

## Immortal 711

### Chapter 711: Devastated

The crown princess explained, "There are some maids inside, so I need you to help me knock them out." She definitely couldn't accomplish that with her cultivation.

"Why do you have to knock out your own maids?" Zu An asked, not understanding.

The crown princess said, "How can we let anyone else know after this sort of thing happened? I don't want to entrust my own safety to the hands of more people than necessary. Furthermore, I can't guarantee that these servants aren't spies planted by other people, so it's best if we knock them unconscious for now."

Zu An understood. This woman was naturally suited to a high position. She considered things from a different angle compared to ordinary people. However, he had to admit that her plan was more dependable than the alternative.

The crown princess looked through a hidden hole. "There are two maids chatting by the southeastern corner. There's a maid sorting out things to the west. There are two by the entrance."

Zu An curled his lips. She wasn't even inside the room, yet there were still so many maids standing guard. It was certainly fitting of her status as the crown princess. He moved over to take a look, memorizing where each of the maids were.

The crown princess backed up a bit. Her face was a bit red, but fortunately, it was too dark to tell. When Zu An had moved, he had touched her face by accident.

However, she quickly remembered that when Zhuxie Chixin found them, he had done more than just touch her face. The two of them had even kissed... Her face immediately became even more red, and her expression became conflicted too.

"Alright, I have an idea. How do you open the mechanism?" Zu An asked.

The crown princess came over. "When I count to three, you should charge in and restrain them. Don't give them any chance to alarm the guards outside."

"Okay." Zu An focused his attention. He listened to the crown princess' count. Once it reached three, light suddenly appeared above him. He immediately rushed in, and the maids turned around in confusion when they heard the noise. Unfortunately, a blur passed before their eyes and they fainted.

The two by the entrance began to run. Zu An decisively used Grandgale to instantly move behind them and knock them out, and their bodies fell back into the room.

The crown princess had crawled out from the secret passage by then. Zu An noticed that the secret passage was actually above the bed. Thinking about it, that made sense, as it would allow her to immediately escape if someone attempted to assassinate her while she was sleeping.

“Thank goodness that maid Rong Mo of yours wasn’t here, or else it wouldn’t have been so easy.” Zu An sighed in relief.

The crown princess replied, “She went with me to the Hundred Flower Palace. She was waiting outside back then, and is probably looking for me right now. That’s why she isn’t here.”

Zu An nodded. Something so big had happened to the crown princess. It would be more strange if Rong Mo didn’t look for her. He gave the unconscious maids a look and couldn’t help but say, “You’re not going to kill them too, are you?”

The crown princess frowned. “Did they see your face just now?”

Zu An shook his head. “No.”

“Then there’s no need. Why would I kill them?” The crown princess harrumphed. “Am I really an indiscriminate murderer in your eyes?” Zu An chuckled awkwardly and remained silent.

The crown princess removed the mask covering her face. Then, she took out a set of clothes from a chest placed off to the side. She commanded seriously, “Come here.”

“Why?” Zu An was confused, but he still walked over.

“Help me get dressed,” the crown princess said indifferently, as if she were talking about something insignificant.

Zu An was stupefied. “You want me to help you get dressed?” He even felt as if he were looking at a child in that instant. Why do you need help putting on your clothes? You really are a match for that stupid crown prince.

As if seeing through his intentions, the crown princess said, “My clothes are always complex. I have several maids who help me get dressed normally. I can’t put them on alone.”

Zu An realized that he had overthought the situation. He moved over to her side and asked, “What do I do?”

The crown princess gave him a look. Then, she undid her waistband, allowing the dress to slide down her fine skin, and expose her shining white body.

Zu An’s breathing quickened. In an instant, he was left a little stunned. What kind of situation was this?

“You already saw everything you weren’t supposed to see anyway. What’s that look on your face?” The crown princess’ voice was surprisingly calm, but her rising and falling chest exposed that she wasn’t as composed as she seemed on the surface.

Zu An said with a bitter smile, “That was a situation I couldn’t control.”

The crown princess spread her arms. “Bring the clothes over there and help me put them on.”

Zu An felt as if he were being harassed right now, but what else could he even say in this type of situation? He could only obediently bring the clothes over. He had to admit that they were pretty, and they were indeed quite complicated. It was impossible for someone to get dressed in them alone.

As such, he silently helped her get dressed. The crown princess' face was completely red during the entire process.

After some time, the crown princess spoke again. "I don't want anyone to know about what happened today."

Zu An said in agreement, "Alright, I won't tell anyone about this."

"I hope you can forget about it too." The crown princess took a deep breath.

"Fine." Zu An wasn't as frivolous as usual. He knew that the other party cared a lot about this, so now wasn't the time to joke around.

"I'll do my best to raise you up in the future and give you more resources to repay you for your help today. As for anything else, you shouldn't think about it. I am still the crown princess in the end, so our statuses..." The crown princess' eyelashes trembled. Her emotions were clearly all over the place.

"Understood!" Zu An nodded continuously.

The crown princess hesitated. A while later, she suddenly said, "The crown prince and I have never done it."

Zu An was stunned. "Why are you telling me that?"

The crown princess looked away, seemingly upset. "It's nothing."

Waves surged within Zu An. Even though he'd had some guesses before, those were just guesses. Now that he had heard her admit it herself, he experienced an entirely different feeling. What was even more shocking was the fact that she'd told him directly.

Don't tell me she developed some positive feelings for me after seeing how dashing I was today?

But that makes sense too... With how upright and handsome I am, I'm better than that fatty in every single way. It's not surprising at all that she likes me.

But why do I feel as if something isn't right...

The bashful crown princess, who was currently sorting out her hair, looked at Zu An as he helped her put on her girdle. The back of his head was exposed. A cold glint suddenly flashed in her eyes.

She removed a golden hairpin and stabbed it viciously toward the back of Zu An's head. The golden hairpin flickered with a faint blue radiance, clearly having been soaked in poison for a long time. Once pricked, the target would undoubtedly die.

However, the golden hairpin didn't stab into Zu An's head. Instead, it stopped an inch before it touched him. It wasn't that the crown princess had shown mercy, but rather that it was clasped between two of Zu An's fingers.

The crown princess' expression changed. "How did you know I was going to kill you?!" she exclaimed. They were so close that the attack was almost impossible to guard against unless the other party had been wary the entire time.

Zu An flicked his wrist. A wave of force spread out, and the golden hairpin flew out of the crown princess' hands and into his. Then, he slowly stood up and said, "To be honest, I was fooled at first." He threw away the golden hairpin and sighed. "The beautiful and noble crown princess removed her clothes in front of me without holding back at all. What man in this world could resist such temptation?"

"Even the most inflexible man might feel that the crown princess felt something for him. Surely that would be the only reason for her to strip in front of him. His mind might even start roaming, and he might feel that he had a chance with the crown princess."

"You even emphasized that you haven't done anything with the crown prince. That would make a man's thoughts go even crazier, creating a fantasy that this would be the perfect opportunity for him to take the crown prince's place and become your man."

"Then why did you suspect me?!" That was what the crown princess just couldn't figure out. After all, this fellow seemed like the model example of a pervert. She had sacrificed herself to set up this huge honey trap, yet he had managed to see through it!

## **Chapter 712: Reward**

Zu An took a deep breath. "In the end, it was because you're too smart for your own good. You just had to add that you were a virgin. That was just too forced."

"Originally, my impression of you was that of a noble person of naturally high status. Even when you removed all of your clothing without any reservations before me, it matched that type of style. However, you insisted that you had nothing to do with the crown prince, which instantly made you seem like a young lady who had just awakened her feelings of love. This sudden change didn't really mesh well, so I couldn't help but start to worry."

The crown princess' face turned red. "I already went this far, and yet you're still analyzing everything so coldly. Are you even a man at this point?!"

Zu An smiled. "Didn't you already find out whether or not I was a man earlier?"

The crown princess recalled that scene she had seen when she just woke up. Her expression grew strange. This guy is like a freaking donkey! If he isn't a man, then no one else could possibly be male.

Zu An continued, "I was already beginning to feel vigilant when you silenced those Embroidered Envoys. After all, they didn't know your identity, and they could only give tiny clues, but you still killed them. So how could you possibly feel at ease about someone like me, who experienced the entire event?"

"That's why the more gently you treated me, the more worried I became." Zu An chuckled. "Of course, the reason you even managed to lead me on to this extent is that I'm just too outstanding. Pretty girls can't help but end up liking me. I thought that was what was going on here."

The crown princess was silent. This guy really is shameless to an unimaginable level.

"Woman, tell me, how should I deal with you?" Zu An reached out and grabbed her chin, raising her head up. Unfortunately, the crown princess stubbornly jerked her head to the side. She was clearly full of unwillingness and anger.

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Zu An's face turned cold. He exerted force, roughly turning her head back around. "Woman, you don't seem to understand your current situation."

The crown princess sneered. "What, could it be that you would dare to kill me?"

Zu An frowned. To be honest, this is indeed a bit difficult... Her status is too special.

The crown princess laughed in contempt when she saw his hesitation. "Of course you wouldn't dare. Hurry up and release me. Let's just pretend that nothing happened. My promise towards you before is still in effect. I'll do my best to promote you and advance your career."

Zu An sighed. "Indeed, I can't kill you. However, by provoking me like this... It seems you're not aware that there's something else I can do to you?"

"What?" The crown princess' heart began to pound as she began to have a bad premonition.

Zu An revealed an evil grin. He reached his hand toward her neck and began to gently massage it. "If I force you to sleep with me here, what else can you do about it?"

"You dare?!" The crown princess' expression changed. This guy was a disgusting pervert after all!

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Zu An shrugged. "And why wouldn't I? Either way, we would be the only ones to know. Knowing you, even if I did something to you, out of consideration for your identity, for the Bi clan, or even for your own ambitions, you wouldn't disclose anything. Am I wrong?"

The crown princess' face changed several times. Even though she didn't want to admit it, most of what he said was true. Could she really go all out and accuse him? If she did that, then she would be finished, and so would the Bi clan.

Zu An laughed when he saw her changing expression. He raised her chin and gave her a strong kiss.

"Mmm...!" The crown princess struggled fiercely. The last time they had kissed was because they wanted to make it past Zhuxie Chixin. Now, they were in private. How could she agree to this type of thing?

Zu An pulled away from her lips. He said with a smile, "This is your punishment for trying to kill me. The next time you think of something like that, I won't be so polite."

The crown princess fell weakly onto her bed and began to whimper, "I was sleeping with you without any clothes until the moment I woke up. Then, you groped and kissed me. If you were me, what would you do? I carry the clan's glory on my shoulders! If something happened, everyone in the Bi clan would be silenced. How could I take that gamble? Of course killing you was the safest choice!"

She had experienced more danger in the last few hours than she'd had in the last decade or so of her life. She had gone through a rollercoaster of emotion, and now, she finally collapsed.

Zu An remained silent. He knew that if it were anyone else, they probably would have made the same choice. That was human nature.

Furthermore, he had taken advantage of her today, which was why he didn't get too upset. However, he obviously wouldn't admit to that. "You also touched and kissed me. Is my purity not worth anything? Do you see me crying like you?"

The crown princess couldn't even cry anymore when she heard Zu An's words. After a long time passed, she gloomily said, "You really are shameless!"

Suddenly, there was clamoring outside. A voice called out, "Who are you people? You dare barge into the eastern palace?!"

Shi Jun could be heard saying, "We received a report from the guards that the crown princess was kidnapped by a man. That's why we came to check on the crown princess' safety."

Zu An and the crown princess exchanged a look. "They didn't find us out there, so they came back here to prove you weren't in the eastern palace."

"Concubine Bai, that bitch really wants to kill me!" the crown princess exclaimed angrily.

"Scoundrels, is the crown princess' personal chamber a place you all can barge into just because you want to?" Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun asked. They were clearly the ones stopping the intruders.

"Hmph, I'm in charge of inspecting the palace, so of course I have the authority to do that! Why are you giving me so many excuses? Is it because there's something shameful you can't let others know about?" Shi Jun replied arrogantly. He had been born under an influential clan, and he had a high status himself. He obviously didn't care much about two small guards.

"The ones Sir Shi inspects should be outer subjects, right? When have the palace's women been a part of Sir Shi's management?" a female voice said.

The crown princess' eyes lit up. That was her personal maid Rong Mo. Looks like this girl isn't stupid. She didn't find me in the Hundred Flower Palace, so she came back to stabilize the situation here.

Another female voice said, "Sir Shi is only concerned about the crown princess' safety, so we should confirm this properly. Could it be that you don't even trust me?"

The crown princess' expression changed. She said quietly, "That's his majesty's Concubine Shu. You should leave through the secret passage." All of their efforts would be wasted if they saw Zu An here.

"Okay!" Zu An didn't hesitate at all. He immediately prepared to leave through the passage by the bed.

"Wait!" The crown princess grabbed him. "Unblock their acupoints first, but don't let them see you."

Zu An praised the crown princess' attention to detail internally. He nodded, transforming into afterimages. He undid the servants' seals, and then leapt into the secret passage.

The crown princess quickly began sealing the secret tunnel again. However, Zu An suddenly turned around and gave her a kiss. "I'll just treat this as my reward for saving you!" Then, he left with a laugh.

The crown princess clutched her mouth. She was ashamed and panicky. This guy! I have to pay him back later! But she couldn't be bothered to be angry right now. She quickly sorted out the bedding. She couldn't let anyone else know about the existence of this secret passage.

The door slammed open as soon as she finished fixing the bed. It was clear that Rong Mo, Piao Duandiao, and Jiao Sigun couldn't stop Concubine Shu and Shi Jun's combined forces.

The crown prince was also there, but he really was a good-for-nothing! Not only had he not stopped them, he had even followed these two excitedly as if there were some drama to watch. The crown princess was seething with rage when she saw his expression. No matter how much of a rascal Zu An was, he was still far more reliable than this guy.

Concubine Shu and Shi Jun barged in looking as if they were already confident in their victory. However, when they saw the crown princess sitting on the bed, they were completely stupefied. "Why... Why are you here?"

The crown princess replied coldly, "What, is there something wrong with me being in my own chambers?"

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Meanwhile, Zu An had just exited the other end of the secret passage. He could sense that there were people everywhere in the imperial palace. He knew that all of the guards in the imperial palace were searching for any suspicious personnel. Furthermore, the palace gates were already shut, so he abandoned all thoughts of leaving the palace.

He found a secluded place to change into his Embroidered Envoy uniform, becoming Golden Token Eleven once more.

I wonder what the crown princess' reaction would be if she finds out I'm Golden Token Eleven.

He grinned when he felt the lingering sweetness on his lips. Even though today had been quite dangerous, all in all, it wasn't that bad. He headed toward his own little courtyard and decided to just spend the night there to ride the storm out.

But he was stunned as soon as he approached his courtyard. He noticed that there were quite a few people waiting to ambush him.

### **Chapter 713: Joint Hearing**

Zu An's figure froze. Upon closer observation, he saw that it was a group of Embroidered Envoy who was hiding nearby, and the one in the lead was actually Zhuxie Chixin.

He heard his heart thumping. Did he end up giving something away along the way?

He subconsciously wanted to turn tail and run. After all, he was carrying the crown princess naked in his arms. Even if he was framed, this was enough crime for his execution.

However, he quickly calmed himself down. If they were here waiting in ambush, then that doesn't mean that they have proof. If he ran away, it would instead prove his guilt.

The most important part was that the imperial palace's guards had already been transferred, and the gates had been shut. He might not even be able to get away.

He took a deep breath, and then he calmly walked over.

As soon as he showed himself, there was immediately a group of Embroidered Envoy who surrounded him.

“May I ask what is happening?” Zu An asked with an overcast voice.

Zhuxie Chixin walked over, his expression a bit complicated. “Golden Token Eleven, please follow us. There is a matter that requires investigation.”

“What kind of matter?” Zu An calmly asked.

Zhuxie Chixin gave him a deep look. He didn’t reply and instead gestured towards his subordinates.

“Take him away!”

Zu An didn’t resist. With a pseudo grandmaster here, all resistance was meaningless.

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He was quickly brought to the Embroidered Envoy’s headquarters, the Embroidery House.

He was brought into a private room. Zhuxie Chixin gestured for everyone else to leave. He was going to carry out this interrogation alone.

The other Embroidered Envoy were a bit surprised. After all, according to regulations, many people needed to be present during a criminal’s interrogation as a way of keeping others in check and preventing collusion.

Their chief commander was breaking the rules here!

However, Zhuxie Chixin’s prestige was great, and the one being interrogated was this mysterious newcomer Golden Token Eleven. They didn’t say anything and obediently withdrew.

When everyone left, Zhuxie Chixin sat down across from Zu An and calmly stared at him.

Zu An already removed his mask. After all, the other party already knew who he was. “Chief Commander, what kind of crime have I committed? Why did you need to arrest me?”

Zhuxie Chixin slammed the table fiercely. “You really are bold! You actually dare to defile the crown princess!”

Zu An immediately looked ‘horrified’. “Chief Commander, where are these words coming from? This is a crime punishable by the eradication of one’s entire clan! This isn’t something that can be joked around with.”

“Who is joking around with you?” Zhuxie Chixin’s face was overcast. “Someone reported that you and the crown princess carried out illicit relations. Did this happen?”

“Absolutely not. Even if you don’t believe me, do you not trust the crown princess?” Zu An quickly asked. “I haven’t even been in the imperial palace for that long. Who is the crown princess? Why should she care about me? I really don’t know who the hell is starting rumors and creating all this trouble. They



must be fucking blind.” He knew that it was probably Shi Jun, but he couldn’t say this out loud, because only those present knew that Shi Jun barged into the princess’ chambers with a group of men.

He watched so much Detective Conan in his past life. The offenders would always blurt out something important by accident. That was why he made sure to carefully think through everything he said.

“You don’t need to worry about who reported you. It isn’t only a single person who reported you, there are maids, servants, and even eunuchs who have personally witnessed it.” Zhuxie Chixin said coldly.

“That’s impossible, because I’ve never done this type of thing! Chief Commander, please uphold justice!” Zu An thought to himself that they probably only saw his back while he was running at most. There was no way they saw my face. The crown princess was buried in my chest the entire time, so there is even less of a chance that they saw me.

Looks like those who reported me are the ones who orchestrated this scheme after all.

“Then why didn’t you leave the palace even though it grew dark?” Zhuxie Chixin continued to ask.

“I saw that it was already dark, so I decided to stay in my courtyard. Either way, I’m by myself if I stay outside too. I might as well stay in the palace where more things are happening.” Zu An explained.

“Where more things are happening?” Zhuxie Chixin laughed from anger. “What kind of place do you think the imperial palace is? There are concubines and princesses living here. How can a man casually reside in the palace?!”

Zu An mumbled, “Am I not an Embroidered Envoy though? What’s the point of this status if I don’t use it.”

Zhuxie Chixin: “.....”

He took a deep breath. “Then why were you not there when we came earlier? Where did you go so late in the night?”

Zu An said, “I was just going for a stroll around the imperial palace. It hasn’t been long since I came here, so I wanted to familiarize myself with this place. I was worried that an attack like last time might happen, so I wanted to be more prepared just in case. That way, I’ll be ready once something happens.”

“You were going for a stroll around the imperial palace this late in the night?” Zhuxie Chixin laughed again. “What did I tell you before? The imperial palace is full of distinguished individuals, and you cannot casually roam this place, you have to avoid them. Did you already forget?”

“But I went out for a bit because I was bored. I didn’t expect that I would become suspicious because of that!” Zu An quickly said, “Chief Commander, even though it hasn’t been long since I joined the eastern palace and I don’t know the crown princess too long, judging from what I do know, she would never do something illicit with another man.”

Zhuxie Chixin harrumphed coldly. “If it wasn’t because of my trust in the crown princess’ character, do you think his majesty would still have the patience to have me ask you so many questions?”

Zu An looked shocked. “So it was his majesty who wanted to question me.”

"What else do you think it is? Now that something so major happened, how could his majesty not get involved?" Zhuxie Chixin said coldly. "Through our analysis, we have determined that you and the crown princess have most likely been framed. You need to tell me everything that has happened between you and the crown princess. Only then can I properly deal with the aftermath."

Zu An said with an honest expression, "Chief Commander, why don't you believe me? There's really nothing that happened between me and the crown princess. I haven't seen the crown princess after I left the imperial study." He obviously wouldn't admit to this even though he sensed some sincerity, feeling that both the emperor and Zhuxie Chixin wanted to deal with the aftermath. Even so, once that happened, the crown princess might remain alive, but he was dead for sure.

He still remembered how even though he clearly saved the crown princess during Yun Jianyue's attack, he almost lost an arm because he touched her back then.

Meanwhile today, the two of them already went through all of that. There was no way the emperor would allow another man to defile his daughter-in-law, right?

Zhuxie Chixin gave him a deep look. A while later, he said with an overcast voice. "Very good. In the future, no matter what anyone asks you, you need to just grit your teeth and say that no matter what."

Zu An looked at him in surprise. Was this fella secretly helping him?

Looks like the favor from last time was coming in clutch now!

Zhuxie Chixin coughed. His voice returned to normal. "Then have you seen anyone suspicious?"

"No." Zu An shook his head. "The entire palace went crazy not long after I left. The imperial guards seemed to be looking for someone. I was worried that something might have happened, so I returned. Then, I saw you guys waiting here."

Zhuxie Chixin sat down into his chair again. His fingers tapped lightly on the table. He began to think to himself.

The sound of the tapping was magnified in this sealed room. It gave off a natural feeling of pressure.

A while later, Zhuxie Chixin said, "Someone will bring you into the imperial prison for further interrogation in a bit. You should understand what you should say and shouldn't say when the time comes. Furthermore, his majesty has informed me to tell you that you are not to expose your identity as an Embroidered Envoy."

"Understood!" Zu An didn't feel that bad inside. Since the emperor said this, then that meant that he still wanted him to deal with King Qi. That was why as long as he didn't expose that he did anything to the crown princess, then the emperor wouldn't kill him.

Zu An couldn't help but say, "Why is this matter reaching all the way to the imperial prison? Shouldn't this matter be investigated in private as much as possible? Making it public like this will tarnish the crown princess' reputation."

After a bit of hesitation, Zhuxie Chixin explained, "There isn't a single giant in the palace. Many powers belong to King Qi. They have begun to stir, so how can we possibly put this matter down quietly?"

“The crown princess’ identity is special, so we cannot interrogate her. We obviously need to start from you.”

Zu An revealed a bitter smile. The ordinary people of this world had no authority after all.

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When Zhuxie Chixin left, he was quickly escorted to the imperial prison.

The Right Guard General Guo Zhi sighed when he saw him. “Brother Zu, I didn’t expect to meet you again under this type of situation.”

Zu An forced a laugh and said, “Me neither.”

Guo Zhi wanted to say something, but then hesitated. While no one was paying attention, he said through ki transmission, “The Imperial Director, Commandant of Justice, and Supervisor of Attendants will interrogate you one after another. Good luck.”

### **Chapter 714, Part 1: Father-In-Law**

“Thank you brother Guo for your reminder!” Zu An also secretly replied. His past friendship was now paying some dividends. At the very least, the other party would help him out a bit to the best of his ability.

Guo Zhi gave him a deep look, and then he silently left.

Zu An was escorted into a special cell. His body was sealed up by experts, and there were Soul Reaping Chains tied around him. Not only did this prevent him from escaping, it prevented him from killing himself as well.

All of this was expected. Zu An’s expression didn’t change.

Either way, he could use many of his skills even without ki. These measures didn’t affect him too much.

What he was worried about was instead the incoming joint hearing. He felt a bit of a headache when he thought of this. He was just a trifling crown prince secretary right now. Was there a need for these three big shots to hold a joint hearing?

This world was a bit different from ancient china. The joint hearings were normally carried out by the Commandant of Justice, Imperial Censor, and Security Officer. However, because this matter involved the crown princess, that was why the Imperial Director and Supervisor of Attendants replaced the Imperial Censor and Security Officer to prevent a public commotion.

The Imperial Director is one of the nine ministers. He is in charge of controlling the royal family, as well as their relatives and nobility’s affairs. Since this involved the crown princess, he was the most suitable candidate for presiding over this matter.

He remembered Chu Chuyan telling him that the Imperial Director Zhen Xueyi’s wife is actually the emperor’s older sister Princess Chang Chuan. The people the emperor used for this interrogation were probably men he trusted himself.

The Commandant of Justice and Supervisor of Attendants were also part of the nine ministers. The Commandant of Justice Jiang Boyang was in charge of the prison to begin with and an expert at judging cases. A case on this level would naturally need him present.

This wasn't the first time Zu An interacted with him. During the Cheng Xiong case, he strongly advocated for Cheng Xiong's innocence, but in the end, he was forced to state the crimes.

Tsk tsk tsk, this is going to be a fierce clash. I'm probably done for if I fall into his hands.

The lyrics of 'Bracing the Chills' played in Zu An's mind. However, he quickly realized something. He did all of that with his identity as Golden Token Eleven. What did this have to do with the crown prince secretary identity?

Jiang Boyang probably won't hate me. Yup. I hope this is the case.

However, the Supervisor of Attendants was troublesome. The Supervisor of Attendants Murong Tong used to be the Security Officer, a man with great authority, yet it was because of Zu An that he was transferred to this useless position. This man probably really hated Zu An.

Honestly, is there something wrong with the emperor's head? Why the hell would two out of the three members sent for this interrogation be from King Qi's faction? And they both have enmity against me? Do you want me to freaking die?!

If I die, then your daughter-in-law's reputation will be finished too!

But mockery was mockery in the end. Judging from his time in the capital, he already knew that King Qi's influence was deeply rooted. How could they let go of such a great opportunity this time?

The key was that regardless of whether it was Jiang Boyang or Murong Tong, one was an expert at investigating cases, while one used to be a Security Officer, so he was also a specialist in this matter. It was probably hard for even the emperor himself to refuse their additions.

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Time unknowingly passed by just like that. Soon afterwards, there was a jailer who came to escort him out. "Sir Zu, please follow us. Sir Imperial Director and the others have things to ask you."

These individuals still owed him a favor from the assassins' breakout from last time, so that was why all of them spoke politely. They didn't humiliate him like an ordinary criminal.

Zu An was brought into a private room. The jailers there said, "Sir Zu, we need to restrain you due to conventions. Please forgive us."

"It's fine." Zu An's expression remained calm.

The jailers clamped his arms and legs to the wooden benches while saying in praise, "Sir Zu really is extraordinary. We've met many members of the court here, but they were all either weeping bitter tears or already beside themselves. It is rare to see someone with Sir Zu's composure."

Zu An smiled. "Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble. I am innocent in this matter, so there is naturally no need to fear an interrogation like the others."

Those jailers all voiced their praise. The door opened at this time, and several robed officials slowly walked in.

The one in the lead was an elder with a face that seemed to harbor great bitterness and hatred. His white hair was casually bound with a wooden hairpin, and there were quite a few messy strands falling out. He gave off a dispirited feeling. When Zu An saw him, he thought he saw an old version of Ji Dengtu.

But their appearances weren't similar at all, so he quickly removed the thought that this was Ji Dengtu's dad.

According to his uniform and how he walked at the very front, this was most likely the Imperial Director Zhen Xueyi.

If he married the emperor's older sister, then he should be someone of the same generation as the emperor, right? Why was it that the emperor looked like he was in the prime of his life, while this guy looked like he was already aged and dying?

The second official was a graceful middle-aged man with a fine complexion. His hair was only graying around the temples, but this only gave him an even more distinguished and elegant feel. It was easy to imagine how many girls he attracted when he was younger.

Compared to the Imperial Director, he seemed much more upright, and his hair was meticulously combed. His clothes were well-ironed without any creases.

Judging from the white tiger diagram on the uniform, this was probably the Commandant of Justice Jiang Boyang.

Zu An gave him a few more glances. He fought against this man before during the Cheng Xiong case, but this was their first real meeting.

He saw that Jiang Boyang wasn't looking at him. Instead, he was staring at the Imperial Director's messy hair with a somewhat warped expression, as if he was a bit constipated.

In the end, he finally couldn't endure it anymore and said, "Sir Zhen, as one of the nine ministers, we officials are model examples for others. We need to pay attention to our appearances."

Zhen Xueyi chuckled. "Nine ministers? We've already lost our former glory, how are we still model officials? It'll be more fitting if you told these things to the Chancellery, Imperial Secretariat, and Central Secretariat."

Jiang Boyang's eyelids twitched. He took a deep breath and said, "But don't you feel uncomfortable with your hair like that? How about I help you sort it out?"

Zhen Xueyi quickly evaded to the side. "Men's heads and women's waists are parts those who are not lovers should not touch! Furthermore, I feel like this is more natural, that it can further exhibit my unruly and free nature."

Murong Tong sneered from the back. "You already have one foot in the grave, yet you're still talking about lovers, about being unruly and free? Are you not scared that Princess Chang Chuan will make you kneel on a washboard?"

Murong Tong was a familiar person. Zu An already met him several times.

Zhen Xueyi became upset. "Hey, charcoal face, don't cross the line! Don't think that I won't expose you for peeping on Madam Yu's inner room back then!"

Murong Tong erupted in rage. "You old thing, weren't you there too back then! Also, how many time have I already told you? My skin tone is a healthy and beautiful bronze and not black!"

Zu An was surprised. These individuals should be a part of different camps and be like water and fire. Why did they instead look like old friends?

But he quickly realized that all of these officials in the capital knew each other somewhat. They all grew up and strived for ambition together. Only later on did they end up choosing the different factions they wanted to serve.

Even so, their former friendship still existed. Their clans were probably even connected through marriage in various ways, and their relationships complicated. As such, it wasn't to the point where neither side could not coexist with the other in this world.

Jiang Boyang felt a huge headache when he heard them fight. He disregarded them and looked at Zu An. He suddenly frowned. "Who restrained you?"

His fingers gently brushed out while walking over, and then a chain snapped on its own. It was easy to see how profound his cultivation was.

Zu An was stunned. This guy seems to be pretty nice?

But Jiang Boyang didn't continue to remove his shackles and instead began to sort out his collar that became a bit crooked. Then, he took a step back to look at Zu An. After that, he sat back down in satisfaction.

Zu An was stunned. Bro, what the fuck? Why are you stopping at just a single chain?!

He lowered his head and noticed that the chains on his body were now symmetrical. When he remembered the irritation of the other party when he looked at the Imperial Director, Zu An didn't know whether to laugh or cry. So I just ran into someone with freaking OCD! I almost thought that he had some goodwill.

"Enough, enough, we need to take care of the main matter at hand first." Jiang Boyang stopped the two arguing individuals.

The messy haired Zhen Xueyi sat down casually at the highest position. "You can start then. You're the expert at judging cases."

Jiang Boyang's breathing became rushed again when he saw him sit carelessly on his seat. He quickly shifted his eyes so he didn't have to look at this man anymore. He slammed the table, making a loud noise. "Zu An, I examined the records of the palace gate and discovered that you did not leave at dusk. What kind of shady business were you doing in the palace?"

This wasn't an easy question for Zu An to answer. Zhuxie Chixin told him to not reveal his identity as an Embroidered Envoy, which made it much harder for him to explain why he remained in the palace.

It was a huge offense for a subject to not leave the palace at dusk. They will definitely be accused of disturbing the harem chambers.

But Zu An was prepared for this. He calmly replied, "His majesty assigned me a secret mission. That was why I didn't leave the palace."

The three individuals exchanged a look. They couldn't help but ask, "What kind of secret mission?"

Zu An chuckled. "I already said it was a secret mission, so how can I possibly randomly tell others?"

Murong Tong became furious. "Brat, you better get rid of that smile right now. We are the ones interrogating you right now, so you should understand your position!"

The fact that this brat made him drop from the powerful Security Officer position down to his current useless position made him absolutely furious.

You have successfully trolled Murong Tong for +491 +491 +491...

## **Chapter 714, Part 2: Father-in-Law**

Zu An sighed. "Sir Murong, could it be that you think I dare to falsify his majesty's intent? This is something easily confirmed. I was summoned to the imperial study as soon as I left the eastern palace."

Murong Tong's breathing stopped. In their opinion, there was indeed no one who dared falsify such a thing. That was a crime punishable by clan eradication!

Jiang Boyang flipped through the files in his hands and said with a nod, "There was indeed such a matter." It was clear that he had already gathered all types of information before arriving here.

Then, his tone changed. "But this can only prove that you carried out a secret mission after you left the imperial study. No one knows what you did afterward. There were quite a few people who saw you together with the crown princess, your clothes messy... Ahem, how do you plead in response to this accusation?"

"Complete nonsense! Absolute slander!" Zu An appeared to become a bit worked up. "It's one thing if you slander me, but you dare slander the incorruptible crown princess?! How dare they even have such thoughts? May I ask Sir Jiang who the ones that slandered us are?"

Jiang Boyang cleared his throat. "Whether it's slander or not, we'll naturally investigate that. However, I can't tell you their identities."

Zu An said, "I've always been a benevolent person, and I always attract the fondness of others. I really can't think of who would frame me..."

"You always attract the fondness of others?" Murong Tong sneered. Did this kid have a misunderstanding about him?

Zu An suddenly realized something. "Ah, I remember. I believe Sir Murong lost your position because I was attacked as soon as I arrived in the capital. If there really were anyone who would want to frame me, then I fear..."

Murong Tong was so angry smoke almost came out of his head. "Little bastard, are you saying that I framed you?!"

You have successfully trolled Murong Tong for +668 +668 +668...

Zu An shrugged. "I didn't say it, you did." He thought to himself that even though that kid Murong Qinghe was also a bit rash, she was still probably more cool-headed than this old fart.

Jiang Boyang quickly said, "Sir Murong, please don't be so impatient." Then, he turned to Zu An. "You really are an annoying troublemaker. You're affecting our handling of this case."

Zu An replied, "Sir Jiang is wise; I was merely trying to analyze the motives of those who are trying to harm me. I can tell from Sir Murong's straightforward nature that he clearly wasn't the one who did this." Murong Tong finally calmed down a bit after being praised that way.

Zu An continued, "By the way, I remembered something. This morning, I seem to have offended the Huang gate's Shi Jun. He kept making things difficult for me, so I couldn't help but use my palm to 'express myself' to his face. He even ended up dropping his pants for some reason. His younger brother Shi Kun also has a grudge against me, so if there really is someone with the motive to harm me, then he's definitely a top suspect."

Now, even the Imperial Director whose eyes were half closed in repose couldn't help but widen his eyes. You used your palm to 'express yourself' to Shi Jun's face? Who the heck says that?!

Jiang Boyang's eyes narrowed. "I didn't mention Shi Jun's name. Why did you immediately suspect that it was him? Speak, is it because you saw him when he barged in on you and the crown princess?"

Zu An looked completely shocked. "It really was that kid? I was going to say that fellow clearly looked like the bad sort. So it really was him!"

Murong Tong shouted, "You should just stop there! The fact that you mentioned him means that you've already practically confessed to this."

Zu An sighed. "Sir Murong, you used to be a Security Officer. This situation should be something super easy for you to figure out, right?"

"My moral standing might not be too great, so it's excusable for there to be some misunderstanding here. But who is the crown princess? She was born from an influential clan, and she's always maintained an excellent bearing. She carries the grace of the future empire's mother! Do you really believe that this type of woman would do anything with another man?"

"That's why this matter is clearly slander! Not only does the one who framed me bear animosity towards me, they don't care about offending the crown princess either. If you think about this, the only one whom the crown princess and I both have a grudge against is the Shi clan. After all, it was because of Shi Kun's bet with me that he ended up indirectly dying by the crown princess' hand."

Murong Tong's expression sank. "All of these are merely your own speculations. Do you have any proof?"

"Nope." Zu An shook his head. "I'm merely speaking my thoughts. Whether it's really true or not, this is something you all need to investigate."



Murong Tong sneered. "Since there's no proof, then you're just uttering nonsense. The Shi clan is part of the eight ducal clans. Do you know what kind of crime slandering such great officials would entail?"

Zu An's expression grew cold as well. "No matter how great the Shi clan is, are they greater than the crown princess, greater than the royal clan's dignity? The one behind the scenes have already clearly expressed their intent to humiliate the royal clan. You didn't investigate this, but instead insist that the crown princess really did something illicit. I have reason to suspect your motives!"

Murong Tong was furious. "You bastard! Do you think I wouldn't dare to kill you?"

You have successfully trolled Murong Tong for +876 +876 +876...

Zu An said with his head high, "Can it be that Sir Murong wants to extract a confession out of torture? I, Zu An, am an iron-willed man down to my bones! My dignity cannot be corrupted by wealth and honors; I will absolutely not slander the crown princess."

"Your dignity cannot be corrupted by wealth and honors?" Murong Tong laughed out of anger. "Even someone like you is worthy of speaking such words? Fine, I want to see just how tough your bones are! Bring someone here to start the torture!"

Zhen Xueyi coughed. "Sir Murong, please don't be so impatient. What Zu An said might not be entirely without reason. Even if he confesses under torture, we still won't be able to convince the masses."

Zu An sighed inside when he heard those words. The reason he had spoken such words was because the emperor would definitely not let that happen without doing anything. This Imperial Director was definitely someone from his faction, so he wouldn't let King Qi's faction act recklessly.

Of course, if he had guessed wrong, he would have just taken the beating. The Phoenix Nirvana Sutra was a technique that could be improved by getting beaten anyway.

"In all my years of investigating cases, I've learned that talk is useless against people like him. They have to be beaten into submission." Murong Tong harrumphed. He looked toward the Commandant of Justice. "Boyang, what do you think?"

Jiang Boyang said, "I agree with Sir Imperial Director's opinion. What Zu An has said isn't entirely without reason. We can indeed start our investigation from that angle."

Murong Tong's expression turned blank. He thought to himself, Hey, which side are you even on? He knew that Jiang Boyang was always an upright and inflexible man. Was this guy really being a problem at such a critical moment? This was the perfect moment to take advantage of. King Qi might cry if this chance wasn't used, right?

Zu An was also surprised. He hadn't expected Jiang Boyang to speak out for him. He thought that this fellow would target him because of Cheng Xiong's case.

With two out of three sharing an opinion, there was nothing Murong Tong could do. He could only allow the other two people to ask some insignificant questions. Then, they decided to continue their investigation from Shi Jun's side.

They eventually got up to investigate other clues, but Jiang Boyang deliberately stayed at the very back. His expression was a bit strange as he examined Zu An.

Zu An could tell that this guy had something he wanted to ask him, but he was confused. I don't even know this guy, so why would he help me?

Jiang Boyang nodded and said, "No wonder Luofu always praised you before, and she even entrusted me with the task of saving you. Now that I've met you, I see that you really are slick-tongued, but you aren't a bad person deep down. Furthermore, you're quite brave. She didn't judge you incorrectly."

A list of names flashed through Zu An's head. Who is Luofu? Wait, his surname is Jiang... "The gorgeous principal? So you're father-in-law... Ahem, you're the gorgeous principal's father?" He blurted out.

"Gorgeous principal? Father-in-law..." Jiang Boyang's eyes flickered. His expression became dangerous when he looked at Zu An. "Indeed, Luofu is my daughter. Back then, she didn't want to become the crown princess and left home alone, heading to Brightmoon City. Now that I think about it, that was a good thing, or else she would be the one caught up in this matter."

Zu An was shocked. That gorgeous big sis with the amazing legs had almost become the crown princess? Um, wait, no. It's because she didn't want to become the crown princess that she ran away. Otherwise, the current Bi Linglong wouldn't be there.

He quickly snapped out of his daze. "So you were actually my elder! Back then, Brightmoon City's big sis principal treated me really well. I didn't expect to have elder's help too! Looks like we share some karma after all."

Jiang Boyang harrumphed. "There's no need for you to thank me. Back then, when his majesty wanted your method of immortality, Luofu wanted me to save you, but I was powerless to do so. I didn't expect you to actually survive that ordeal."

Zu An chuckled. "Even so, I'm grateful for big sis principal's kindness. Also, elder, didn't you end up helping me this time anyway?"

Jiang Boyang said indifferently, "I'm not helping you, but rather just judging the matter as it stands. There are indeed many points of suspicion in this matter."

After saying so, he turned to leave. But after taking a few steps, he suddenly frowned and stopped. He lowered his head and smoothed out the corner of his jacket, which had become a bit creased from sitting. A hint of joy appeared on his face again when he saw his orderly uniform. Then, he continued to walk outside. Zu An even noticed that every single step he took was the exact same distance.

Soon afterwards, a jailer brought Zu An back to the prison room, where he sat there quietly pondering.

Things were getting more and more interesting. He had thought that the Jiang clan was an inseparable part of King Qi's faction, but now, that might not necessarily be the case.

Perhaps the Jiang clan might be more partial toward King Qi normally, but in the end, Jiang Boyang had still chosen to deal with matters impartially. No wonder the emperor had agreed to putting him in charge of this case.

Furthermore, from what he had seen today regarding the relationship between the nine ministers, Zu An realized that he had misunderstood something.

The crown prince's faction and King Qi's faction looked irreconcilable from the outside, but they had many personal friendships between them. Perhaps there would be a chance to exploit this in the future...

Time quickly passed. The next morning arrived, unbeknownst to Zu An. A jailer came and said, "Sir Zu, someone has come to visit you."

## **Chapter 715: Disappeared**

"A visitor?" Zu An was confused. What kind of person would visit him at this sort of time?

Could it be the crown princess? No, she's currently caught up in this huge scheme. There's no way she would have the leisure to do such a thing.

Maybe it's Zhuxie Chixin? Did the emperor send him to make sure I knew what to say? But I think we already said everything that needs to be said, right? Also, Zhuxie Chixin doesn't need to visit me like this, he can just come straight in.

While he was baffled at who the person could be, an ice blue figure in a long dress appeared nearby, surprising him. "Chuyan!"

"Ah Zu!" Chu Chuyan broke out into a small sprint. Only when she saw that her man hadn't been beaten did she sigh in relief.

"Why are you here?!" Zu An was surprised and happy to see her. He grabbed her small, ice-cold hands.

Chu Chuyan harrumphed and pulled her hand back. Her joy immediately disappeared, returning to her usual coldness. "Who were you expecting? That crown princess of yours?"

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for +77 +77 +77...

Zu An forced a chuckle. "It's one thing if others are framing me, but how can you think that way?"

Chu Chuyan looked rather hurt. "If that were how I really thought, then I wouldn't have visited you first thing in the morning."

Zu An felt warm inside and grabbed her small hand again. "My own wife treasures me the most after all."

Chu Chuyan then said, "Even though you're perverted, from my understanding of you, even if you did long for the crown princess, you would only go after her secretly when you were a hundred percent sure that it would be fine. You would never cause such a huge scene."

Zu An was speechless. Sis, we're in the imperial prison right now! Aren't you being a bit too rude here?

As if she had guessed his thoughts, Chu Chuyan harrumphed and said, "What are you so scared of? This is exactly what we need them to know, that you absolutely wouldn't have done anything to the crown princess." She gave the two jailers who were monitoring the situation a look.

The jailers had strange looks on their faces. They immediately turned their heads, as if they hadn't heard anything, but they then exchanged looks and began to whisper among themselves.

"Chu First Miss is a legendary beauty as the rumors say! But why is her personality not as cold as people say?"

"Sir Zu really is lucky to have such a stunning wife. Like hell he would do something crazy with other girls with this type of woman at home!"

"That's hard to say. Guys get tired of even the prettiest women after a while. Furthermore, the crown princess is also pretty."

"Fuck! I almost feel as if you're talking about that hag of mine back home."

"You dare gossip about the crown princess? Do you all not want your lives anymore?"

...

Meanwhile, Zu An asked, "Chuyan, why did you come here today?"

"I waited for you all night yesterday." Chu Chuyan looked rather wronged as she continued, "But then Youzhao told me that something bad happened to you. That was how I learned about this matter between you and the crown princess. But unfortunately, night had already fallen by then, so I couldn't enter the palace. That was why I could only wait until daytime before I could ask grandfather to let me in."

"I was even stopped by a eunuch surnamed Wen along the way. Considering how many people were crowding around him, he's probably that general manager who serves by his majesty's side." Chu Chuyan sounded as if she still had some lingering fears. "I thought that I was done for and that I'd even be punished by grandfather, but he let me go just after asking me my identity. It really was strange."

Zu An smiled. He thought to himself that he hadn't given Eunuch Wen all those gifts for nothing.

"Then, after I arrived at the imperial prison, I thought that I could use grandfather and second grandfather's connections to see if I could get past the Right Guard General. But when he heard I had come to see you, he just let me straight in." Chu Chuyan looked at Zu An strangely. "I almost felt as if the two of them weren't showing favor to my grandfather, but rather to you. Are you really doing that well in the palace, all by yourself?"

Zu An chuckled. "Of course. You know your man's charms well. Men and women alike all fall victim..."

"Fell victim, like the way you're in this imperial prison right now?" Chu Chuyan coldly interrupted.

Zu An fell silent. Ah... Being brutally roasted right in the middle of my boast really feels like sh\*t...

Chu Chuyan quickly asked, "Just what happened last night?"

"I was obviously framed..." Zu An repeated what he had told the Imperial Director and the others. It wasn't that he didn't trust her, but rather that this was the imperial prison, so there might be unwanted ears. It was still best to play it safe.

"The Shi clan is just too despicable!" Chu Chuyan's expression turned cold. She had personally experienced Shi Kun's shamelessness back then, having almost died in the Ursae Dungeon because of the Shi clan. She immediately believed him when he said that it was the Shi clan that was scheming all of this.

Zu An sighed. "It would be great if it were only the Shi clan. What I'm worried about is that the one behind all of this might actually be King Qi."

Chu Chuyan's expression changed. "It can't be, right? King Qi's reputation has always been good. This time, this matter has involved even the royal family, so this would be too risky for him. If it were exposed, everything would be over." Thanks to the Qin clan's influence, her impression of King Qi wasn't bad.

"I hope it isn't him." Zu An's expression was grim. "But even if it isn't him, he'll still use this chance to involve me and the crown princess in a scandal, thus weakening the crown prince's side."

"It would've been great if you had just agreed to follow me back to Brightmoon City." Chu Chuyan had naturally deduced that this was an inevitable choice for King Qi. However, after just a moment of dejection, she quickly asked, "Is there anything I can help you with? I can't just let you continue to be framed by other people like this, right?"

Zu An sighed in praise inside. His wife really wasn't a pretty decoration after all. It was no wonder she had been able to manage the Chu clan's affairs all these years.

"There is something. Can you help me investigate some people? Help me find out which eunuchs and guards are declaring that they saw me and the crown princess together, and investigate their background. See if they have any connection to King Qi or the Shi clan," Zu An requested. "Also, help me investigate the Hundred Flower Palace's maid Xin Rui and see what's going on with her."

"Xin Rui?" Chu Chuyan was stunned. "What kind of relationship does she have with this case?" She was puzzled. Zu An didn't know the names of the others he wanted her to investigate, but he named this person.

"You don't need to worry about that. Help me check to see if she's still in the Hundred Flower Palace, if she's still alive. It would be even better if you could help me look into her background." Zu An didn't explain in detail. He couldn't tell her about what had happened between him and the crown princess in the Hundred Flower Palace, but he could investigate them in secret. Furthermore, the key to all of this was Xin Rui.

"Alright." Chu Chuyan didn't make things difficult for him. "But even if I can investigate all of this, all of this is inside the imperial palace, so the investigation will be quite slow. I'm worried that this might affect things on your side."

Zu An said, "It's not a problem. Seek out the empress and ask her for help. Of course, you need to investigate Xin Rui on your own. You can't entrust this to anyone else."

"The empress?" Chu Chuyan was shocked. "We have no friendship with the empress. She might not be willing to help!"

Zu An thought to himself, You may have no relationship with her, but I definitely do. “When you seek her out, help me tell her ‘It’s better to shatter as precious jade than to remain safe as lowly pottery’; she’ll understand and help you.”

Chu Chuyan was mystified. However, she knew that Zu An wouldn’t joke around at this type of critical moment. As such, she chose to trust him and said, “Okay, I’ll seek her out.” The Chu and Qin clan were top level clans in the court. She obviously had a way to meet with the empress.

After saying so, she was in a hurry to leave, but Zu An stopped her. “Come here, give me a kiss. Please comfort your frightened husband.”

“Do you want me to die from shame?!” Chu Chuyan immediately blushed when she looked at the jailers.

Zu An sighed. “I really might die here... We might not be able to kiss again.”

“You’re not allowed to say that!” Chu Chuyan began to panic and immediately covered Zu An’s mouth.

“Then just give me a kiss.” Zu An moved over to the edge of the bars. He had a huge smile on his face.

Chu Chuyan bit her lip. In the end, worry still overcame her bashfulness. She moved over to kiss him. Then, under the whistling and heckling of the guards, she ran away with a red face and exclaimed “I’m going to talk to the empress!”

The jailers all rushed over excitedly when she left.

“Sir Zu is really formidable! You managed to tame an ice queen so well!”

“You have to teach us!”

...

Zu An laughed when he saw their pleading expressions. “That’s easy enough; you just need the five essential truths.”

“The five essential truths?” all of the jailers looked at each other in dismay and asked.

“The first is ‘Pan An’; uh, that refers to a legendary handsome man. The second is ‘donkey’; you need to be just like me down there...”

Then, he explained the other three truths. He chatted with them while asking about what was happening in the palace at the moment.

...

After a few hours passed, Chu Chuyan rushed back with new information. “Ah Zu, I’ve already contacted the empress. She didn’t say whether she agreed or not, she only said ‘I understand’.”

Zu An nodded. “That’s good enough. You don’t need to worry about the rest.”

Chu Chuyan immediately added, “By the way, you told me to look into that Hundred Flower Palace’s Xin Rui. I looked into it, and she seems to have disappeared yesterday.”

**Chapter 716: Silenced**

"Disappeared?" Zu An raised an eyebrow. Actually, this was within his expectations as well. Someone that important couldn't possibly remain behind to be investigated. Though as for whether she had gone missing or if she had been silenced, he was leaning toward the latter.

But he was currently behind bars and had a billion things to worry about. He couldn't even have someone else investigate this matter.

"By the way, do you know what's going on with the Hundred Flower Palace's Concubine Bai?" Zu An asked.

Chu Chuyan was apologetic, her eyes misty. "I was too pressed for time, and this is an investigation on the palace's matters, so I didn't have time to look into it yet."

Zu An held her hands and said, "I was being too impatient. You don't need to bother with this matter anymore. Let's wait for news from the empress' side first."

"What kind of relationship do you have with the empress, exactly? Why..." Chu Chuyan's eyes were full of puzzlement. "Why was it that after she found out I'd arrived because of you, her expression turned extremely strange? When she heard what you told me to tell her, not only did she not get angry, her tone instead became more friendly."

Zu An smiled. "It's probably because the empress owes me a favor. That's why she's willing to help me find a way to save myself. You don't need to worry too much."

Chu Chuyan sighed in relief. "That's good then."

...

Chu Chuyan left after the two of them chatted for a while longer. She was able to discern what was important right now. She knew staying here further was meaningless, and that she had to send out her men to save Zu An. She couldn't entrust everything to the empress.

Zu An was incredibly moved. He reminded her that she absolutely shouldn't do anything too rash, or else she might be deceived by bad people. At the same time, he told her that he still had some cards to play, that he'd most likely be able to make it past this ordeal. He had watched so many shows in his past world, after all. He didn't want Chuyan to do something stupid for the sake of saving him.

Chu Chuyan was also an extremely sharp person. She immediately realized what he was saying and replied, her face reddening, "What kind of nonsense are you even thinking of?" Then, she said with a beautiful smile, "I know that you care about me. Don't worry, I've managed the Chu clan before, so what kinds of sinister schemes do you think I haven't seen?"

Zu An now felt at ease. "I almost forgot that my dear wife was such an amazing woman, haha."

There were still some jailers nearby, so Chuyan was still shy. She couldn't handle the term 'dear wife' and quickly left out of embarrassment.

The jailers ran over to consult Zu An some more about his skills. He boasted a bit to them while asking them about some of the palace's matters.

“Concubine Bai? Concubine Bai rarely comes out. I don’t think there are many people who know what she’s doing.”

“I heard that her maid has been gone for several days though.”

“It’s probably more than that. After something so big happened in the eastern palace, the Hundred Flower Palace obviously needs to keep a low profile. It’s normal for her personal maid to not show herself.”

“If something really happened to the crown princess, then Concubine Bai might actually become the most suitable candidate to rise to the position of crown princess.”

...

Zu An began to think to himself after hearing their chattering. A while later, he asked, “What’s the situation with the crown princess, by the way? Ah, this topic is a bit sensitive since both of us are involved in this case. It’s okay if you can’t speak about it.”

The jailers exchanged a look, and then they said with a chuckle, “Sir Zu is too polite! We all know that the two of you are being wronged. It’s not a big deal to tell you at all.”

“Exactly! Yesterday morning, the palace elder examined the crown princess’ body. There were no traces of the crown princess having been violated by a man.”

“That’s not all! I heard that the crown princess is still a virgin.”

“How is that possible? The crown prince and princess have already been married for so long. How could she still be a virgin?”

“That crown prince of ours...”

...

They might not have spoken so much if it were just for the fact that Zu An had covered for them after the Devil Sect assassins escaped. It was still because the information had proven that the crown princess was innocent that they dared to discuss these things.

Zu An coughed and said, “Everyone, please watch what you say. I think it’s just some gossip that wishes to slander the crown prince. You can’t let yourselves fall into their trap.”

The jailers seemed to have suddenly realized something. “So that was it! Sir Zu, you’ve saved us again!” All of them felt lingering fear and expressed their thanks.

Zu An began to think to himself again after voicing his response. He hadn’t expected that the crown princess was actually telling the truth! It had been so many years since she got married, yet she was still a virgin. However, she might have more problems to deal with later now that the information had been leaked out.

The emperor wouldn’t make such a poor decision to expose that, right? Could it be King Qi’s faction then? But wouldn’t that completely prove her innocence in this matter? The more he thought about the matter, the greater his headache grew. He felt the things going on in the background weren’t so simple.



...

Time passed just like that. The jailers Zu An had chatted with had already dispersed. Zu An sat by himself in the prison cell alone, lost in his own thoughts.

"It's mealtime!" A jailer lowered a food tray and then turned around to leave.

Zu An didn't expect it to have become mealtime so quickly. He gave the large bowl in front of him a look. The prisoners who got locked up in the imperial prison weren't ordinary, so the food was surprisingly decent. He really was starting to get hungry after tossing and turning for an entire night.

Suddenly, a thought flashed past his head. He raised his head and looked at the jailer. "Wait!"

"What is it?" That jailer turned around, his tone a bit impatient.

Zu An looked at him and asked, "Why do you look unfamiliar? I haven't met you before."

That jailer replied, "Oh, that's because I was just transferred here."

Zu An said with a smile, "Then can I trouble you to please call over General Guo for me? I have some important information to share with him."

That jailer said impatiently, "Just eat your stuff. You think General Guo has the time to see you?" He left while cursing to himself afterward.

Zu An lowered his head to look at his food. He began to think to himself.

...

A while later, Right Guard General Guo Zhi entered with a group of people. "Sir Zu, Sir Imperial Director and the others wish to interrogate you some more."

Zu An remained in the cell without moving.

Guo Zhi didn't receive any reply even after calling out a few times. His expression changed. "Something bad has happened!"

He quickly opened the prison cell and rushed over to Zu An's side. When he saw the purple color of Zu An's face, he quickly shouted, "He's been poisoned! Hurry and bring over an imperial physician!"

The jailers quickly rushed out. Guo Zhi did his best to remove the poison from Zu An's body. Zhen Xueyi, Jiang Boyang, and Murong Tong all rushed over when they heard the news.

"Something happened?"

"Zu An was poisoned?"

"What the hell are you all doing?!"

The three elders cried out in anger and alarm.

...

Zu An, who had been lying on the ground, suddenly sat up. "I'm fine."

“Huh?” Guo Zhi was puzzled. Wasn’t this fellow on his dying breath a moment ago?

Zu An showed the other party an apologetic smile. “Thank you for helping me, Brother Guo. I was really helpless just now.”

He had already grown suspicious when he saw that unfamiliar jailer. After all, after rescuing the Devil Sect’s assassins, he knew almost all of the jailers. All of them chatted a bunch together, and his relationship with them was great.

Even if there were a new jailer, why would they use a new person to take care of such an important prisoner? There was definitely something wrong with this new jailer!

Zu An’s first reaction had been that someone wanted to silence him. However, he wasn’t sure who it was that wanted him dead.

The most suspicious one was Guo Zhi, as this was his domain. No one could take care of this matter better than him. But he hadn’t dared disclose that suspicion earlier, so he could only pretend to have been poisoned.

When Guo Zhi rushed in, he had already prepared promptly to avoid the other party finishing the job when he came in.

When the other party had helped him force out the poison, he secretly used the Heaven Devouring Art. If Guo Zhi really wanted to harm him, then Zu An would immediately suck him dry. However, Guo Zi’s ki was gentle and beneficial. He really had helped Zu An remove the poison.

Even so, Zu An didn’t dare act carelessly. He only got up after Jiang Boyang and the others arrived.

He couldn’t trust anyone. Jiang Boyang was probably the one he trusted the most, as he had a certain level of friendship with the gorgeous principal. Of course, he wouldn’t fully trust the man just because of that, because these three ministers represented all types of powers. They kept each other in check, so none of them could do what they wished on their own.

Murong Tong immediately frowned. “Zu An, what the hell is going on?”

Zu An sighed. He pointed at that rice bowl in the corner. “Someone wanted to kill me.”

## **Chapter 717: Irrefutable Evidence**

“What?!” Everyone’s expressions changed. Who was Zu An? He was a criminal who was involved in a scandal with the crown princess right now. There were countless pairs of eyes on him right now, yet someone wanted to kill him? Who would dare to do such a thing?

Jiang Boyang subconsciously looked in the direction Zu An was pointing at. When he saw the overturned food, the grains of rice scattered everywhere across the dried grass, he immediately revealed a suffering expression.

Zhen Xueyi and Murong Tong both turned around and gave Guo Zhi another look. In that instant, they could feel the power of the aura that erupted from him.

Huh? Why was this fellow so angry? Was he angry that someone had tried to silence this matter, or was it because of Zu An? Could it be that he had some friendship with Zu An that they didn't know about?

Murong Tong quickly said, "Hurry and examine the poison inside."

There was no way they would believe that it was poisonous just because Zu An said that it was. They wouldn't allow themselves to be led by the nose like this.

The imperial prison locked up extremely important prisoners, so there were naturally specialized personnel who checked for poison. The one assigned to that duty quickly came with a silver needle. Then, he brought the food up to his nose to give it a sniff. He even licked it with the tip of his tongue.

Zu An's eyebrows rose when he saw this. Isn't this just too much dedication? If it were a pile of sh\*t that was poisoned, would he give it a lick too?

That jailer quickly spat out the things in his mouth. He got up and said, "The food has Zombie Poison mixed in. Even though this poison isn't fatal, it can make one lose their mind and become a living corpse."

Everyone's expression became serious when they heard the report. The poison wasn't intended to kill Zu An. Were they worried that killing him would be going too far, risking too much? But turning him into a living corpse was another form of silencing him.

The messy-haired Imperial Director Zhen Xueyi finally spoke up. He gave Guo Zhi a cold look. "Who was the one who delivered Zu An's food today?"

Guo Zhi quickly called for someone to look into it. The result made his expression change several times. "There was a new person who was transferred over. He's already nowhere to be seen."

"Absolutely disgraceful! You actually allowed someone to barge into the imperial prison and do whatever they want? Do you even want your position as the Right Guard General anymore?!" Jiang Boyang was already furious. When he saw Zhen Xueyi's messy hair, he felt as if he could no longer hold himself back. Guo Zhi became the target for venting his anger.

Guo Zhi began to sweat buckets. His expression was full of shame. "I'll immediately investigate this person."

He wasn't scared of Jiang Boyang. Even though the other party's official rank was higher than his, they belonged to different departments, and as such, the latter couldn't tell him to do anything. However, something major had happened in his own domain. If the emperor criticized him, he wouldn't be able to bear that guilt.

Furthermore, he and Zu An had even called each other brothers, yet something had almost happened to Zu An in his own domain. This was just too humiliating.

Jiang Boyang's expression thus eased a bit. However, he couldn't remain in such a messy prison. He immediately got up to leave and gestured for the jailer to bring Zu An to the interrogation room.

When the others arrived, Jiang Boyang was already sitting upright in front of the table, with everything on top of it arranged neatly. Even the surface was spotlessly clean.

Zhen Xueyi and Murong Tong exchanged a look. How had this guy done it? They didn't see him bring a rag or anything.

Jiang Boyang cleared his throat and said, "Zu An, how is the poison? Should we call over a physician to check your condition?"

Zhen Xueyi and Murong Tong became even more certain now. This fellow really did have some type of relationship with Zu An.

Zu An replied, "Thank you, Sir Jiang. This matter involves the crown princess' innocence, so even if I'm poisoned, I'll still do my best to cooperate with sirs."

The three officials had strange expressions. This kid really was shameless! All of them could clearly see that he was fine right now.

Jiang Boyang was also caught off guard. "Alright then. Do you know who could have done this to you?"

Zu An sighed. "I could go on and on. I can tell you, but will you write it all down?"

Murong Tong harrumphed coldly. "Stop using excuses. Just start talking. Don't tell me you think the three of us aren't sufficient as witnesses?"

Zu An smiled, "Then I'll start. The first one who might do something to me is Sir Murong. Everyone knows that Sir Murong lost his position of Security Officer because of my involvement."

Murong Tong was furious. "You rascal! Who do you think you are? That was a normal court transfer; why would it be because of you?"

You have successfully trolled Murong Tong for +388 +388 +388...

Zu An shrugged. He looked as if he didn't feel like arguing with this fellow, that everyone who knew the truth knew it. Murong Tong became even more angry when he saw this.

Zhen Xueyi quickly grabbed him. "Ahem, this old one can vouch for brother Murong; he's an upright person. Even if he's a bit unhappy over that matter, he wouldn't do something like this."

Zu An used that chance to say, "I also feel that Sir Murong is the outspoken and forthright type of person. He wouldn't use this type of treacherous scheme."

Murong Tong stuck out his chest. He thought to himself that these were the best words that had come out of this brat's mouth since he'd met him.

Huh? Wait, if you knew that, then why would you say what you said? Weren't you just messing with me?

You have successfully trolled Murong Tong for +666 +666 +666...

But how could he know that Zu An was only doing this to earn some Rage points?

Zu An then continued, "Apart from Sir Murong, the one who wants me dead the most is probably King Qi. After all, I made him look bad not too long ago, and then I crushed his heir's knees. If I were King Qi, I would be itching to finish me off."

Everyone's expressions became strange. It looks like you at least know yourself well.

Jiang Boyang coughed and asked, "Do you know that slandering a court king is a huge offense?" At the same time, he gestured towards the scribe to not record that statement yet.

Zu An said, "I'm not framing him, I'm only bringing up points of suspicion. As for the rest, you all need to investigate that on your own."

Zhen Xueyi and the others exchanged a look. They saw the seriousness in each other's expressions. This case was already full of points of suspicion from the very start. Even Murong Tong, who was a strong supporter of King Qi, was starting to suspect his leader.

Zu An laughed coldly when he saw their suspicious expressions. "I already said that I'd be willing to talk, but I wasn't sure if you could write it all down. And look where we are now."

Zhen Xueyi, who had been casually sitting in his seat, said, "We obviously need to treat this matter seriously if it involves the king. Just keep talking for now. Are there any other suspicious people?"

Zu An chuckled. "Are you sure you want me to keep talking?"

All of them became unhappy. "Just keep going!" Who the heck are you kidding? You already even said King Qi's name; is there anyone else more tricky to deal with?

But their expressions immediately changed the next second, because Zu An said, "The next one who might want me dead is his majesty!"

After a moment of petrification, all of them snapped out of their daze. Now, even Jiang Boyang became upset. "Brazen! Do you understand what kind of crime you've just committed?!"

You have successfully trolled Jiang Boyang for +22 +22 +22...

Is this kid stupid? If we really start an investigation, then these words alone are enough to condemn him for a great crime!

Zu An sighed. "I warned you, but you all forced me to say it. Even if there is disrespect, I guess we'll all be disrespectful together."

The three officials were speechless. But in the end, it was Zhen Xueyi who spoke up. "Tell us why you think his majesty would wish to kill you first." He thought, Why does this kid deserve a beating so badly? I even want to teach him a lesson.

Zu An said, "This matter involves the crown princess' purity, and if the crown prince were cuc... Ahem, and I might be innocent, I might not be. For his majesty, wouldn't the simplest manner be to just get rid of me? As the ruler, one would rather accidentally kill a thousand innocents than let a single crook go. Isn't that but a common practice?"

Everyone's expression immediately became shocked when they looked at Zu An. This kid was just a brat off the streets, yet he actually understood the art of ruling so well! Was he self-taught, or had someone taught him...?

Jiang Boyang said, "Your analysis is reasonable, but there is one point you're wrong on. His majesty doesn't care if you are innocent or not; what he cares the most about is if the crown princess is innocent. He can kill you at will, but the crown princess is different. She isn't someone who can just be swapped out. That's why before we investigate all of this, his majesty wouldn't act against you first."

Zu An was surprised. He had really wondered if the one who wanted to silence him was the emperor. However, after listening to that explanation, only then did he realize that he still couldn't see as far as these real old foxes.

Murong Tong became annoyed. "Enough, enough, this kid is rambling on just to mess with us. There's no need to ask him so much anymore. I have something I want to ask you. We investigated some other eyewitnesses. Not only did they provide an oral confession, they also have proof."

"What kind of proof?" Zu An was stunned. He began to think to himself. He didn't think there was anything that could give away his identity!

Murong Tong said with a cold laugh, "There were people in the palace who found your clothes and the crown princess'... dress at the scene of the crime. How are you going to explain this?"

Everyone's eyes bore daggers into Zu An when these words were spoken.

#### **Chapter 718: I Have a Friend**

Zu An's expression changed as he realized he had actually forgotten that detail! They hadn't found their clothes anywhere back then. The ones who were scheming against them had definitely hidden them, and then placed them at the scene of the crime afterwards.

"What, you have nothing else to say?" Murong Tong sneered when he saw Zu An's change in expression.

Zu An sighed and asked, "Isn't this easy enough? Couldn't someone just steal my clothes and throw them into the scene of the crime? My residence in the capital isn't a secret, and there aren't really any defenses. Any expert can go in and steal a set of clothes. What's so hard about that?"

Murong Tong frowned. "Stealing your clothes is easy, but the crown princess is in the eastern palace. Her clothes aren't so easily stolen!"

Zu An replied, "Then you should ask the crown princess about that. How the hell would I know how they were stolen?"

Murong Tong roared angrily, "That damn tongue of yours! It seems we won't get anywhere without torture!"

Zu An said gloomily, "Sir Murong seems to want me to be involved with the crown princess this badly. I wonder what kind of ulterior motives you have."

"Don't try to slander me." Murong Tong was already starting to get used to Zu An's sharp words. "I'm merely doing this for the sake of the case."

“Since it’s for the case, then isn’t this simple enough?” Zu An said, “You can all seek out the experienced wet nurses to examine the crown princess’ body, and see if she was violated by a man. Won’t you find what you’re looking for then?”

Everyone in the room fell silent and exchanged a few looks. Then Murong Tong said, “You sound quite confident. Is it because you already knew the crown princess is a virgin that you’re making us investigate this?”

Zu An feigned shock. “What? The crown princess was actually a virgin? How long has she been married to the crown prince already?” He was even starting to admire his own acting skills. He obviously wouldn’t admit that he had learned that detail from the jailers.

Murong Tong harrumphed. “Why would you be so confident unless you knew the truth? Did the crown princess tell you that when you met with her in private?”

Zhen Xueyi frowned unhappily and warned, “Brother Murong, please watch your words.”

Only now did Zu An reply, “I don’t know anything about the crown princess’ circumstances. However, whether or not she’s been violated isn’t something only virginity will prove. You can check if she fits snugly.”

“Fits snugly?” The interrogators’ eyes went blank. However, they had lived for a long time, and they had spent their fair share of time in the brothels. Their hairs were graying now and they were truly experienced veterans in that field so they immediately realized what he was saying. Their expressions were a bit strange when they looked at Zu An. This fellow really was something! He could use such a phrase in this way.

Zu An was confused by their reactions, but he still continued, “You can also check if the crown princess’ personal clothing has any traces of male fluids. You can also check the smell. Once you look into all of this, then you can easily discern that both the crown princess and I are innocent.”

Jiang Boyang coughed. “The palace has already examined all of this. The crown princess is indeed pure and unharmed. However...”

Murong Tong continued, “There is one other thing. You were seen by the palace’s personnel when you two carried out illicit activities, and that was why you stopped. There’s no way to prove that the two of you really are innocent.”

Zu An shrugged. “If you say it like that, then there’s nothing I can do.” At the same time, he sighed in praise internally. Murong Tong and Jiang Boyang were expert investigators, as expected. They were already extremely close to the truth of what had happened between him and the crown princess.

Zhen Xueyi spoke up. “What do the two of you think?”

Jiang Boyang said seriously. “Judging from the various clues, I believe Zu An was most likely framed.”

Zu An felt warm inside. As expected of the gorgeous principal’s dad! He knows how to treasure his future son-in-law after all.

Murong Tong harrumphed. “But we can’t eliminate the possibility that he and the crown princess have something going on between them.”

Zu An thought to himself, I won't agree to your granddaughter's wedding to Youzhao. Let's see what you'll do then!

Zhen Xueyi said, "Since both sides have reason to support their claim and we lack proof, then we can only seek out that person."

"Indeed. Once he interferes, we'll immediately know the truth." Jiang Boyang nodded in agreement.

Murong Tong said a bit hesitantly, "But he usually doesn't get involved in this type of thing. He might not agree!"

Zhen Xueyi chuckled coldly. "This matter has involved the crown princess, and it will affect our empire itself. He has to agree even if he doesn't want to."

Zu An was completely confused. "Who are you all talking about?"

"The Royal Academy's Libationer, Chen Si," Murong Tong said with a cold laugh. "Libationer Chen is proficient in divination. He can distinguish the hearts of people. No one can tell lies before him." A libationer was equivalent to a headmaster, but their authority was far greater.

Zu An was shocked and thought, There's someone this OP in this world? Doesn't this mean that Chen Si is basically a hundred percent accurate lie detector? That's such a pain in the ass!

Murong Tong smirked. "Your heart is beating pretty quickly. Are you nervous?"

Zu An shivered. These fellows were all powerful experts, so they were able to pick up on these things. However, he reacted quickly and said with a smile, "It's not fear, but rather excitement. I can finally express my innocence! Can you bring Sir Libationer here sooner so I can get out of here earlier?"

Murong Tong was starting to lose confidence when he saw the excitement in Zu An's expression. Could it be that this guy really had a clear conscience?

...

Their party quickly left to report the matter to the emperor. At the same time, they had to invite Libationer Chen here.

Zu An was brought back into his prison cell. Everything inside had already been cleaned out, and Guo Zhi had even arranged for a jailer to stand guard outside for fear that someone else would try anything. Zhuxie Chixin came over when he received the news as well. He sent a group of Embroidered Envoys to oversee the place just in case something was wrong with the jailers. With both sides keeping each other in check, not even a single fly would be able to get in.

Zu An sank deep into thought when he saw the Embroidered Envoys. It looks like the one who wanted me dead isn't the emperor. Who was it then? Also, what do I do about that freaking lie detector?

It wasn't that he was scared of Libationer Chen, because he had the ridiculous Keyboard Come skill. That was enough to help him make it through this ordeal, but the side effects were a bit too strong.

But even though he could pass the test, what about the crown princess' side? What if this Libationer Chen went over to test the crown princess too? Wouldn't they both be seen through?



He began to panic when he thought of that possibility. Unfortunately, he was locked up and couldn't do anything.

Suddenly, he thought of something. He realized that he hadn't pulled his lottery in a while. Since he had nothing better to do, then he'd just take care of that. He calculated his points, and found that he had 358,655 Rage points in total. After he had arrived at the capital, the people he dealt with had had higher cultivations, and all of them had offered more Rage points.

He gave the surrounding jailers a look. They weren't paying any attention to him, so he began pulling the lottery.

Thank you for playing... Thank you for playing... Thank you for playing...

Suddenly, the keyboard stopped on the P key.

Congratulations for winning a new skill: "I Have a Friend!"

### **Chapter 719: That Other Half Person**

Zu An had a weird expression as he stared at the skill description.

I Have a Friend Skill Description: In this world, there is an extremely mysterious and loyal friend. It doesn't matter whether you want to prove your words are real, or there's something you don't want to talk about because it is too embarrassing; he will immediately bail you out. No one has really seen him before, yet he really does exist in the lives of everyone.

Skill Effects: When you start with 'I have a friend', everyone will know that you're making that statement up. That friend of yours is actually yourself.

Zu An was stunned. What the hell? Isn't this skill just trash? Even if I didn't have this skill, if I said that 'I have a friend', everyone would know that I was talking about myself, right? Why the heck do I need this skill? What a freaking scam!

Zu An finally snapped. Most of these skills were scams. His mood wasn't all that great after pulling a skill that wasn't all that useful. He could only pray to Buddha to see if he could get a skill that could help him out of his current predicament.

Thank you for playing... Thank you for playing... Thank you for playing...

His eyes twitched when he saw those words. In the end, he didn't pull any other new skills or tools. He could only sigh in disappointment. Looks like suddenly asking Buddha for help when he rarely ever lit incense didn't work.

The total came out to 331 Ki Fruits. Compared to the usual ten percent hit rate, his luck today really was garbage.

Zu An looked around. Although he saw that no one was paying attention to him, he still didn't feel at ease. He went to the corner and used his body to block their line of sight. Then, he secretly summoned Daji and fed her the Ki Fruits.

Daji's aura rose sharply and she broke straight into the sixth rank.

Zu An's mood finally improved a bit. He thought to himself, If I earned a few more waves of Rage points and managed to raise Daji to the master rank, or even grandmaster rank, then wouldn't I be practically invincible?

Even though his current strength wasn't bad, the seventh rank wasn't anything special at all in the capital. There were eighth ranked experts everywhere. He wanted to cry when he thought of that. He cultivated frantically, yet in the end, Daji's rise in cultivation was already about to catch up to him. What the hell...?

Suddenly, his mind stirred and he quickly recalled Daji. A second later, Guo Zhi appeared outside of his prison and asked, "Brother Zu, are you alright?"

"I'm fine, I was just taking a piss here." Zu An shook his body a bit and then pulled up his pants.

"That's good, that's good. You can just call for someone if you need anything." Guo Zhi looked him over. When he saw that Zu An was fine, he left, muttering to himself, "How strange... I think I sensed some type of aura just now. Was that a misperception?"

Zu An immediately went on alert. It seemed it would be better to be a bit more careful. If word of Daji's appearance reached Zhuxie Chixin's ears, then things would become a bit tricky.

Then, he lay down on the bed and began to slowly recollect the details of the whole affair...

...

Time passed just like that. Zu An wasn't interrogated for several days. He was so bored in his cell that he felt like a hen about to lay some eggs.

Fortunately, Chu Chuyan visited him from time to time, bringing him the newest information from the court. "The court has been in quite a commotion recently. Because there hasn't been any conclusive proof, the crown prince's faction launched a full force retaliation, saying that someone tried to frame them. They're insisting on an investigation to find the one who planned this behind the scenes.

"King Qi's faction isn't willing to just back down either. They made a huge fuss over the witnesses and your clothes that were left on the scene. Now that we're on the topic, do you really have nothing going on with the crown princess? Why were your clothes found together?"

Zu An smiled in embarrassment and said, "We're clearly being framed here. Wouldn't it be easy enough if they wanted to steal my clothes?"

"But stealing the crown princess' clothes isn't that easy, right?" Chu Chuyan frowned. However, she didn't really suspect Zu An. She continued, "After fighting back and forth, someone suggested to call for Sir Libationer to find out the truth.

"Many subjects didn't agree to this at first, as they all had their own misgivings. But there's nothing else they can do. They went back and forth for a few days. I believe they'll reach an agreement soon, and Sir Libationer will come to settle this matter."

Chu Chuyan's clear and cold eyes revealed her worries. "Sir Libationer's strength is unfathomable. He isn't any weaker than King Qi. There are some who suspect that he might even be someone comparable to his majesty. No one can lie in front of him."

Zu An said with a smile, "I didn't expect to receive such an honor. Even someone this important is getting involved."

He remembered Yun Jianyue mentioning that there were two and a half people she had some misgivings against. He knew about the emperor and King Qi. Was this Libationer the half?

"You're still in the mood to laugh?" Chu Chuyan began to panic. "If you really did anything, then there's no way you would be able to hide it from Sir Libationer."

Zu An had a weird expression. "I'm talking about what-ifs, okay? What if. What if there were something between me and the crown princess? What would you do?"

Chu Chuyan's beautiful brows raised sharply. "Then you would deserve it even if you die!"

You have successfully trolled Chu Chuyan for +22 +22 +22...

Look at this jealous girl! Zu An laughed and said, "Don't worry, both the crown princess and I are innocent." Though... Our interpretation of the word innocent might be different. Either way, there was no way he would claim to be guilty unless they went all the way to third base.

Chu Chuyan sighed in relief. "That's good. Once Sir Libationer comes, you should be able to get out soon afterwards."

Zu An noticed the weariness in her expression and his heart softened. He grabbed her hands and said, "Chuyan, I've really troubled you these past few days by making you run all over the place."

Chu Chuyan sighed and said, "I actually know that everything I've done these past few days has been useless. What happened this time is already on too large of a scale. Neither the Chu nor the Qin clan can do too much for you."

Zu An smiled warmly. "You did help me a lot. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been the Libationer who came, and I would've been secretly silenced instead."

Chu Chuyan smiled. "You're always so good at comforting me."

...

After Chu Chuyan left, Zhen Xueyi, Jiang Boyang, and Murong Tong entered together. Zhuxie Chixin was present as well. When he saw the lineup, Zu An shivered inside. It seemed some things truly were inevitable.

The jailer brought Zu An to an interrogation room. Zhen Xueyi and the others didn't sit down the way they had before, but instead waited quietly by the entrance. Even Zhuxie Chixin didn't have his usual arrogant expression.

Soon afterwards, an invisible aura pushed open the entrance, and an elder in a green robe slowly walked in. His steps looked extremely slow, but he entered the interrogation room almost instantly. That feeling of spatial distortion was painful to watch.

Zu An sized up this legendary figure, but he could only be described as ordinary looking, to the point where no one would even bother giving him a second look if they saw him outside. Comparatively, Jiang Boyang and the others appeared to have much more character. However, those elegant uncles could only serve as supporting characters next to this elder.

His eyes were incredibly deep, as if they carried the weight of countless experiences. In that instant, Zu An almost forgot what he looked like. The only things left were those deep eyes.

“You are that Zu An?” The libationer didn’t greet Jiang Boyang and the others, to the extent where he didn’t even nod toward them. It was impossible to tell if that was because of disdain, or merely because he didn’t need to do such a thing due to his status.

Jiang Boyang and the others didn’t become upset, as if they had expected that. They instructed, “Zu An, hurry and pay your respects to Sir Libationer.”

Zu An greeted the elder. “This junior greets Sir Libationer.” Being stubborn and arrogant in front of someone like this would be very stupid. Furthermore, this man was in charge of his fate.

The libationer smiled and said, “There is no need to be nervous. You only need to reply to one question. Please answer naturally and do not resist.”

In that instant, Zu An felt as if he had been bathed in autumn wind. He focused a hundred and twenty percent of his attention and replied, “Sir Libationer, please ask away!”

This elder was ridiculously strong. If he forced himself to Keyboard Come, that would most likely result in his death. The only thing he could try out at this point would be his new skill. He had already thought through just how to use that seemingly trash skill. However, he still didn’t have a hundred percent confidence in making it past this libationer’s trial.

The libationer’s eyes shone with radiance as he asked, “Are you and the crown princess innocent?”

“I have a friend...” Zu An was just about to start his skill, but he was stunned. This question... He immediately replied, “Yes!”

The libationer nodded. “It is the truth. Very well, my interrogation is complete.” After saying so, he turned around to leave.

## **Chapter 720: Back in the Light**

The others, who were standing by the entrance, were stunned. “It’s over, just like that?”

Murong Tong was the most nervous. He quickly stepped out in front of the elder and asked, “Sir Libationer, you’ve already finished your interrogation?”

“Yes.” The libationer seemed to treasure words like gold.

Murong Tong really was panicking now. "But isn't this a bit too careless? Shouldn't you ask things in more detail?"

The libationer gave him an indifferent look. "Are you trying to teach me how to do things?"

Murong Tong immediately felt his entire body go ice-cold, to the extent where he found it a bit hard to breathe. He shivered and immediately apologized, "I wouldn't dare!"

Jiang Boyang also spoke out in his place. "Sir Libationer, please don't mind. His nature is a bit too straightforward."

The libationer nodded and said, "I have already asked everything I need to ask. He is innocent. Just release him." He didn't wait for these people to say anything else and stepped out. His figure gradually disappeared into the distance.

Zu An was incredibly shocked. He hadn't used the I Have a Friend skill just now, because the question the other party had asked was extremely strange.

The libationer hadn't asked if he was with the crown princess that day, nor had he asked if they had removed their clothes. Instead, he had asked an ambiguous question.

'Are you and the crown princess innocent?'

Even though most people wouldn't find this question that strange, as someone who was directly involved, he understood what had happened. Everyone's feelings toward innocence were different.

Others might think that being with the crown princess without clothes on, or even touching one another a bit, would make one guilty. But as a transmigrator, Zu An thought it was normal for guys and girls to touch each other. Only if they got to third base would he really consider himself guilty.

That was why he hadn't needed his new skill at all when facing this question. Furthermore, the other party hadn't continued to ask anything else.

If it had been just an ordinary person asking, he might have wondered if the other party was truly a professional, or if this was just a moment of negligence.

However, this was the libationer! He was the third most powerful cultivator in the entire court. His status was extraordinary. Why would someone like that make such a low-level mistake?

This Sir Libationer was secretly helping me! But why would he help me? Zu An thought to himself. He was sure that he had never seen this person before. It was to the extent where he had only heard of this person in the past few days.

There was no reason for such a person to help a nobody like him, right? Could it be that I'm overthinking things, that all of this is just a coincidence? He was internally conflicted.

However, just then, Guo Zhi ran over with a smile and said, "Now that those sirs are reporting to the emperor about Sir Libationer's decision, I believe brother Zu will be free soon. Let me offer my congratulations ahead of time!"

Zu An smiled as well. "Thank you, brother Guo, for your care these past few days. Otherwise, I might've really been put in a hard spot."

Guo Zhi was the one who became a bit embarrassed instead. "My brother, you're being too polite! I really almost harmed you this time... I still feel quite guilty about that."

Zu An said, "It was something hard to prevent. By the way, did you find the one who did that?"

Guo Zhi replied, "I found him, but he had already ended his own life by then. We weren't able to find out much about him either, so this is still an unresolved case."

"So that's what happened..." Zu An thought to himself.

A while later, someone came over to inform Zu An that he was being released. He left the gloomy and cold prison, and the sudden sunlight was a bit hard for him to adjust to. He thought, Sigh, I was such a good citizen in my past world. How many times have I been locked up already in this one?

"Big bro Zu!" Piao Duandiao and Jiao Sigun arrived with some other guards, bearing big smiles on their faces. "We came here to welcome you back when we heard the news of your release!"

Zu An felt warm inside. "You guys don't have work today?" he asked.

"The crown princess gave us a day off," Jiao Sigun replied.

Zu An was stunned. He realized that sending them here to welcome him was probably the crown princess' idea. After experiencing such an ordeal, she couldn't really come herself, so she had done this instead. That girl still has some conscience. I didn't save her for nothing after all.

Piao Duandiao moved over and winked at him. "Brother Zu, shall we make a trip to the government brothel? You should vent out all of your frustrations on those cute sisters." Ever since he had heard Zu An use the phrase 'cute sis', he had begun to use it quite often himself.

Zu An couldn't help but laugh. This fellow's surname really suited him. He had an exceptionally strong attachment to such a thing.[1]

They headed toward the palace entrance. Zu An found a chance to quietly ask, "Has Sir Libationer visited the eastern palace?"

Piao Duandiao shook his head. "He didn't."

Zu An sighed in relief. To be honest, he had been worried about the crown princess' side the most. Since the libationer hadn't questioned her, then with her wits, this opportunity would surely be enough for her to deal with the rest of the trouble.

"How is the crown princess doing these days?" Zu An asked.

Piao Duandiao chuckled. "It's only because I know you that I wouldn't think anything strange. Anyone else might have other thoughts."

Jiao Sigun retorted, "You don't know sh\*t. Big bro Zu is merely asking this out of loyalty. It's your mind that's dirty. I definitely wouldn't have thought those weird things."

Piao Duandiao was already used to Jiao Sigun's bickering and didn't feel like commenting. He continued, "Don't worry, the crown princess has remained inside the entire time, so there haven't been any problems. Still, I can tell her mood isn't too good."

Zu An thought to himself that it would be weirder for the crown princess' mood to be good after this type of thing had happened.

They all left the palace gates happily. They began to chat about what kind of girl they would go after once they arrived at the government brothel.

Qiu Honglei and Yun Jianyue had left, so Zu An wasn't really in the mood to go there anymore. No matter how amazing those courtesan queens were, they were far inferior to the girls at his side. Still, he couldn't really refuse these people's enthusiasm.

Suddenly, a guard said, "Wow, there's an incredible beauty over there!"

"Be careful, anyone who can wait near the palace gates definitely isn't an ordinary person."

"I wonder which sir's wife that is. Tsk, that person really is lucky."

...

When he heard their comments, Zu An turned to look in that direction out of curiosity. He then saw a familiar face.

"Ah Zu!" An icy blue figure rushed over and leapt into Zu An's embrace under the shocked gazes of all of the imperial guards.

The guards gulped. It turned out the husband they were so jealous of had actually been right there with them all this time!

"Chuyan, why are you here?" Zu An asked, surprised and happy.

Chu Chuyan's face was a bit red. She had been so excited that she lost her bearing. Now, she noticed that there were many eyes looking at her. She quickly took a step back and withdrew from his embrace. "I received news that the Libationer would personally interrogate you, so I waited for the results by the gates. Then, sure enough, you were released. Huh, who are they?"

Zu An replied, "They're my friends, colleagues from the eastern palace. This is my wife, everyone."

Chu Chuyan's face immediately turned red when she heard the word wife. After all, her marriage to Zu An had already been annulled by the Chu clan. Now that she heard Zu An continue to call her his wife, her usually cold face revealed a stunning smile. "Hello, everyone. May I ask where all of you are going?"

This gorgeous scene that was like the first budding of spring made the guards feel their souls going limp. When had they ever met such a beautiful woman before?

Even though the crown princess was beautiful, she was always stern and dignified. The other concubines were also of high status. None of them would smile so warmly toward them like Chu Chuyan.

When Piao Duandiao and the others snapped out of their daze, they said, "We greet the lady. We were... just escorting big bro Zu out." How could they say that they were going to take Zu An to a brothel to his wife's face?

Chu Chuyan smiled. "I've troubled everyone. I've prepared a bit of wine back home. Why don't all of you come with us?"

"There's no need, there's no need. We still have business to take care of," Piao Duandiao and the others quickly said. How could they interfere in this two-person world of romance? It was best if they didn't disturb the couple. Furthermore, they had a day off, so they should obviously spend that time in the government brothel.

Just then, Chu Youzhao ran over as well. She exclaimed with a sweet smile, "Brother-in-law!"

Murong Qinghe came over with her and subconsciously began, "Brother-... Ahem, hello, Sir Zu." She almost blurted out 'brother-in-law' too. Her face turned red from embarrassment.

All of the guards were stunned.

Big bro Zu, your brother-in-law is prettier than a girl!

Also, that little beauty over there seems to be the Murong Clan's young miss? Look at how shy she seems. Does she like big bro as well? But she's the dignified young lady of the Murong clan! Is she going to become a concubine?

Big bro is our big bro after all. You're the model for all of us to strive after.

Just then, a carriage slowly stopped nearby. A pair of perfect legs emerged first. Piao Duandiao and the others immediately began breathing hurriedly