwise, she would've been able to solve many of the Chu clan's problems.

But when she heard that this young woman was actually a grandmaster, how could she not feel admiration?

Qin Yongde said with a smile, "Youzhao, do not be deceived by outward appearances. Those with profound cultivation can preserve their youth. She might seem like a young woman in your eyes, but she is already an old granny."

Zu An had a weird look on his face. Tell that to Yun Jianyue's face if you have the guts. She'll smash your stupid head open.

Though... How old is big sis sect master really?

Chu Youzhao continued, "She looks like a long haired young woman, but she is a grandmaster. Shouldn't it be easy to find out her identity?"

Qin Guangyuan shook his head. "It's far from easy. Even though there aren't many grandmasters in this world, most of them live in seclusion and rarely come out. It is difficult for outsiders to know much about them."

Qin Yongde who was sitting lazily now stood up. "Even though normal people might not know, his majesty should be able to guess at who it is, right?"

Qin Guangyuan said with a bitter smile, "And we've now come full circle. His majesty might use this opportunity to attack King Qi's faction."

Cheng Gang voiced his agreement. "This is what my father thinks as well. He is the Left Guard General, as well as one of King Qi's important figures who controls the imperial palace army. He might be one of the people his majesty wants to get rid of the most. That is why my father has always been acting proactively and trying to redirect the attention to one of the Embroidered Envoy."

Zu An thought to himself, no wonder this mad dog keeps biting me! So he wanted to find a scapegoat for this matter.

“Embroidered Envoy?” Qin Guangyuan nodded. “I heard something about that.”

All of them worked in the palace, so there was no way they didn’t hear about it.

Cheng Gang said through gritted teeth, “Our plan was quite meticulous at first, but that Embroidered Envoy is quite tricky. He manages to avert disaster every time and he made my father’s plans go to waste. My father’s situation is becoming worse and worse.”

“He is a golden token envoy, it is to be expected that he is hard to deal with.” Qin Yongde’s tone was full of dissatisfaction. He felt like something was wrong with Cheng Xiong’s head. Why did he insist on choosing a freaking golden token envoy? Isn’t he courting disaster?

Cheng Gang said gloomily, “The reason why my father chose him is because he doesn’t have much of a foundation, and there are many points of suspicion to begin with. He might really have something to do with the assassins. That was why as my father got deeper and deeper into the investigation, it was already too hard to stop halfway. Now, he has already offended the Embroidered Envoy. If he cannot redirect the blame, then the Embroidered Envoy’s following retaliation will be brutal.”

Qin Guangyuan nodded. “Now that things are already like this, we can only choose him. Is there anything General Cheng wishes for us to convey to our grandfathers?”

Even though they were outstanding among their peers, these major affairs were still to be handled by their clan’s elders. They could only pass on the information.

“Of course.” Cheng Gang said. “I need the two State Dukes to look into Golden Token Eleven’s background and see if there are any openings to take advantage of.”

The Qin clan had great influence in the military, and they were also in charge of the selection of various officers. They were deeply involved in these matters. Only people like them could look into this matter.

Qin Guangyuan frowned. “The backgrounds of the Embroidered Envoy are all mysterious, let alone golden token envoys. Even though the Qin clan has many of our people in official positions, we might not be able to find out this information.”

Cheng Gang chuckled and said, “Even if you do not find anything, we can forge a crime of him colluding with the assassins. I believe that this isn’t anything too difficult for the two State Dukes.”

This wasn’t something Cheng Xiong could do in his current situation, so he had to ask others for help.

Qin Guangyuan frowned. He didn’t say anything.

Chu Youzhao couldn’t endure this. “Aren’t we harming an innocent person here?”

Cheng Gang sneered and didn’t say anything.

Qin Yongde used this chance to say, “Youzhao, remember. In the political circles, there is no such thing as innocent or guilty, only whether there are enough benefits. If we do not do this, then his majesty will use this chance to attack King Qi. Wouldn’t King Qi be the one who is wronged then?”

Chu Youzhao opened her mouth. However, even though she didn't approve of this, she couldn't find any reasons to retort.

Qin Guangyuan spoke up. "Leave this matter to our Qin clan. We must act quickly and decisively."

Cheng Gang smiled. "Young masters are clear spoken as expected. Let's have a toast to tonight!"

Now that they finished discussing official matters, the drinks continued. They called back Shuangyue and the other maids.

Zu An's face was gloomy. If he didn't happen to run into this talk, he would've been schemed against without any idea.

These capital old foxes, each more treacherous than the last.

After listening to his explanation, Qiu Honglei also became upset. "Aren't these people a bit too shameless?"

Zu An replied with a bitter smile, "The worst part is that they just got extremely lucky. What kind of luck is this?"

Qiu Honglei's expression also became strange, because Zu An really did collude with her group, the assassins.

Zu An thought for a bit, and then said, "I need you guys to help me with something..."

When she listened to what he had to say, Qiu Honglei's pretty brows furrowed deeply. "I'm willing to help you of course, but this is a huge matter that might bring the decades of work we put into this capital city station of ours to ruin. I cannot promise you this if the rest of the sect does not agree. That is why I need you to promise us something else."