

## **Royal Marriage 41**

### Chapter 41: Ugly People Often Cause Trouble

These two highest-ranking women in the harem, one old and amiable, and the other stunningly beautiful.

The contrast was quite obvious.

Just looking at the age of the Empress, it was clear that she was the Emperor's original wife. Her calm and peaceful demeanor showed that Old Man Li was not bad, treating his wife well.

At this moment, the Empress spoke: "You all come closer, this palace is getting old, my eyes are not sharp, I can't see clearly."

The stewardess quickly led the young ladies forward.

Concubine Jin looked cold and indifferent, her gaze sweeping over the faces of the dozens of young girls, finally pausing on Jiang Ning at the end of the line.

Empress also looked over.

It was simply hard to ignore her.

Being both very beautiful and sitting in a wheelchair.

Such contrast made it difficult for people not to notice her.

The young girls present didn't know, but both the Empress and Concubine Jin had seen Lin Zizi when she was young. Even Concubine Jin's looks back then couldn't compare to Lin Zizi.

It showed the extraordinary beauty of Lin Zizi.

Jiang Ning's face made it hard for them not to think of Lin Zizi.

"You are the seventh daughter of the Jiang family." The Empress spoke, her expression gentle, "How did you get injured in the leg? Tell this palace about it."

The other girls looked at her with jealousy.

The Empress was too kind, seeing a cripple come for the selection and not driving her away, but instead kindly asking her about it.

Jiang Yuan also felt injustice.

Jiang Ning answered: "Replying to Your Highness the Empress, my leg was injured from a fall when I was young. As for how exactly it happened, I don't remember."

"Such a pity." The Empress sighed.

Concubine Jin said indifferently: "It's not your fault. However, knowing that your leg is not good, and still insisting on participating in the selection, do you think the royal family is easy to bully?"

With these words, the other girls were suddenly revitalized.

Finally, it's happening.

They knew that the palace would never allow her, a cripple, to marry the Prince of Yu.

It's different for others, but Concubine Jin was the Prince of Yu's own mother, and she must be the most concerned about her son.

And thus, the most picky about her daughter-in-law.

Seeing that Jiang Ning was finally, finally, finally... deflated, the other girls were inexplicably happy.

Because of her overly flashy appearance, and because of the inexplicable attention she attracted, these favored ladies all wanted to see her look fearful.

However, they were disappointed.

Not only was Jiang Ning not afraid, but even the casualness in her eyes did not change at all.

However, her expression was still respectful: "Your Highness Concubine Jin, please don't be angry. It's all because I'm delusional and making a fool of myself. Please give me my token."

This meant that she wanted Concubine Jin to kick her out.

But the words "fool making a scene"...

Made everyone have various expressions.

Although she was a cripple, she really wasn't ugly.

Not only not ugly, but also the best-looking among this batch of young ladies.

If she was ugly, what about the others?

Concubine Jin must have been furious!

Kick this annoying woman out!

Throw her token in her face!

Secretly, the other ladies were looking forward to this scene.

After all, everyone knew that Concubine Jin had a really bad temper.

Even the Emperor occasionally felt helpless about it.

Everyone was waiting for Concubine Jin to throw Jiang Ning out, but she retracted her gaze and said lightly: "This palace has always paid attention to appearances. Looking around, you are the best-looking here. So, you can stay for now."

At these words, the other girls were stunned.

This... was different from what they had imagined, wasn't it?

Concubine Jin only cares about appearances?

Empress, please don't stay silent! Please say something about this "appearance" preference of Concubine Jin!

Chapter 42: Prince of Yu Arrives

Amidst the gazes of the ladies, the Empress finally put down her teacup and spoke, "Since she is favored by the noble concubine, let's leave it at that. Choose a few more, so the Prince of Yu can have a good selection."

The Empress was approving the noble concubine's decision!

The beauties couldn't believe it, even starting to doubt their lives.

When did selecting people in the palace only depend on appearance?

What happened to marrying a virtuous wife and taking a beautiful concubine?

Moreover, she is disabled. How can she give birth to any child in the future!

This really angered people.

Jiang Yuan was even more enraged.

Because she wasn't valued by the Empress, she was screened out.

The noble concubine, Your Highness, chose only Jiang Ning, and the Empress, Your Highness, picked five more, making a total of six people.

The remaining ten were each rewarded with jewelry and sent back to their homes.

Jiang Yuan, holding a pair of bracelets with a grief-stricken face, passed by Jiang Ning and said, "How could you stay here!"

"Because I'm good-looking," Jiang Ning lazily replied.

“What’s the use of being good-looking!”

“It just means being good-looking.”

“Even if you’re lucky, when the Prince of Yu arrives, you won’t be noticed! You’ll still go home like me.”

“You’re right, but at least I can still admire the charm of Prince Yu up close.”

“You... You’re shameless! Jiang family having someone like you, simply brings bad luck to the family, bad luck!”

“You’ve already been eliminated but you’re still talking nonsense. Aren’t you leaving? Go home and reunite with your aunt.”

“I won’t leave, I’ll just wait outside for you to be eliminated!”

As the two were whispering and arguing, they suddenly heard the eunuch’s voice from outside, “Prince of Yu, Your Highness has arrived

The ladies’ spirits were lifted.

The main character had finally arrived.

Although they had gotten up before dawn, not eaten enough breakfast, and stood for half a day, the arrival of Prince Yu felt like a shot in the arm, rejuvenating the remaining beauties.

Only Jiang Ning, like a swamp of soft mud, lazily leaned on the wheelchair, her cheeks drooping, eyelids half-closed, about to fall asleep at any moment.

She wasn’t tired, but she was hungry and sleepy.

Always sitting, her stomach wasn't very comfortable either.

Thinking about walking around, but not having her cane, she couldn't lie down either.

From morning until now, she was already a little impatient.

A series of footsteps came from behind, and the beauties tried to suppress their shyness. When the footsteps reached the front, they cautiously raised their eyes to sneak a peek.

Ah, Prince Yu was indeed a divine beauty wearing a robe with arrow sleeves and a narrow waist, a silver brocade belt tightened around his firm waist, a face like jade, and a tall and elegant bearing.

Jiang Ning heard the gasps of the beauties next to her, raised her eyelids, and took a glance, finding that she recognized this figure.

On the small boat, yesterday in the palace, and now – it was already the third time she had seen him.

So this was Prince Yu, Your Highness.

No wonder he would take Xiaoqian out with him.

It wasn't a father-son relationship, but an uncle-nephew one.

Jiang Ning thought and lowered her eyelids, suppressing a yawn with her sleeve.

She was too sleepy to think about anything.

She just wanted to lie back on the comfortable and soft bed in the Black Bamboo Garden, be tenderly attended and massaged by the pretty maids, and be surrounded by fragrant incense and snacks and tea available at any time.

Indeed, it's easy to go from frugality to extravagance, but difficult to go from extravagance to frugality.

Prince Yu paid his respects to the Empress and the noble concubine, with a golden voice: "Your son has seen the Queen Mother and the concubine mother."

The Empress smiled and said, "You came just at the right time, go and sit with your concubine mother, and see if you like any of them."

The noble concubine sat at an angle and ignored her son.

Prince Yu directly sat next to her and looked at the six remaining beauties.

The beauties, whose faces turned red when they were looked at by Prince Yu, avoided his gaze.

Prince Yu's eyes fell on Jiang Ning and found that she was actually dozing off..

Chapter 43: Your Highness Threw It Wrong!

It wasn't his first time seeing her, but it was the first time he saw her up close and in person.

Last time she had jumped into the water to save Xiaoqian, she sat on the bow of the boat shivering, looking like a drowned rat.

She was by no means attractive.



Even now, the Capital was still circulating stories of Lin Zizi's beauty. Jiang Ning was said to have inherited her mother's beauty completely, but those who actually saw her would only notice her lazy demeanor.

Her unique temperament was completely different from the nobility around her.

Others were graceful, standing tall and sitting upright.

But she was slouched lazily in a wheelchair.

Couldn't the disabled sit properly?

She even dozed off.

What a sight.

As for the other five beauties, they were equally unappealing.

The Prince of Yu withdrew his gaze, his long eyelashes covering the touch of disdain and coldness in his eyes.

Concubine Jin opened her mouth: "You can just choose, with only a few people here, just give them a glance and pick a pleasing one. After all, they are all noble ladies, and any of them would be suitable for you."

These words didn't sound like they came from a mother.

But that was Concubine Jin's personality, being cold to everyone, even the Emperor was often denied access to meet her.

Most of the time, Concubine Jin was not as affectionate and kind to her son as the Empress was.

A maid brought a tray with a delicate, rose-red, jade-etched flower ball inside.

About the size of an egg, it had tassels hanging beneath it.

The Empress smiled and said, "Whichever one Prince of Yu likes, give this to her as a betrothal gift. This is a tribute from the Southern Kingdom, worth a fortune."

The ladies' eyes turned hot as they looked at the rose-colored ball.

They eagerly watched the Prince of Yu, staring at the beautiful flower ball pinched between his slender fingers, imagining the scene where the flower ball was handed into their own hands.

One in five chances.

Everyone had a chance.

As for that disabled girl in a wheelchair at the back, she was simply ignored.

She even continued dozing off.

Huh, not afraid to annoy the Queen Mother and be beaten out with a plank.

It really made them wonder why Prime Minister Jiang insisted on sending such useless daughters into the palace.

Wasn't it asking for ridicule?

Even if she was a long-lost daughter who had been separated for twelve years, she should have been pampered at home instead of coming here to compete with them.

Simply overestimating her abilities.

The beauties slightly raised their chins, welcoming the Prince of Yu's flower ball with their brightest eyes and sweetest smiles.

But the Prince of Yu didn't take another look at them, playing with the embroidered ball as he walked out. At the door, he seemed to remember and casually threw the flower ball back.

The ladies watched the direction the flower ball was flying in, wishing they could fly over and snatch it.

But in the presence of the Empress and Concubine Jin, they absolutely did not dare, and could only hold their breath.

Thump!

The flower ball accurately hit Jiang Ning's hand and fell into her lap.

The Empress and Concubine Jin exchanged a glance.

The Empress's look was somewhat meaningful, while Concubine Jin remained cool as usual.

The ladies murmured.

One of them couldn't help but shout, "Your Highness threw it wrong! Threw it wrong!"

Prince of Yu said: "Since the concubine mother says the flower ball is the betrothal gift, whoever catches it will be my Princess Consort. Queen Mother, Concubine Mother, I have some matters to attend to and will take my leave."

He left without looking back.

Even too lazy to look at the person hit by the flower ball, his future wife.

Jiang Ning was awakened from her nap, and when she opened her eyes, she saw a delicate and exquisite beautiful flower ball in her hands. She held it up in confusion: "Who dropped this?"

The beauties: "..."

"If you don't want it, give it to me." One envious beauty said..

Chapter 44: A Green Light

"I want it too!"

"Give it to me!"

As one person took the lead, the others followed suit, clamoring around Jiang Ning as if they wanted to devour her.

Considering it wasn't her possession anyway, Jiang Ning casually handed the flower ball to the nearest noblewoman without even thinking.

She was extremely generous.

Prince of Yu hadn't gone far when he heard the noisy commotion and looked back to see this scene-

He was slightly taken aback, and a hint of coldness flashed through his beautiful eyes as he said, "Do you all think I'm dead? The flower ball I threw isn't valid?"

The noblewomen seemed to wake up from a dream, hurriedly retreating and kneeling down, their faces flushed with embarrassment.

It was really not appropriate for them to compete like this in front of Her Highness the Empress and the princes.

Shameful indeed.

The Empress frowned slightly: "You are all daughters of noble families. What a sight."

"We have made a mistake, please punish us, Your Highness."

"Never mind, return the flower ball to Jiang Seventh Miss, take your reward, and go back to your homes." The Empress appeared kind and didn't mind the young girls' behavior.

The noblewoman who had seized the flower ball reluctantly handed it back to Jiang Ning.

The Princess Consort stood up and said, "How boring."

She gave a slight bow to the Empress and turned to leave.

She seemed to have no concern about her son choosing a disabled woman as his princess consort, as if she was only here to go through the motions. She didn't even communicate with her son throughout.

Prince of Yu was the same, he didn't seem to care who he chose, it was like he was only here to complete a task.

True to the mother and son.

Now Jiang Ning finally understood the situation.

It turned out that the exquisitely crafted rose-colored flower ball in her hand was a betrothal gift from the Prince of Yu to his future princess consort.

What did that mean?

Had the Prince of Yu given the flower ball to her?

With such beautiful eyes, it seemed that his aim when throwing was rather poor.

Jiang Ning wheeled herself to the Prince of Yu and stretched out her hand, "Next time, aim better. It's only because I'm kind-hearted that I return it to you. Otherwise, you'd be marrying a disabled person, and where would you go to cry?"

Prince of Yu:

Was this woman insane or what?

Returning the coveted betrothal gift that others were scrambling for?

The Prince of Yu didn't move, coldly saying, "Then you'll just have to wait and see if I cry."

He didn't want to look at her again, especially not her wheelchair, and left with a flourish of his sleeve.

Jiang Ning watched his retreating back and finally understood his words.

He wasn't planning to take it back.

Was he planning to let the mistake slide?

Could the Fifth Prince be so careless with such a major event in his life?

Jiang Ning couldn't understand this man's thought process.

But thinking about her own stomach, Jiang Ning shuddered and quickly followed, "Your Highness, Your Highness... wait a minute."

Prince of Yu frowned, his eyes flashing impatience, "What now?"

"I can't accept this, Your Highness should take the betrothal gift back." Jiang Ning raised her hand.

"If you can't accept it, why did you come to the selection? You already have the flower ball, there's no need to play coy with me." The Prince of Yu said mockingly.

"I was forced."

"Coincidentally, so was I."

"So, Your Highness, is this a 'no one but me' situation?"

"You're right. I'll marry you for that face. Whosoever has that face, I'll marry. Take the flower ball home and wait. If you dare give it to someone else, I'll make sure you regret it." The Prince of Yu coldly whispered before turning and walking away.

Jiang Ning touched her cheek.

An alluring beauty indeed.

Look at how dazed and confused the Prince of Yu was, not even caring whether she was disabled or not.

But what was the point of his harsh words?

Who would really regret it if he truly married her!

Jiang Ning looked at the retreating figure of the Prince of Yu, feeling that he was emanating a green light all over his body..

Chapter 45: The Young Lady's Great Joy

The flower ball felt somewhat hot in her hand.

The problem was, after she had caught the flower ball, neither the Empress nor the Imperial Concubine paid much attention to her or said anything. They both left while holding the hands of their palace maids.

In the end, it was a Eunuch who came up to her and said, "Congratulations, miss, for your great joy. You may return home and await His Majesty's decree for the marriage. The happy days are near."

Jiang Ning didn't even know how she left the palace.

Being pushed out of Immortal-view Gate, she finally remembered to pull out a silver coin to give to Huang Ying, thanking her for taking care of her these past two days.

Huang Ying wasn't pretentious, and she received it with a beaming smile: "Miss, congratulations. After you become a Princess Consort, this servant may still have a chance to serve you."

Jiang Ning smiled and said, "Thank you for taking care of me."



At this moment, several of the selected showgirls who didn't pass walked by and glanced at her, their expressions somewhat complex.

There was envy, jealousy, and even more unwillingness.

They were all carefully chosen noble ladies from high-class families with outstanding looks, backgrounds, and talents. No matter who was chosen, it would be fine. But it turned out that Jiang Ning, a little lame girl from the Jiang Family, was chosen.

Didn't this mean that they were even worse off than a lame girl?

It was too frustrating.

They didn't want to have anything to do with Jiang Ning either, so they each boarded their carriages and went home.

Jiang Ning looked left and right, searching for the Jiang Family carriage.

Then she saw Jiang Yuan and Jiang Yan both standing by their own carriages.

Jiang Yan saw her, hurried over to help her push the wheelchair, and curiously asked, "Seventh sister, did you see the faces of the Empress and the Imperial Concubine? Who was finally chosen? Could it be Seventh Sister?"

She had been eliminated in the first examination and didn't mind it at all.

With her status, this was just a way to make up the numbers.

Jiang Ning was still holding the rose jade flower ball in both hands and was about to speak when she heard Jiang Yuan snort: "You're still dreaming. No matter who was chosen, it wouldn't be her turn."

At this moment, a beautiful young woman who didn't make the cut walked over, followed by several noble ladies who seemed to be of high-status.

Jiang Yuan recognized her as a princess from a marquis' mansion, and her status was indeed quite noble.

But they were all girls from high-class families, and there was nothing to be afraid of even if they were facing a Princess.

The princess glared at Jiang Ning with a vicious look on her face: "You dead cripple! How dare you steal my things!"

"Ling'an, what are you talking about?" Jiang Yuan frowned and asked.

"I'm saying that the girls in your Jiang Family have no shame. Both of you concubine-born daughters have the nerve to participate in the selection. Especially this lame one, even more shameless. Relying on her pretty face, she's bewitching men!"

Jiang Yuan's face turned cold: "Who are you calling shameless?"

"I'm talking about you, your Jiang Family!"

"Say that again!"

"I'm saying you..."

Whoosh—

Jiang Yuan pounced on Princess Ling'an, knocking her down, then straddled her and aimed a punch at her nose, "If you mouth off again, I'll knock your teeth down your throat!"

Jiang Ning raised her eyebrows.

Jiang Yan anxiously stomped her foot: "Fifth Sister, don't do this..."

Princess Ling'an covered her nose and yelled, "You're all dead! Why aren't you helping me!"

The several noble ladies who had been sucking up to her finally snapped out of their stupor and rushed over.

Some of them grabbed Jiang Yuan's hair, some grabbed her arms, and some pulled her legs.

Ling'an took the opportunity to try to scratch Jiang Yuan's face.

"You guys, don't gang up on one person like this!" Jiang Yan got anxious and also pounced on them.

Four or five noble ladies surrounded and attacked Jiang Yuan and Jiang Yan.

Jiang Ning sat in her wheelchair, silently backing away a few steps. She weighed the rose flower ball in her hand, slightly narrowed her right eye, aimed at Princess Ling'an's face, and gently threw it over.

Smack!

The flower ball accurately hit Princess Ling'an's forehead..

Chapter 46: Just like the shrew from our village

Princess Ling'an was just turning the tables, riding on Jiang Yuan and swinging her claws.

As the flower ball flew towards her, she staggered and rolled her eyes, fainting on the spot.

Blood gushed out of her forehead.

Several noble ladies screamed in fear.

The fight was over.

Jiang Yuan and Jiang Yan got up, full of dust, and were shocked to see the state of Princess Ling'an.

Though fights were common, it was rare to see someone be so ruthless.

She wasn't afraid that she might kill someone with one blow.

The matter soon spread to the palace.

A few newly-selected noble ladies were fighting at the entrance of the Immortal-view Gate in Imperial City, witnessed by so many people.

There was no way to keep it a secret.

Soon, the ladies were kneeling before the Empress.

As for Ling'an, her forehead wounds had been treated by the Imperial Physician, and she had been revived after being pinched in the Renzhong acupoint.

Since she was the most seriously injured, the Empress allowed her to sit and speak.

The other person who was allowed to sit was Jiang Ning.

The rest of them all had disheveled hair and dusty clothes, especially Jiang Yuan, whose face was bruised and swollen.

Although the Empress was in her fifties and always compassionate, she was rendered speechless by their actions.

“Look at yourselves!”

“Fighting in broad daylight, in front of a crowd of servants!”

“Do you have any dignity left as ladies of noble families!”

The noble ladies lowered their heads and dared not say a word.

Although it was embarrassing, in fact, the Great Sheng Dynasty had an open culture, and it was common for girls to go out and play. Fights and verbal disputes were frequent among the noble ladies who couldn't get along with each other.

But this fight had taken place within the Imperial City, so as the master of the six palaces, the Empress had to be stern and harsh.

“What on earth is the reason for this?”

As soon as she heard the question, Princess Ling'an burst into tears and pointed at Jiang Yuan, “She attacked me first.”

Then she pointed at Jiang Ning, “She threw something at me, and it has ruined my face!”

Afterward, she continued to cry, “No one in Jiang Family is decent, they are all shrews! Cousin, please help me!”

It turned out that she was a close relative of the Empress's maiden family.

No wonder she was so aggressive.

Jiang Yuan, who had also been beaten, was both in pain and angry, and said, "You're a malicious accuser! It was you who started it with your vile words. People like you with sharp tongues deserve a beating!"

Ling'an pointed at Jiang Ning, "That lame girl even threw things at me!"

Everyone looked at Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning showed a panicked expression, "Ah, me? Was it me? I didn't mean it, really... I'm just a lame girl, and when I saw them bullying my sisters, I got scared, and didn't hold the flower ball steady, so I dropped it... I'm just a country girl, and I didn't see that Princess Ling'an would be just like a village shrew..."

Ling'an: "..."

What the hell?

Couldn't hold it steady?

Several meters away from her, how could she not have hit her own foot if she hadn't held it steady?

Her lying skills were absolutely amazing.

The Empress caught the main point: "You said, what did you drop?"

“The flower ball from Prince of Yu...” Jiang Ning, timidly, twisted her clothes with her fingers, “It seemed that Princess Ling’an and the others wanted it very much, so I thought if I give it to them, they would stop beating my sisters... At least they wouldn’t destroy the ball.”

Jiang Yuan and Jiang Yan looked at her with strange expressions.

Princess Ling’an and her friends were dumbfounded.

What did they call “calling a deer a horse”?

When did they want to grab her flower ball?

It was a betrothal gift from Prince of Yu, what good would it do to snatch it away?

The Empress, however, understood.

So, it turned out that Princess Ling’an couldn’t accept that Jiang Ning had received the flower ball and took advantage of her superiority in numbers to bully the girls from the Jiang Family..

Chapter 47: Impossible, Absolutely Impossible

The Empress glanced at Jiang Ning, thinking that she was just a timid girl who became flustered when she saw her sisters being bullied, and accidentally hurt Ling’an in the process.

Looking at Ling’an, the Empress seemed displeased, and asked sternly, “Where is the flower ball?”

“The flower ball...I don’t know.” Ling’an’s head was throbbing with pain, and she was extremely agitated, “Cousin Mother, you have to stand up for me.”

The Empress frowned, "Someone, go and find the flower ball."

Soon, a palace maid came over holding the flower ball wrapped in silk.

As it fell to the ground, a piece of petal as big as half a little finger was knocked off.

Seeing this, the Empress felt distressed and said, "Such a perfect piece of rose jade, yet now a piece has been broken."

The palace maid hurriedly comforted her, "Your Highness, don't worry. As long as no one is hurt, everything will be fine."

"Though the object is not worth much, it is after all the betrothal gift from the Prince of Yu. It being damaged like this, it's really inauspicious," the Empress sighed, and ordered someone to bring the flower ball to Jiang Ning, "Poor girl, you've been wronged today. It's not your fault that this object was damaged. Keep it, and have Prime Minister Jiang find a craftsman to see if it can be repaired."

Jiang Ning quickly held it with both hands, choking back tears, "Thank you, Your Highness. I will remember this."

Though she didn't shed tears, her eyes were moist, and her hands holding the flower ball trembled slightly.

This grievance was simply heartbreaking.

The Empress couldn't bear to scold her any further, so she reprimanded a few accomplices and ordered them to send everyone back to their homes.

Thus, Princess Ling'an was beaten in vain.

Although she was unwilling, she had no choice.



Jiang Ning was the future Princess Consort chosen by the Prince of Yu, and the legitimate daughter just found by Prime Minister Jiang. No matter what, they had to save face for them.

The three daughters of the Jiang Family sat in a carriage, bouncing their way back to the mansion.

Jiang Ning sat in the middle, with Jiang Yuan and Jiang Yan on either side, glaring at her with disheveled hair and bruised, swollen faces, and at the no-longer-perfect rose flower ball in her hands.

“Are you two planning to eat me alive?”

“No, this doesn’t make sense.” Jiang Yuan reached out to grab the flower ball.

Jiang Ning closed her hand, “If you damage it, you won’t be able to afford it.”

Jiang Yuan stared in shock, “Is this really from Prince Yu?”

Jiang Yan replied, “Fifth Sister, didn’t you hear what the Empress said?”

“How is this possible? Do you believe it?”

“I don’t believe it...” Jiang Yan shook her head, then hurried to explain, “Seventh Sister, don’t get me wrong, that’s not what I mean. I just wonder, why would the Prince of Yu choose you?”

Jiang Ning retorted, “That’s exactly what you meant.”

“This is absolutely impossible! There must be some mistake!” Jiang Yuan became too excited, and as she jumped up, her head hit the top of the carriage, forcing her to kneel down, holding her head.

Wincing in pain, she said, “It’s impossible, absolutely impossible. Did the Prince of Yu not see that you’re a cripple?”

“He saw it clearly and even mocked me for it.”

“It’s only right for him to mock you, but choosing you is wrong.” Jiang Yuan frowned, “Just because you grew up in a poor family, without any skills or accomplishments, and being a cripple. On what basis would the Prince of Yu choose you?”

Jiang Yan whispered, “Prince Yu probably had poor eyesight today.”

“You’re right about that. He really did throw it with his eyes closed.”

“Really?”

Jiang Yuan screamed, “Why did he do that? You, you, you’re too lucky. Why didn’t he change his mind?”

“Perhaps the Prince of Yu values love and righteousness.”

“He must have taken pity on you!” Jiang Yuan refused to admit that Jiang Ning was better than her.

“That’s possible too. Next time if you break your legs, the Prince of Yu will definitely pity you too..”

Chapter 48: Gaining Love and Favor Through Struggle

Jiang Ning looked serious.

“I must be crazy.” Jiang Yuan reached out to grab her flower ball, “You don’t deserve this thing, give it to me!”

Jiang Ning avoided her hand: “Have you forgotten the fate of Princess Ling’an?”

Jiang Yan quickly persuaded: "Fifth Sister, don't be like this... We are sisters after all, didn't you just help Seventh Sister?"

"I did it because I dislike Princess Ling'an, not to help her!"

"But Seventh Sister helped us too, even smashing the precious flower ball given by the Prince of Yu." Jiang Yan said weakly, "If it were me, I would definitely not bear to break the flower ball."

Jiang Yuan became angry upon hearing this and reached out to grab Jiang Yan: "Do you have a heart?"

Jiang Yan struggled: "Wouldn't Fifth Sister be reluctant to do it as well?"

Jiang Yuan hesitated for a moment, then stubbornly said: "I can't find anything else!"

"Still unable to let go of it?" Jiang Ning leisurely sat to the side, watching them quarrel.

Jiang Yuan pushed Jiang Yan aside, tidied her hair, and coldly said: "You really can let go of it. Since you don't care about the flower ball from the Prince of Yu and don't want to marry him, why do you hold onto it? As a sister, I can marry the Prince of Yu in your stead."

"You're seriously ill."

"What do you mean?"

"It's my thing, and I'm happy to throw it away or smash it. You want to take it, but I don't want to give it. Understand?"

"You're simply infuriating!" Jiang Yuan, frustrated, lunged over to try and grab it.

“You asked for this.”

Jiang Ning leaned back and then kicked her in the buttocks, sending her out of the carriage.

Although the carriage wasn't moving very fast, it was still in motion.

“Oh my god!” Jiang Yan was terrified and quickly shouted for the coachman to stop before sticking her head out to look.

Jiang Yuan climbed up from the ground, sat on the ground, and cried: “Jiang Ning, you just wait!”

Jiang Yan wanted to get out and help her but was stopped by Jiang Ning's words.

“There is still a long way from here to the Jiang Family. If you want to accompany her back and be scolded and beaten all the way, then get off the carriage.”

“...” Jiang Yan silently sat back down.

“Jiang Fu, let's go back to the residence.” Jiang Ning instructed the coachman.

Watching the carriage moving further and further away, Jiang Yan peeked outside and then retreated, whispering: “When she comes back, she will definitely not spare us.”

Jiang Ning leaned against the carriage with her eyes closed, and said indifferently: “She deserves it.”

“Seventh Sister, are you not scared? Fifth Sister has always been favored at home, and no one dares to offend her. Look at her temper, even Princess Ling'an dared to beat her. It's because our father spoils her and treats her as his legitimate daughter.”

“You're also your father's daughter, why doesn't he treat you as his legitimate daughter too?”

“I... My father doesn’t care much about me.”

“Favoritism isn’t innate; it’s something to be fought for.” Jiang Ning opened her eyes to look at her, “There’s a saying that a crying child gets the milk. If you don’t fight and make a fuss, how will your father notice you? People are cheap; if he hasn’t spent any energy on you, he won’t care about you.”

Jiang Yan’s worldview was refreshed by these words.

Thinking carefully, it was true.

Since childhood, Fifth Sister loved to cry and act coquettishly. When she tripped and got a little dirty, she would throw herself into their father’s arms and cry for a long time. When Jiang Yan pricked her palm with a needle while learning how to sew, she didn’t dare to go to their father to cry even once, enduring the pain silently.

She thought that if she was well-behaved and didn’t cause trouble for her father, he would like her.

However, in reality, the more their father favored the noisy Fifth Sister, the more he ignored her, the well-behaved one..

Chapter 49: The Reason Why Prince of Yu Chose Her

Jiang Yan seemed lost in thought throughout the journey.

Upon returning to the Jiang Family residence, Jiang Ruobai, Jiang Yi, and the two aunts came out to greet them. There were also some unfamiliar faces Jiang Ning had never seen before.

The palace had already sent a eunuch riding a swift horse to deliver the good news that the Seventh Miss of the Jiang Family had been chosen by Prince Yu.

The entire family was overjoyed.

Even the madam and the young master and misses of the main branch of the Jiang family came as well.

Jiang Ruobai personally held onto his younger daughter's hand, helped her get off the carriage and seated her in a wheelchair.

Soon after, an old servant followed, holding the hand of Sixth Miss and helped her down from the carriage as well.

All eyes were focused on the chosen Seventh Miss.

However, Aunt Hua was only concerned about her own daughter. She eagerly waited for Jiang Ning to get off the carriage, and Jiang Yan as well, but she couldn't wait for her daughter and became anxious.

"Why didn't Fifth Miss come back together?" She asked loudly.

This statement caught everyone's attention. Jiang Ruobai looked back at the carriage and asked the coachman, "Jiang Fu, did Fifth Miss not come back together?"

Jiang Fu jumped off the carriage and glanced at Jiang Ning without daring to say a word.

"What's going on?"

"Father, don't worry. Fifth Miss didn't get selected, and she was heartbroken. She decided to walk back by herself." Jiang Ning finished explaining and winked at Jiang Yan.

Jiang Yan suppressed a smile.

This Seventh Sister was too interesting.

Following her might not be a bad idea.

At least she wouldn't be bullied by Fifth Sister for no reason.

Jiang Ruobai frowned, "This child is too willful. Jiang Fu, go and bring her back."

Jiang Fu quickly turned the carriage around to go back.

A group of people surrounded Jiang Ning, some offering congratulations, some praising, and some exchanging pleasantries.

Jiang Ning had never met the people of the Jiang Family's main branch before, which showed that they didn't take this newly returned legitimate daughter of the second branch seriously. The reason they came to greet her was simply because they learned that she had been chosen.

Jiang Mubai, the head of the main branch of the Jiang family, was Jiang Ruobai's biological brother. He was not often in Chang'an, as he served as the Great General of the Southwest, commanding a large army.

The two brothers of the Jiang family, one civil and one military, were both important officials and highly valued by the Imperial Court.

This also showed that the influence and power of the Jiang family were unmatched for the time being.

Otherwise, with Jiang Yuan's status, she would not dare to openly beat up Princess Ling'an in front of everyone, let alone talkback to the Empress.

Even though Jiang Yuan was pampered to the point of lawlessness, it was because the Jiang family held great power, and even the royal family had to give way to them.

This was not necessarily a good thing.

But... having great power was indeed quite satisfying.

At least now the people in the Jiang family were quite satisfied.

After hearing about the fight between the three sisters and Princess Ling'an, they didn't take it too seriously.

Jiang Yi said, "Girls bickering and fighting is nothing."

Jiang Ruobai thought his son's words made sense, so he personally pushed Jiang Ning to the Black Bamboo Garden to see Lin Zizi.

The Jiang family would soon have a princess consort, which was a great joy and cause for celebration. Jiang Ruobai intended to discuss the matter with his wife.

However, Lin Zizi wasn't concerned about these matters, but rather sighed with some worries when she heard that Jiang Ning had been chosen.

Although her spirits were not well, she hadn't lost her mind.

"Old Master, don't you understand why Prince Yu chose Ning'er?"

"I know."

"If you know, then why..."

"I'm just afraid that His Majesty..." Jiang Ruobai snorted, "Even if Prince Yu marries Ningning for a purpose, it's still better than marrying His Majesty!"



Lin Zizi frowned, "Prince Yu only wants to marry Ningning to please His Majesty, just to obtain that position. Won't Ningning suffer in Prince Yu's residence? With her frail body... She's my daughter; I can't bear it."

Jiang Ruobai was taken aback, "Zizi, you..

Chapter 50: Daddy, I'm in pain

"I knew it all along." Lin Zizi sighed slowly, "You really think I'm a fool, don't you? Ningning is the flesh and blood of my body that I carried for ten months. The moment I laid eyes on her, I recognized her."

Jiang Ruobai choked up, "Why... didn't you say something earlier?"

"You were thinking about me, I understand." Lin Zizi glanced at the dining table outside the room, her eyes filled with tenderness.

There, Jiang Ning was sitting at the table, having soup.

Lin Zizi smiled, "Old Master, I understand your concerns. That's why I don't blame you for sending Ningning to the selection. I just feel bad for her. She just got back, and she didn't have much time to stay by my side."

"I'm reluctant too. I've checked, probably two or three months ago, the emperor accidentally met Ningning. I think he knew her identity then but kept it a secret. He just went to her restaurant every day, even gave her many valuable antiques. I'm just worried... the emperor might transfer his affection for you to Ningning."

Lin Zizi chuckled, "After all these years, you're still holding a grudge."

"No, I'm not. The one who holds a grudge is the emperor."

“If the emperor really had such intentions, why would he wait until now and watch you send Ningning to Prince of Yu’s selection? The Prince of Yu is so smart.”

“Sigh, I knew that as soon as the Prince of Yu saw Ningning’s appearance, he would definitely choose her.”

“You’ve calculated all this, but what about after she marries into the prince’s mansion?”

“After marriage, can’t I, Jiang Ruobai, still look after her?” Jiang Ruobai snorted, “Just a young Prince of Yu, I don’t think much of him. If he doesn’t behave, there are more princes in the Great Sheng Dynasty.”

It was rare that Lin Zizi was in good spirits today, so Jiang Ruobai couldn’t bear to leave. As the couple chatted, a sharp cry suddenly rang out from outside.

“Father ”

Lin Zizi said indifferently, “In our household, the only person who would dare to cry out like that is Fifth Daughter.”

Jiang Ruobai smiled as he stood up and went outside, just in time to see Jiang Yuan with messy hair and a bruised face, crying as she ran over and threw herself into his arms.

Behind her followed Aunt Hua, Aunt Liu, and Jiang Yan.

Jiang Ning sat at the table with her soup and glanced at their direction.

Jiang Ruobai held Jiang Yuan and frowned, “What happened to you?”

“Father, I was beaten up by Princess Ling’an’s people while trying to help Seventh Sister... Seventh Sister not only was ungrateful, but she also pushed me off the carriage... My foot hurts so much, it might be broken...” She sobbed in Jiang Ruobai’s arms and accused Jiang Ning.

“I’ve heard about this. It’s okay. I’m very happy that you sisters are so united,” Jiang Ruobai helped her sit down and ordered the stewardess to call the doctor.

Jiang Ning continued to drink her soup nonchalantly, “Didn’t Sixth Sister get hurt too?”

Jiang Yan was startled.

“Really, Xiao Liu, where did you get hurt?” Jiang Ruobai looked at her.

If it were in the past, Jiang Yan would definitely lower her head and say, “Your daughter is fine, Father. You don’t have to worry.”

She wanted to be a well-behaved daughter who didn’t cause any trouble or worry for her father.

But today, perhaps thinking of what Jiang Ning had said, Jiang Yan inexplicably nodded, “My arm hurts a bit, it might have been scratched by someone.”

Jiang Yuan glanced at her in surprise.

Jiang Ruobai beckoned, “Is that so? Let me take a look.”

Gathering her courage, Jiang Yan walked over and rolled up her sleeve. There were indeed several long bloody marks, caused by sharp nails..