

My Crown 591

Chapter 591: You're Forbidden From Running Away

"Xiaoxiao, then I'll be bringing them out now. Remember to keep me informed." Qiao Mu had Qiuqiu send her out without delay.

Practically at the same time that she was sent out, she too sensed the crown prince's raging aura drawing near, and a figure landed inside the bedchamber with a swish.

He was very frantic!

He had hurried back as fast as he could the entire way.

However, when he saw that small, slender figure just as he entered the Eastern Palace, he was clearly taken aback. He sized her up dumbfoundedly before his entire heart finally settled down, his expression easing slightly.

"Where did you go just now?" Mo Lian arrived next to her in a flash, and he pulled her into his embrace.

Qiao Mu blinked her eyes. "I..."

"I'm telling you, if you disappear wordlessly and silently like this again, I will tie you to my side one day and prohibit you from stepping even a single inch away from me!" Mo Lian lowered his head and was just about to bite the little fellow's mouth.

However, our dear Qiao Mu hastily stretched out a small paw to block his lips, and she communicated silently with the sapling: "Can you bring Mo Lian into Paradise Planet right now?"

"No way, no way! Qiuqiu almost died from exhaustion last time, bringing in that many living things from the outside world! Crown Prince the Great is that large of a person! It's better to wait awhile!"

Qiao Mu curved her eyes suspiciously. "It's only one person though? Last time you were fine bringing in that many butterflies."

"Besides Master, living humans are the most difficult to bring in. It's an entirely different matter, though, if they're dead..."

"Scram! Who are you saying is dead!" Qiao Mu's delicate brows instantly scrunched up.

"No no no, I didn't say anything. Crown Prince the Great's cultivation is that high, how is it possible for something to happen to him." *Wah, Masta was so scary! Have to quickly smooth things over.*

"Actually Masta, as long as you increase your cultivation, it won't be that strenuous to let in living things in the future!" Qiuqiu instantly fawned, "I believe in Masta. You'll definitely make a big breakthrough in no time."

Inside Paradise Planet, Butterfly Queen Xiaoxiao looked down with disdain at that bootlicking sapling before brusquely returning to its poison garden with a flutter of its wings.

"Why aren't you speaking?" The crown prince cupped her small chin in his hand, his eyes suspiciously observing the silent little fellow before him.

“You disappeared just earlier.” There was an instant that was just like what happened two years ago, in which he couldn’t detect her presence anymore.

This sent his heart into a panic, and he frantically rushed back to the Eastern Palace, afraid that the little fellow was going to wordlessly go missing and that he wouldn’t be able to see her for a few years again.

“Why aren’t you saying anything?” The crown prince slightly exerted some strength, which caused Qiao Mu, who was currently communicating with the sapling Qiuqiu, to regain her senses.

“Qiaoqiao, you’re forbidden from running away.” He lifted her high up and met her eyes. “Don’t run away, okay?”

“Where did I run away to.” Qiao Mu gazed at him exasperatedly.

It was all her fault that her cultivation wasn’t high enough. If she could bring him into Paradise Planet for a look, then everything would be extremely obvious at a glance.

“You ran away!” He leaned in and bit her small mouth. “Just now. Don’t run away in the future okay? My heart panics when you run away. Next time, if I’m unable to sense your presence again, I’ll have to take some precautions, alright?”

Ah, bah! What kind of precautions are you thinking of taking? Qiao Mu struggled to break out of his embrace but couldn’t, so she bared her small white teeth to bite him in a huff.

Seeing this, the crown prince, this shameless guy, promptly aligned himself properly and beamed while saying, “Come, don’t bite the wrong place.”

The two people’s pairs of lips met at once...

Chapter 592: Squeeze In and Sleep Together?

“Splash!” A trickling brooklet directly doused Crown Prince Mo.

Currently, a glossy stream of water was entwined around Qiao Mu’s small fingers, glistening as it flowed forth endlessly between her fingertips.

The Crown Prince Mo that was so unearthly handsome was currently gazing in bewilderment at her while sporting a drenched head of long hair. This appearance...

Qiao Mu couldn’t resist giggling before breaking out in uproarious laughter.

Mo Lian gazed at her dazedly for a while before suddenly hugging her tightly and exclaiming emotionally, “Qiaoqiao, Qiaoqiao, you’re laughing, Qiaoqiao.”

Look at this dummy, did her laughter merit making him so happy that he wished for nothing more than to fly into the air with her?

Qiao Mu extended a pair of small paws and caressed his dripping face, a faint tenderness flashing past her large eyes. “You’re all soaked. Hurry and go bathe.”

“Okay, then you go turn in earlier. You don’t need to worry about the palace banquet tomorrow evening. I’ll be going with you.” Crown Prince Mo nuzzled the little fellow’s forehead.

Qiao Mu humphed. "I'm not worried one bit. It's other people that need to worry. If anyone who's blind dares to provoke me, hmph!"

"I'll help you beat them back." Crown Prince Mo immediately concurred without caring for his principles.

At his words, Qiao Mu pursed up her small mouth that looked just like a water ripple, and her eyes were filled with a resplendent light. She then jabbed his chest with her finger. "I'll beat them myself."

"Yes yes yes, you'll beat them yourself, you'll do it yourself. My Qiaoqiao is so formidable that she definitely won't suffer a loss." Crown Prince Mo flicked his sleeves, and a formless fire vaporized the water stains on his body.

He carried her to the bed and held her small hand as he asked, "That just now was?"

"It's the power of the essence water that I assimilated." Qiao Mu tilted her small head and looked at him. "It's just that, it's probably because my cultivation isn't there yet that I can only manipulate such a small stream normally."

"You're doing very good already." The crown prince's eyes smiled as he rubbed her head with his palm. "Even though you haven't yet broken through to the spiritual realm, you're already in control of the most powerful water spirit, the sacred spirit of water which can completely crush all spiritual water grade-nine and below. Wait until you break through to the spiritual realm, then you'll naturally be able to use it effortlessly."

"Nine grades of spiritual water?" Qiao Mu had never heard of this before and was filled with curiosity.

"Right, nine grades of spiritual water. When breaking through the level-15 great mystic cultivator barrier, as long as one can sense one of the five spirits, they'll be able to enter the spiritual realm."

The crown prince explained, "However, normal mystic cultivators can only sense the five spirits first five grades. Those that can sense grade-six spiritual fire, spiritual water and above are all excessively gifted in spiritual realm cultivation. What you've sensed... has exceeded the nine grades of spiritual water."

"I didn't sense anything. I just assimilated the essence water, and then I was able to control the water." The little fellow's assertion caused a certain crown prince to secretly twitch his mouth.

"Yes yes yes, my Qiaoqiao is very amazing." The crown prince pressed her down and grinned as he tucked her in. He leaned over and kissed her forehead lightly. "Sleep now."

"Where are you sleeping?" Qiao Mu suddenly asked this.

"Are you keeping me here?" The crown prince was startled before a mischievous smile promptly surfaced on his lips. "The bed's quite large, so it's also fine if we squeeze in and sleep together."

Pretend that I said nothing! Darling Qiao pulled the comforter over her small head, and her entire body shrunk into it, as if she had enswathed herself in a cocoon.

The man let out a low chuckle and stretched out his hands to help her with the comforter, insisting on digging her small head out from inside her cocoon. "Alright, alright. Hurry and sleep. Be obedient and don't suffocate yourself, okay?"

After a kiss landed on her small face with a “chuu,” the little one rolled over to the other side.

Chapter 593: The Gloves Are Off

“Sleep soundly, and don’t be anxious to wake up early. Once I come back tomorrow after dealing with work, I’ll tell you a hilarious joke.” The crown prince said with smiling eyes as he helped the little fellow tuck in the comforter before getting up to leave.

Even after his graceful figure, which was as straight as bamboo, gradually disappeared from the window of the bedchamber, Qiao Mu was still gazing after him in a slight daze.

Suddenly, she shrunk her head inside the covers, touching her slightly burning face.

His voice lingered in her mind, and she soon timidly poked her small head out again, just like a small animal in the evening snow, her eyes shining especially brightly in the dark night.

Only a single candle had been lit in the corner of the room, and its flickering glow subtly extended outwards.

After tossing about for a while, she finally fell asleep. She didn’t know when it happened either, but when she opened her eyes, the sun had already risen high up into the sky!

Hearing her movements, Shaoyao immediately walked in and helped her wash up and dress. She asked with a wide smile on her lips, “Little Master, did you sleep well last night?”

“Not too bad.” Qiao Mu pursed her small mouth and ruminated that the crown prince must have drugged her, otherwise how could she have slept so soundly afterwards?

“That’s great then.” Shaoyao helped her change into a crimson red dress as she said, “The purpose of the small banquet that Her Majesty the Queen is hosting tonight is actually to meet Little Master. You don’t have to be too worried, Little Master. Her Majesty the Queen is an especially lenient person.”

Qiao Mu fiddled with the jade beads in her hands and said childishly, “If she doesn’t treat me well, then I’ll ignore her.”

Shaoyao almost laughed out loud while arranging Qiao Mu’s hair. “It’s still early now, so we’ll first leave your hair like this, but it’ll have to be combed again in the evening. Does Little Master want to send for her meal now?”

“I’m not too hungry, so I’ll first read for a while. You can just bring me some snacks later.”

“It’s best to have a proper meal.”

“No need, I’ll eat a little later. Bring me a bit more food, and then I’ll go attend that whatever palace banquet after eating.” The little fellow waved her hand before pattering to the brocade divan by the window frame, where she flipped through her book.

Shaoyao was a bit stupefied and just stood there for a while, before she couldn’t help wanting to laugh.

Little Master was intending to eat her fill before joining the battle later!

Mo Lian didn't return until it was nearing dusk. Once Qiao Mu saw him, she set down her book and ran over. "I've already finished browsing through those medical books. You can send them back."

"It's starting to snow again outside." Mo Lian had gotten damp from the moisture on the way back, so he didn't hug her and prepared to change his clothes instead.

"Okay, I'll send them back and then go see if the Royal Physician Building has any other medical books." Speaking of which, it really was comical. The Royal Physician Building's old physicians signed a joint petition and actually sought out his Royal Father to lodge a harsh complaint against him...

The old king even summoned the crown prince to sternly reprimand him, but the crown prince, this gremlin, still didn't return the books to the royal physicians. As a result, the matter just died out like that.

The little fellow blindly followed suit behind him. "Then let's eat dinner."

Mo Lian removed his outer robe before wearing a clean one, and then he caught her in a hug. "Hungry? Prepare the meal."

"Yes, Your Highness." Xiao'xi'zi retreated out of the room to inform the others.

"I'm not too hungry." The little fellow had just finished nibbling on a peach earlier, and she rubbed her belly. "It's just that I have to eat my fill to have the energy to beat people up."

She had a premonition that this was going to be a nuisance of a banquet! That's why, she had to eat her fill beforehand, in case she still had to listen to other people prattle while she was suffering from an empty stomach.

The crown prince: ...

What to do? His wife didn't rely on him even one bit.

Beating people up was so exhausting. Was it necessary for his wife to do it herself?

Chapter 594: Water Spirit Epiphany

"That's right! I was bored with nothing to do in the afternoon, so I roasted two fish for you. But they've gotten cold now, so let Shaoyao reheat them first." Since he liked carrying her, she also didn't feel like walking by herself.

The two people sat down on the embroidered couch, and Mo Lian turned the little lady's face to him as he gazed at her with a grin. "Qiaoqiao is so capable."

"Not capable." Qiao Mu creased her brows. "They taste meh, and they even got a bit burnt. You should roast them next time."

She had originally wanted to throw them away, but she felt that it was a pity to waste the dense mystic energy that these fishies had accumulated, being locally grown and bred inside Paradise Planet's lake.

"Everything that Qiaoqiao makes tastes good." As he spoke, Shaoyao was already leading people in to set down the dishes with a smile.

There were two slightly burnt fish among the dishes, but Mo Lian was slightly surprised upon taking a bite.

The mystic energy wrapped around them was extremely dense, as if these fishies had been nurtured for a long time inside some mystic realm.

He cast her a glance but didn't say anything. Recalling the peaches that the little lady had taken out before, he speculated that the little fellow must have had a fortuitous encounter.

After the two people finished their meal, Shaoyao once again helped Qiao Mu arrange her clothes and hairdo before they set out in a carriage for the Central Palace.

By this time, the snowflakes had already grown quite large.

Qiao Mu extended her hand past the curtain and watched as a glistening snowflake landed on her palm, her brow stirring slightly.

She had suddenly recalled that the Spirit Division Record had recorded a strange cultivation technique: Freezing water into ice, then transforming ice into snow. When ice took the form of ice needles as arrows, and snow the form of fine powder granules, it was possible to hurt people imperceptibly.

Since she couldn't use the water spirit's power on a large scale with her current cultivation, if she could stealthily use it on a small scale, then she might be able to obtain a miraculous victory.

Seeing Qiao Mu sitting silently inside the carriage, just staring at the six-cornered snowflake in her palm, the crown prince involuntarily raised an eyebrow, and he gave the carriage driver an instruction in a low voice.

The snowflake in her palm abruptly melted into a drop of water. Immediately afterwards, a stream of water surfaced from her palm, yet it didn't turn into ice even after a long time. Rather, a thin layer of sweat had beaded on Qiao Mu's forehead instead.

In the meantime, the carriage was advancing forward noiselessly and gradually on the palace roads. Without Qiao Mu's knowledge, it was currently taking a long detour towards the Central Palace.

Freezing water into ice—this was easier said than done. It was impossible for her to be like the holy water, with its innate ability to change between the physical states of water at will, and easily freeze water into ice.

Even though she had Qiuqiu and Dottie to assist her, they were only support in the end. Only if she personally mastered the ability to control water would it count as part of her own strength.

This, then, required her to continuously strive and experiment by trial and error.

Because she had assimilated essence water, perhaps she was a dozen times more likely than others to succeed. However, she still needed to continuously attempt freezing the water. After all, nothing was ever obtained easily.

The crown prince observed her the entire time with a smile on his lips.

His Qiaoqiao truly was extraordinarily gifted, as even a snowstorm could spark an epiphany. This astuteness was already one of a kind in the present age.

After an hour, Qiao Mu had mastered the gist of it, and a water trickle froze into lustrous ice crystal fragments under her manipulation.

In the blink of an eye, these ice crystals then transformed into six-cornered snowflakes, flickering as they hovered above her palm.

With an abrupt flick of her hand, they suddenly flew outside.

Swish swish swish. The snowflakes had cut into several trees on the left side.

After the carriage travelled into the distance, these trees split open from the middle of their trunks, and the top portions abruptly toppled over with a boom, splitting into two sections.

Qiao Mu exhaled a breath, and she met the crown prince's smiling eyes upon turning her head.

Chapter 595: The Willful Crown Prince Consort

"This kind of control over the water spirit can absolutely be considered as talent blessed by the heavens." Mo Lian pinched her small face.

It had to be known that his little one had yet to break through to the spiritual realm. Besides, using the water spirit at least required spiritual energy to guide it, right; however, when it came to this little one, all these regulations were broken.

He had never seen a level-11 mystic cultivator who could control a water spirit. This already couldn't be summed up as simply being able to control it even when bypassing levels.

Certainly, the little fellow was an oddball.

What could it be, other than being incredibly gifted? The crown prince basked in a shared glory, and he warmed up the little fellow's slightly chilly hands.

"Then are we late?" Noticing that the sky had already darkened completely, Qiao Mu raised her eyes to look at him.

"It's a special circumstance. I've already sent someone to report to Royal Mother's Brilliant Sun Hall." The crown prince said with a smile.

"Then will your mom believe that I was late on purpose?" Although the little fellow was an aloof stoic face on the outside who didn't speak much, she was actually an especially meticulous softie.

Sometimes, she had a lot of things on her mind, but she wouldn't tell others about all of them.

She also had a particularly sharp intuition when it came to judging people. She could basically determine in an instant who had good intentions and who had hostile thoughts towards her.

Mo Lian could already sense her slight unease, and he quickly caressed her small hand, reassuring, "Royal Mother is a very magnanimous person, so you don't have to be nervous. Besides, don't forget that there's me to accompany you no matter what happens. We will always stand united together."

“Not nervous.” Qiao Mu’s face remained stoic as she remarked, “If your mom doesn’t treat me well, I won’t talk to her.”

Crown Prince Mo gazed at this darling, both amused and exasperated.

“Fine, then I won’t talk to her either. We’ll both ignore her.” Mo Lian nodded his head solemnly.

Xiao’xi’zi and the other servants in their retinue almost staggered into kneeling on the ground. Oh my, their lord crown prince was originally a very willful and capricious person. It was just great, and now, the crown prince consort seemed to be one hundred times more willful than their lord. What were they to do in the future! Wouldn’t these coming days be abnormally lively...

Qiao Mu turned to look at him and gave a humph, declining to comment.

As the carriage didn’t go on a long detour anymore, it very quickly stopped before the Central Palace’s twin gates.

The two people didn’t board a palanquin after alighting from the carriage. Instead, they held hands as they ambled through the snow. Xiao’xi’zi quickly opened up an umbrella, and he also informed the royal maids on the side to frantically hold umbrellas up above their two willful masters’ heads.

As they advanced, the rooftops and trees on either side had already been blanketed with a fine snow-white color.

If this snow were to keep falling for the entire night, it would definitely accumulate by tomorrow.

Inside the Brilliant Sun Hall where the queen was hosting the banquet.

A group of noble daughters and madams with royal mandates, as well as the young ladies and daughters-in-law of patrician families, had long fully assembled and were just waiting for the banquet to start.

The queen was wearing a brocade robe that alternated between red and gold, with ends that were embroidered with layers of clouds. Presently, she was sitting in the chief seat, and she had been drinking tea unhurriedly from beginning to end without saying a word.

There were only some whispers below, as everyone didn’t dare to say much.

It wasn’t until “Noble Consort Zheng is here” was announced that this superficial silence in the hall was broken.

The noble daughters and madams with royal mandates, as well as the young ladies and daughters-in-law of patrician families, all rose up to give their salutations, and they said in unison, “Greetings to Noble Consort Zheng.”

The tall and voluptuous Noble Consort Zheng was wearing a long and rippling cerise dress on her slender waist, her head adorned with a gorgeous eight-treasure pearly hairpin. She swayed gently as she walked lissomely towards the first seat below the chief seat, the superior grade pearls that dangled beside her cheeks emitting a series of plinks as they knocked against each other.

Chapter 596: The Mother-in-Law and Daughter-in-Law’s First Meeting

Her red lips were flippant and lithe, and although she had already turned 25, she still dressed up prettily like a 15 or 16-year-old young lady. However, it didn't look too inharmonious.

The group of royal concubines, consorts, and princesses also simultaneously stood up to give their salutes. Other than Her Majesty the Queen, and those with a comparable respectable and honorable status who didn't need to be apprehensive of Noble Consort Zheng, none of the other people present dared to be negligent before her.

"You can rise!" Noble Consort Zheng brushed aside the jade tassels grazing her cheeks, and she wore an irreverent smile on her lips as she gave a semi-salute to Her Majesty the Queen, who was sitting in the chief seat. "Greetings to Your Majesty."

Queen Zhao merely cast her an indifferent glance before nodding.

Just as Noble Consort Zheng's butt was about to sit down on the first seat below the chief seat, Queen Zhao curled her lips sardonically as she coldly stated, "Sister Zheng, you're sitting in the wrong place. That over there, is the crown prince consort's seat."

Noble Consort Zheng's smile immediately stiffened on her charming face.

"Cough." One of the two middle-aged consorts sitting below the place of honor had choked on her tea in laughter.

Although the two were over 40 years old, they were still well-preserved. Even though they couldn't be considered that young and pretty anymore, at least they still retained their charm and grace. Of these two people, one was the eldest prince Mo Jiao's mother consort, Consort Cheng, while the other was second prince Mo Lu's mother consort, Consort Liu.

The person who choked in laughter was Her Highness Consort Cheng, causing Noble Consort Zheng to glare fiercely in her direction.

On the other hand, Consort Liu pretended to dab at her mouth with her handkerchief and didn't make a sound, but the smile at the corner of her mouth couldn't be wiped away.

"Sister Zheng, come sit over here." A 20-something-year-old royal concubine said smilingly in a soft and low voice as she pointed to the seat above Consort Cheng.

Noble Consort Zheng subsequently glared fiercely at her too and sneered, "Her Majesty the Queen's daughter-in-law that was ordained out of the blue is giving quite the attitude! She's still not here yet at this time?"

Just as she finished speaking, a eunuch announced from outside Brilliant Sun Hall, "The crown prince and crown prince consort are here."

The noble daughters and patrician families' young ladies immediately revealed expectant gazes as they turned to look anxiously at the hall's open main door.

On the other hand, Noble Consort Zheng couldn't stay composed anymore as she stared at the seat underneath her half-stooping butt. If looks could split that seat in two, she would've long done so.

This d*mned old woman didn't say this was the crown prince consort's seat earlier and just had to wait until she was bending over to sit down to say it. It was embarrassing to death!

Standing before the seat, Noble Consort Zheng felt that it was quite discomfiting to walk away now, so she just didn't sit and gazed coldly at the golden couple that stepped through the doorway while holding hands.

While walking over, the two people had attracted who knows how many people's attention.

The crown prince and crown prince consort walked in while holding hands in crimson formal attire, looking very spectacular and well-matched. The man was handsome and as upright as bamboo, similar to unworldly fine jade, while the girl had icy and celestial looks resembling the cold moon. No one could find fault with these two people's appearances, to the extent that a phrase couldn't help but jump out of everyone's minds when they witnessed this scene.

A match made in heaven!

As if sitting on a carpet of needles, Mu Qianqian felt like there were 17 or 18 needles stabbing into her butt, and she shifted, unable to sit still. Meanwhile, her pair of vicious eyes stared straight at the red-clothed little lady that walked past her table.

So hateful!

This was her? The lowly wench that popped out of the blue and snatched her position of crown prince consort!

Mu Qianqian completely didn't realize that she had once seen Qiao Mu at the Qin Estate. Qiao Mu was still in disguise at that time, so compared to her current appearance, it was naturally the difference between heaven and earth.

Chapter 597: A Stoic-Faced Daughter-in-Law?

Suddenly, Qiao Mu pivoted her head over, and her icy pupils shot an apathetic glance towards Mu Qianqian's vicious eyes.

That single glance promptly caused one to become apprehensive from terror. It was as if the power of that glance could kill someone on the spot.

After all, that was a tyrannical attack caused by our dear Qiao Mu using her spiritual conscious to directly infiltrate the other party's conscious.

Could just any random person stare at this darling?

This attack caused Mu Qianqian to immediately feel dizzy, after which a sharp pain instantly assaulted her brain. She suddenly shrieked out loud before collapsing backwards.

The people sitting behind her were the second branch's mother-and-daughter pair, Madam née Liu and Mu Zhilan. Since they were caught off guard, their entire small table was knocked over by the collapsing Mu Qianqian, and soup, water, as well as all kinds of other stuff flipped onto their bodies.

The second branch's mother and daughter immediately jumped up while screeching, which caused Her Majesty the Queen, who was sitting in the chief seat, to sweep a severe gaze over.

The young misses and ladies nearby all snickered while covering their mouths as they looked contemptuously at the hopping mother and daughter from the Mu Family.

Madam née Liu's heart jolted, and she hastily pulled her daughter Mu Zhilan forward into a kneel. "This subject and her daughter have been discourteous in the palace hall, will Your Majesty the Queen please pardon us. It's truly because Eldest Miss had suddenly flipped out, so this subject and her daughter were caught off guard."

Mu Qianqian also hastily went forward in a kneel and cried out pitifully, "Will Your Majesty exercise your penetrating judgment. Just now... she, while passing by Qianqian, used some kind of witchcraft to glare viciously at Qianqian. That's why I suddenly lost my balance and fell backwards."

As she spoke, Mu Qianqian raised her sleeve to point at Qiao Mu's back.

"Slap her mouth!" The crown prince suddenly turned around and shouted severely.

Mu Qianqian's eyes bulged in fright as she gazed dumbfoundedly at His Highness the Crown Prince, who had suddenly turned hostile.

Immediately, an indoctrinating nanny grasping a red, wooden plank came forward to restrain Mu Qianqian. Seeing that the bamboo plank was about to land on her mouth, Mu Qianqian wailed, "Your Majesty the Queen, Your Majesty, Qianqian doesn't know what she did wrong that irritated His Highness the Crown Prince!"

"Is the crown prince consort someone you, a person who disregards decorum, can casually point at? What 'she, she, she'? Who is 'she'?" The crown prince glared irritably at the indoctrinating nanny that had paused and declared ruthlessly, "Don't know how to hit? Do you want Us to do it personally? Double it!"

The indoctrinating nanny trembled on the inside, and she immediately raised the plank to slap Mu Qianqian's mouth twice.

With the third slap, Mu Qianqian's originally painted red lips, which looked glossy and seductive, cracked open, and her tears streamed downwards like a snapped string of beads.

Queen Zhao couldn't bear it after seeing her like this.

The queen previously had three to four crown prince consort and side consort candidates that she favored, among which was this Mu Qianqian.

Although Mu Qianqian's father was not an official at court, he was the widely known patriarch of the talisman patrician family, one of the capital's eight great patrician families.

Not to mention, apparently this talisman patrician family was the branch family of a talisman patrician family based in the Divine Province. Its influence absolutely couldn't be underestimated.

That was, after all, the mysterious Divine Province eulogized by all. Compared to the Shuntian Prefecture backing Noble Consort Zheng, it was naturally of a higher tier.

If the crown prince married such a great patrician family's daughter, it would definitely be a huge help to him.

The other few candidates were also daughters of high officials or great patrician families, and their looks and erudition were all excellent. They were more than qualified to be side consorts.

However, she didn't anticipate that the father-and-son pair would do such a thing, casually confirming the crown prince consort candidate by themselves.

At this time, the queen was currently sizing up this crown prince consort, as well. She saw that even though the girl was only 14 or 15 years old, her small face was lustrous and snow-white, and had been endowed by heaven with celestial looks.

It was just that, what was up with that expressionless face?

Chapter 598: The Worrisome Crown Prince Consort

"Greetings to Royal Mother." Crown Prince Mo held Qiaoqiao's small hand as he walked forth and greeted his mother.

After the royal concubines, madams with mandates, noble ladies, and patrician families' daughters witnessed the crown prince's severe method of punishing Mu Qianqian, they had a tacit mutual understanding that the crown prince viewed this consort very highly. No one would continue to idiotically challenge this crown prince consort's eminence before the crown prince.

Therefore, all of them compliantly saluted the crown prince and crown prince consort.

Our dear Qiao Lin, who was mingled in the back of the crowd, involuntarily fidgeted her small body in excitement. She only settled down after her mother Wei Ziqin patted her small hand and cast her a warning glance.

Wei Ziqin had arrived early with her daughter in tow, and she waited here and there in vain for her eldest daughter to arrive.

Now, seeing that the crown prince had personally escorted her eldest daughter over and even defended her like this in front of everyone, she couldn't help being absolutely joyous. She was delighted with this son-in-law no matter how she looked at him: up, down, left, right, etc.

Queen Zhao, on the other hand, was fiercely protective of her children, so she naturally wouldn't embarrass her son in front of everyone. Even if she disapproved of our dear Qiao Mu, this stoic face, in her heart, she wouldn't show anything on the surface. She chuckled as she forewent their formalities, while secretly casting a glance at her son.

Truly, the son escapes the mother's control once he leaves the nest!

Was it possible for her to devour the crown prince consort? To even specially escort the crown prince consort over!

She didn't see one bit where exactly this little lady matched up to her incomparably excellent son.

It was obvious with a glance that this young lady was a cold one; after all, her small face didn't even have a hint of a smile when facing her elders. Heavens knew how much her son would suffer chasing after her.

When she thought about how such a good son had to suffer grievances for a young lady! Queen Zhao felt upset.

In Queen Zhao's view, her son's excellence could only be amounted to as unique under heaven. When young ladies saw him, they should be like Mu Qianqian and her kind, swarming over to glue themselves to him. How could they be like Darling Qiao, giving others the cold shoulder and being expressionless the whole day.

Our dear Qiao Mu keenly noticed a hint of dissatisfaction coming from the queen's direction, and she knitted her brows while raising her watery eyes to look at the queen.

Look look look! She actually even dared to knit her brows at this queen!! Queen Zhao griped in her mind, but there was no visible shift in her expression on the surface.

"Alright, you can leave your crown prince consort behind now." The queen grumbled pettishly while sweeping the crown prince a glance.

The crown prince nodded with a beaming smile. "Then your son will drop by again after two hours to pick up the crown prince consort."

Queen Zhao hated that she couldn't smack the back of the crown prince's head and send him flying. Her expression was utterly brilliantly amusing!

The other royal concubines and noble ladies' expressions were also exceptionally entertaining!

Really, was it possible for them women to devour the crown prince consort or what? Wasn't it just a small palace banquet? So why was the crown prince so worried that he had to be in charge of both picking her up and dropping her off?

She really was a finicky lass! Look at how worrisome she made people.

Queen Zhao was once again thunderstruck by the stoic face. Setting aside how the stoic face was expressionless from beginning to end, when she heard the crown prince saying that he was going to pick her up, her attitude was that this was only to be expected as a matter of course!

Just as everyone was madly lampooning in their minds, they saw the little stoic turn her face over to the crown prince and say, "After one hour, I'm sleepy."

The crown prince nodded gladly and rubbed the little fellow's head. "Okay."

Queen Zhao and the royal concubines were all flabbergasted.

Noble Consort Zheng couldn't resist it anymore and broke out in uproarious laughter. She derided, "The crown prince consort truly is finicky beyond belief. You're about to immediately leave after just arriving at the banquet? Tsk tsk, where are you placing Her Majesty the Queen's prestige, hehehe!"

The little stoic turned to look at Noble Consort Zheng, creasing her brow. "You are the queen?"

Chapter 599: A Noble Consort Is Also a Concubine

Noble Consort Zheng was momentarily speechless before angrily declaring, "I am Noble Consort Zheng!"

"Your lady of the house hasn't even spoken yet. As a concubine, why are you speaking a load of drivel? You don't even understand the rules one bit." Qiao Mu skewered her irritably with these sentences before turning her back on her.

This time, everyone was truly shocked! It was fine if she didn't say anything, but once she opened her mouth, she really berated Noble Consort Zheng without a bit of reservation.

Noble Consort Zheng gritted her teeth, hating that she couldn't give Qiao Mu's expressionless stoic face a sound slap.

However, since her IQ met the mark, she knew that if she dared to attack the crown prince consort when the crown prince was still present, then she would certainly be thrashed flying by the protective crown prince first.

Therefore, no matter how much she gritted her teeth, she still held it in and didn't make a move. Instead, she bypassed the crown prince consort and said to Queen Zhao in an ill temper, "Your Majesty the Queen, seeing as the crown prince consort dares to be so impertinent and heckle us concubine mothers even in front of you, Younger Sister really doesn't know what kind of inappropriate things the crown prince consort would do if you aren't present."

"Crown Prince Consort." The queen put on an act and reprimanded, "How can you be so rude to the noble consort?"

"A noble consort is also a concubine." The little stoic showed slight irritation on her face. "She's so verbose. You aren't going to discipline her strictly? And let her hop around here like a locust? If you don't find it annoying, I do. I don't want to speak to her, so would you please make her shut up."

Queen Zhao was unexpectedly unable to respond...

"Pfft..." On the other hand, a pretty and exquisite 18 or 19-year-old young lady suddenly laughed out loud.

This immediately caused her mother consort beside her to give her a stern look, while the young lady stuck out her tongue naughtily before clamping up her small mouth. She then stealthily winked in Qiao Mu's direction.

"That is Eighth Sister Mo You. She's a good-tempered one. If you're ever bored, you can go find her to hang out." Mo Lian curled his lips and said softly while tugging on Qiaoqiao's small hand.

Meanwhile, Noble Consort Zheng's complexion couldn't be described simply as unsightly anymore.

Her pretty face that had flushed red from restraining her anger was shrouded with dark clouds. Her gaze emitting several traces of viciousness, she stared coldly at this little slut that dared to say such arrogant words while ruthlessly stepping all over her dignity as a noble consort.

Very good! How many years had it been since someone dared to use this kind of irreverent and humiliating tone to speak to her?

The last slut that dared to challenge her eminence as a noble consort had long sunk to the bottom of the pond in the royal gardens, turned into a lump of mud, and was deader than a doornail.

Just because the crown prince doted on her, the crown prince consort, this little slut, dared to look down on her to this extent! She wanted her to regret having ever walked upon this earth!

“Courtesan Zheng, seeing how you are glaring at Our crown prince consort like this, are you dissatisfied with her?” The tone of the crown prince’s sudden question could only be described as freezing.

Noble Consort Zheng’s body immediately turned several degrees colder, and she quickly retracted her gaze while forcing a smile. “Your Highness the Crown Prince truly knows how to crack a joke. How would this consort dare.”

As soon as she finished speaking, she raised her hand to her temples and acted as if she was suffering from a headache. She then turned to Queen Zhao and said in a frail voice, “Will Your Majesty the Queen pardon Younger Sister. Younger Sister’s headache is acting up, and so will take her leave now.”

“What a good irreverent and rude concubine.” Darling Qiao remarked coldly. “You’re about to leave after just arriving at the banquet? Ha ha. Where are you placing Her Majesty the Queen’s prestige?”

She threw the words that Noble Consort Zheng berated her with completely back to her, which infuriated the noble consort into collapsing backwards. She was quickly supported by two royal maids.

Everyone: “...”

Queen Zhao twitched her mouth fiercely before solemnly sizing up the little lady.

Chapter 600: Asking to Be Humiliated

Noble Consort Zheng’s favor with the king had never diminished, and she could be said to have blotted out half the sky with a single hand for so many years in the harem. So in recent years, Queen Zhao had never seen her trounced like this.

Now, seeing her being so infuriated that her entire body was trembling just from the crown prince consort’s few words, Queen Zhao needed to properly reevaluate this daughter-in-law. After all, this truly was a capable person...

Although this child was young, had an extremely aloof temper, and was a person of few words, she didn’t expect that her sharp tongue was so wicked that it could anger people to death.

Glimpsing at a certain someone who was so livid that her chest was slightly heaving, Queen Zhao secretly tugged at the corner of her mouth while a faint smile surfaced in her eyes.

Courtesan Zheng had been arrogant for so many years, and it was hard to come by a young lady that could anger her half to death upon speaking. Needless to say, Queen Zhao even felt quite thrilled about it in her heart.

Hence, upon glancing at Qiao Mu’s little stoic face now, she felt that it looked slightly more pleasing than before.

The young lady that her son likes would certainly be impressive, Queen Zhao pondered in her mind. For the time being, I'll just observe her some more before commenting.

"Royal Mother, then your son will take his leave now and come back an hour later to pick up his crown prince consort." Before saying goodbye to the queen, the crown prince even escorted Qiao Mu to her seat while holding her hand.

Queen Zhao really wanted to grab the teacup by her hand and hurl it at his head. This awful son really only just gave her an hour to interact with the crown prince consort!

After the crown prince paid his salute, he exhorted his little wife again before leaving leisurely with a flick of his sleeves. He naturally also brought away the many young girls' infatuated gazes from the Brilliant Sun Hall.

Queen Zhao didn't know what to say. In any case, she felt like she had raised a son for nothing!

Noble Consort Zheng was originally planning to leave with a fling of her sleeves too, but when Queen Zhao questioned, "Is Younger Sister really as the crown prince consort says, not giving this queen face?" she could only grit her teeth and sit next to Consort Cheng. The handkerchief that she was wringing in her hands was practically about to be torn to tatters.

"Noble Consort Zheng, the crown prince consort is still young and seems to have an innocent and unaffected temperament, so you shouldn't be too particular with her." Consort Cheng drank a mouthful of tea before speaking to Noble Consort Zheng with a chuckle.

Noble Consort Zheng didn't say anything and only wore a sneer at the edge of her lips.

On the other end, after Mu Qianqian was punished with a beating, her mouth had already completely festered.

Eldest Madam Mu wiped her tears, full of heartache. She didn't dare to leave with her daughter at this time either, so she could only stiffly watch as her daughter sat there on tenterhooks with her wounded mouth while suffering those noble daughters and young ladies' unfriendly sniggers.

Mu Qianqian would occasionally send her malicious gaze towards Qiao Mu. However, seeing that person sitting aloofly in the first seat below the queen, her entire heart felt very uncomfortable.

It was all because of that slut that His Highness the Crown Prince punished her in front of so many people, causing her to simply be unable to raise her head up high in front of everyone.

The Mu Family's second branch didn't have it good either. They were sporting heads drenched in soup and tea and could only do some simple wiping, so their complexions right now also weren't very pretty.

In this small banquet, the Mu Family simply became the laughingstock of the entire capital's noble ladies and daughters.

"This queen hosted this small banquet today for you all to meet the crown prince consort." The queen said faintly, "Will the crown prince consort's mother please come forward."

Wei Ziqin stepped out and ceremoniously saluted, "This subject greets Her Majesty."

After the queen casually praised the crown prince consort without somewhat meaning it, she also bestowed many presents to Wei Ziqin, giving the Qiao Family sufficient honor before having her withdraw to continue with the meal.

Noble Consort Zheng frigidly eyed Wei Ziqin's face and struck a pose of holding her teacup, not saying anything.

At this moment, a woman suddenly stood up and left her seat, curtsying towards the queen.