

The Hunter 551

Chapter 551: The Empress Dowager Is Here

To be honest, Li Xiaoran also wanted to go back early, but there were many things that had not been settled here, so there was no need to rush back so soon.

After Li Xiaoran thought for a moment, she said, "Husband, there's no need to be in such a hurry. We're going home soon, so two days won't make a difference! Let's leave after we settle everything in the capital!"

Luo Cheng didn't want to wait.

What happened last night made Luo Cheng feel that something was wrong.

Why did that palace maid happen to hang on the tree after the couple appeared?

One had to know that before the palace banquet, many people went in and out, but no one saw her.

The pavilion they were in last night was also a place they had to pass through in order to go to the guest room.

So many people didn't see it, but the couple did.

It was also Li Xiaoran's unexpected shout that attracted the imperial guards.

According to his way of doing things, he definitely would have left with Li Xiaoran before secretly sending someone to investigate.

If that was the case, he might have already fallen into trouble.

Thinking that he would be schemed against if he stayed here, Luo Cheng wanted to leave earlier.

However, before he could continue persuading Li Xiaoran to leave, Zi Cheng suddenly appeared outside the door and knocked.

"Young Master, someone from the royal family is here!"

When Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran heard this, they looked at each other and asked in unison, "Who's here?"

When Zi Cheng heard this, he said, "You'll know when you see!"

Therefore, Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran went to the main hall together.

When Luo Cheng saw the familiar face in front of him, he immediately exclaimed, "Grandma? Why are you here?"

Ever since the empress dowager entered the palace, she rarely left the palace.

This was the third time the empress dowager had left the palace.

The empress dowager asked with a smile, "What? Are you very surprised to see

"How can that be? Why did you leave the palace?" Li Xiaoran quickly walked forward and helped the empress dowager to a chair to sit down.

After the empress dowager sat down, she looked at Li Xiaoran.

“Aren’t you the best at cooking delicious food? I’m thirsty, so go make me some sour and sweet juice!”

Li Xiaoran could tell that the empress dowager probably had something to say to Luo Cheng, so she nodded with a smile. “Alright! You two can talk first. I’ll go make you sweet and sour juice to drink now!”

After retreating from the main hall, Li Xiaoran went to the kitchen.

Fortunately, the ingredients bought by the kitchen had just been sent over today. When Li Xiaoran saw the fresh oranges and lemons, she immediately made orange lemon honey water.

After the juice was ready, Li Xiaoran didn’t send it over immediately. Instead, she prepared the things and sat outside the main hall.

After half an hour, Zi Cheng came out and invited Li Xiaoran in. Then, Li Xiaoran brought the golden orange lemon water in.

After pouring a glass for the empress dowager, Li Xiaoran poured another for Luo Cheng and for herself.

It was unknown what the empress dowager had said to Luo Cheng previously, but their expressions didn’t change.

After drinking a cup of golden orange lemon honey water, the empress dowager said,

“Luo Cheng, I hope you can consider what I said previously!”

Luo Cheng continued to drink Li Xiaoran’s golden orange lemon honey water silently.

Seeing that Luo Cheng was indifferent, the empress dowager looked at Li Xiaoran and wanted to say something.

Before the empress dowager could speak, Luo Cheng’s expression turned cold.

“Grandma, I advise you not to speak!”

When the empress dowager heard Luo Cheng’s words, she knew that Luo Cheng had seen through her plan, so she could only sigh.

“Alright, think about it yourself!”

With that, the empress dowager let the palace maid help her leave.

Li Xiaoran sent the empress dowager out the door.

As Luo Cheng looked at the empress dowager’s departing figure, he sneered.

When Li Xiaoran returned, she happened to see Luo Cheng’s sneer and couldn’t help but ask,

“Husband, what happened?”

“In the future, don’t cook delicious food for people who aren’t worth it! Li Xiaoran, I know you want me to have family and feel the warmth of a family, but it turns out that you’re the only one who’s my family. No one else is!”

As soon as he said this, Li Xiaoran’s heart skipped a beat and she had a bad feeling.

Everything had been fine before this. Why had things changed?

Li Xiaoran asked anxiously, “What exactly happened? Tell me! Husband, we’re husband and wife. What can’t you say to me?”

At this moment, Li Xiaoran couldn’t sense what Luo Cheng was thinking.

Luo Cheng didn’t want to say anything at this moment, but he was unwilling to lie to Li Xiaoran, so he said, “Xiaoran, let me think about it before telling you what’s going on!”

Li Xiaoran understood Luo Cheng’s feelings, so she nodded.

“Alright, think about it first. Tell me when you’ve thought it through!”

After that, Luo Cheng went to a waterside pavilion in the Seventh Prince’s residence to rest, while Li Xiaoran went to look for Shu Ruyue.

When Shu Ruyue saw Li Xiaoran, she said, “You’re finally here! If you hadn’t appeared, I would have gone to look for you!”

When Li Xiaoran saw Shu Ruyue’s expression, she raised her eyebrows and asked, “Why are you looking for me?”

“Yes! There are a few things I need to tell you!” Shu Ruyue nodded solemnly and pulled Li Xiaoran into her room.

Shu Ruyue looked around and after confirming that there was no one around, she said, “The first thing is what you said about relying on these things to earn money. Our village chief wants thank you for showing them a way to earn money. The people in the village plan to sell some peanuts, potatoes, corn, and other crops. In addition, the people in the village will send you the seeds you need in three days. I wonder where these seeds should be sent to?”

After Li Xiaoran thought about it for a moment, she said, “It’s better not to cooperate with the restaurant! Yesterday, I brought a copy of these things to the empress dowager. The empress dowager and the emperor like them very much. When I gave this birthday gift at that time, many princes and descendants saw it, so someone will probably ask about these things soon. Why don’t you ask your clansmen to sell some at a high price? In the future, when you plant a lot, I suggest that you open your own shop to sell them!”

Shu Ruyue nodded and said with a smile, “That’s what my father said to the patriarch. Although it’s easier to get money and benefits by selling this thing in a restaurant, a large portion of the profits will be taken by the restaurant, so it’s not worth it. We can’t let others take advantage of what the Shu family planted ourselves!”

Li Xiaoran reminded, “Yes, that’s right! Being controlled by others is too troublesome.. What if they don’t need you guys anymore one day? What will happen then?”

Chapter 552: The Seventh Prince Is So Tough

Shu Ruyue nodded, then looked around again.

“My father wants me to tell you and the Seventh Prince something!” When Li Xiaoran heard Shu Ruyue’s words, her expression immediately changed.

“What does he want to tell us?”

Shu Ruyue said softly, “My father wants to tell you and the Seventh Prince to leave the capital quickly. The capital isn’t a good place for you guys!”

When Li Xiaoran heard Shu Ruyue’s words, she began to ponder.

The capital wasn’t a good place?

What did that mean?

Why wasn’t it a good place for them?

Li Xiaoran recalled that the empress dowager had left the palace today. Thinking of Luo Cheng’s strange attitude, Li Xiaoran had a bad feeling.

Could all of this have something to do with the woman hanging from the tree last night?

Before Li Xiaoran could figure it out, Meng Yan also asked someone to bring a letter over to ask if Li Xiaoran was free tonight.

If Li Xiaoran was free, Meng Yan asked Li Xiaoran to go to Little Quan’s house for a gathering tonight!

After Li Xiaoran thought for a moment, she nodded and said, “I’m free today.

I’ll go to Little Quan’s house tonight!”

Meng Yan’s messenger only left after receiving Li Xiaoran’s permission.

Shu Ruyue thought of something and said, “I’ll go with you tonight! For some reason, I have a bad feeling!”

Li Xiaoran nodded, since she also felt much more at ease letting Shu Ruyue accompany her.

When Luo Cheng learned that Li Xiaoran was going out, he asked Zi Zheng to follow her to protect her, but he didn’t say anything else.

Soon, it was nighttime.

When Li Xiaoran appeared in front of Meng Yan on time, Meng Yan heaved a sigh of relief.

“You’re finally here! I’ve been waiting here for a long time!”

“Didn’t you say to come to Little Quan’s house for dinner? I said I was coming!” Li Xiaoran replied with a smile.

Meng Yan looked at Zi Zheng, who was following Li Xiaoran, and said, "I'm worried that the Seventh Prince won't let you out. After all, such a big incident happened!"

When Li Xiaoran heard Meng Yan's words, she was filled with confusion.

"What do you mean?"

Meng Yan pulled Li Xiaoran to a chair and asked Shu Ruyue to sit down.

"Don't you know? I knew you didn't know. That's why I wanted to call you out to remind you!"

At this point, Meng Yan glanced at Zi Zheng again.

"Everyone is talking about how the Seventh Prince is going to marry a concubine!"

As soon as Meng Yan said this, the teacup in Li Xiaoran's hand fell to the ground.

"That's impossible! Why didn't I know about this?"

"How is that impossible? Everyone in the capital knows! I guessed that you didn't know, so I asked you out. I originally wanted to ask you out for a meal tomorrow, but after I heard this news, I couldn't sit still!" Meng Yan said anxiously, "I just want to ask why the Seventh Prince agreed to marry a concubine! Didn't he treat you very well previously? Did something happen between you two?"

Li Xiaoran shook her head in confusion. To be honest, she was shocked when she first heard this news.

But now that she slowly calmed down, she felt that this matter was very fishy.

If Luo Cheng really wanted to marry a concubine, it was impossible for him not to tell her.

"Xiaoran, what do you think?" Shu Ruyue asked Li Xiaoran after processing the previous news.

Li Xiaoran said firmly, "I think this matter is very strange! I believe my husband won't do such a thing!"

Meng Yan asked, "What if he had no choice but to do so?"

Li Xiaoran recalled the empress dowager's arrival in the morning.

Could it be that the empress dowager had really come to force Luo Cheng to marry a concubine today?

Before the empress dowager left, she hesitated. Could it be that she wanted her to persuade Luo Cheng to marry a concubine?

But why?

Why did Luo Cheng have to marry a concubine?

Li Xiaoran found this very strange.

“Zi Zheng, did you know about this?” Li Xiaoran suddenly looked at Zi Zheng.

Zi Zheng shook his head and said, “Before I escorted Madam over, I didn’t receive any news that the Seventh Prince was going to marry a concubine. As for when the empress dowager came, I wasn’t by your side, nor did I know what the empress dowager said to you!”

When Li Xiaoran heard this, she recalled what Luo Cheng had said to her after the Empress Dowager left today.

“Zi Zheng, let’s go. Hurry up and bring me back. If we’re too late, I’m afraid something bad will happen!”

When Zi Zheng heard Li Xiaoran’s words, he immediately followed her.

At this moment, Li Xiaoran rushed out. Seeing this, Meng Yan quickly followed. “Li Xiaoran, where are you going? Aren’t you going to eat here?”

As soon as she finished speaking, Li Xiaoran, who was walking quickly just now, suddenly stopped. Li Xiaoran shouted, “Husband, why are you here?”

Husband? Meng Yan looked up.

Other than the Seventh Prince, who else could Li Xiaoran call her husband?

As expected, the Seventh Prince was standing not far away.

Luo Cheng asked with a smile, “I want to have dinner with you. Is that okay?”

“Sure, but what’s with the rumors that you’re going to marry a concubine?” Li Xiaoran went straight to the point.

Luo Cheng said with a smile, “Don’t worry, there won’t be any concubines! I’ll do what I promised you. Today’s meal can be considered a farewell banquet between you and your good friends in the capital! We’ll go back to Sichuan tomorrow!”

When Li Xiaoran heard Luo Cheng’s words, she didn’t ask why.

She had said something to him once.

As long as he treated her sincerely, she would treat him sincerely too.

Although she didn’t understand what had happened, Li Xiaoran was willing to continue to trust him.

Because after this meal, Li Xiaoran would leave.

Therefore, Mr. Chuan and Mrs. Chuan used all their skills to make a large table of good dishes.

Although she was very reluctant, Meng Yan knew that Li Xiaoran wasn’t suited for the capital.

Therefore, after the friends bid farewell to each other, Meng Yan watched Li Xiaoran and the others leave.

After Ma Chongshan rushed here to find Meng Yan, the first thing he said was,

“Has the Seventh Consort left?”

Meng Yan looked at Ma Chongshan in confusion and replied, “She just left!”

“Do you know what shocking thing the Seventh Prince did?! The Seventh Prince actually rushed to the Li family’s house and seriously injured the girl who was said to want to marry him as a concubine. Then, he said that if the Li family’s girl still wants to marry him as a concubine, he’ll slap her again!” Ma Chongshan revealed what he had heard previously.

When Meng Yan heard this, her mouth dropped agape!

She had never expected the Seventh Prince to be so determined!

Chapter 553: Incriminating

After returning to the Seventh Prince’s residence, Luo Cheng instructed the others to leave. Then, he pulled Li Xiaoran to the study.

Luo Cheng said, “In the morning, the empress dowager came to look for me. She said that the woman who died last night was actually the emperor’s concubine, Consort Mei, who had just entered the palace. The key was that Consort Mei was raped. What was even more unexpected was that the imperial doctor also found a man’s thing in Consort Mei’s body! Therefore, the emperor was furious and called his Dark Dragon Guards to investigate this matter!”

“What has this got to do with us?” Li Xiaoran asked in confusion, “Could it be that someone said that we’re the masterminds?”

Luo Cheng looked at Li Xiaoran and fell silent.

Li Xiaoran asked in surprise, “They really think we instigated it?”

Luo Cheng said, “It’s not us, but you! Someone saw you and a man carrying

Consort Mei into the forest! Moreover, a piece of cloth was found in the forest. It’s the dress you wore the day you entered the palace. I’ve sent someone to investigate. There’s indeed a piece of cloth missing from your dress!” When Li Xiaoran heard this, she was stunned.

For some reason, after Li Xiaoran learned the truth, she suddenly laughed.

“So, you’re using me to threaten you to marry a concubine today?”

Luo Cheng nodded.

Li Xiaoran said, “No wonder. No wonder you told me that some of them aren’t worth me making delicious food for them. Now, it seems that they’re really not worth it! On the day I entered the palace, I was either by your side or the empress dowager’s side. We even went out together. The time we appeared doesn’t match the time of her death at all. Anyone with a brain will know I’m innocent!” With that, Li Xiaoran smiled coldly.

In the end, be it the emperor or the empress dowager, they still used this to threaten Luo Cheng even though they knew that she wasn’t the culprit.

How ridiculous!

“Don’t laugh. It’s not worth it! Those people aren’t worth it.” Luo Cheng walked over and hugged Li Xiaoran. “I was furious this morning, so I didn’t think of what to do! It’s not that I didn’t think of what choice to make, but that I didn’t think of a way to take revenge yet!”

Li Xiaoran asked when she heard Luo Cheng’s words, “Then how do you want to take revenge now?”

Luo Cheng nodded and told Li Xiaoran what he had done after she left.

“After you came out, I went straight to the Li family. The empress dowager wanted me to take in a concubine from the Li family. The Li family is the empress dowager’s maiden family. They’ve always been unreliable. This time, the empress dowager felt that my status has risen, so she wanted me to take in a girl from the Li family as a concubine. If I inherit the throne in the future, the Li family’s plan will succeed!”

“What did you go to the Li family’s home for?” Li Xiaoran immediately looked at Luo Cheng. For some reason, her heart was pounding.

“Don’t worry, I went over to slap Miss Li. Even if she doesn’t die, at least she’s seriously injured!” Luo Cheng said with a smile, “Don’t worry, she’ll definitely be fine. She’ll be saved by the imperial doctor! However, before I left, I said that if she still wants to marry me as a concubine, I’ll slap her again!” When Li Xiaoran heard this, she suddenly felt touched.

Li Xiaoran couldn’t help but reach out and hug Luo Cheng. She felt very assured.

Such a man was worth entrusting her life to.

Luo Cheng reached out and caressed the top of Li Xiaoran’s head.

“Don’t worry about that consort. I prepared several identical clothes for you that day. I know a little about the methods of the royal family, so I was prepared. I’ve already burned the clothing that was missing a piece of fabric!”

Li Xiaoran thought of something and said, “There’s a saying that goes, if you want to frame someone, you can always find a way. I wonder what the empress dowager will do after you seriously injured the Li family’s girl! Previously, I thought that the empress dowager was a very good person, but in the blink of an eye, I was disproven. As expected, the women in the royal family aren’t as simple as they seem!”

To be honest, when she entered the palace that day, even though Li Xiaoran had special abilities, she still didn’t notice the empress dowager’s attitude towards her.

She felt that the two of them were getting along well, but in the blink of an eye, things had become like this.

Luo Cheng could understand Li Xiaoran's feelings, so he comforted her. "Perhaps she did like you when you were in the royal family. It's just that after their interests were at stake, this affection paled in comparison!" When Li Xiaoran heard Luo Cheng's words, she felt a little better.

In this world, sincerity might not be reciprocated!

Li Xiaoran thought of something and asked, "Then what should we do next? If you turn down the empress dowager, things won't be easy for you in the future!"

Luo Cheng said, "That's easy to handle. Don't worry! Have you forgotten what I said before? Today is the last day for you to meet your friends in the capital.

We'll leave tomorrow!"

Li Xiaoran asked, "We have to leave tomorrow?"

Luo Cheng said firmly, "Believe me! Just rest well. Not only are we leaving tomorrow, but we're also leaving in glory!"

The empress dowager could forget about making everything go as she wished.

That night, a piece of news passed down in the capital.

At this moment, the commoners in the capital realized that the reason the mania incident back then was suppressed was because the Seventh Prince, Luo Cheng, had developed an antidote for it.

Before long, another piece of news spread.

The antidote for mania that everyone in the capital had obtained was also made by the Seventh Prince and Seventh Consort.

Why was the Seventh Consort mentioned?

Because someone bought those herbs at a high price, it was only with the Seventh Consort's help that the Seventh Consort found those herbs and brought them back to make antidotes.

For a moment, everyone was spreading these two pieces of news.

After Meng Yan received this news, she smiled and spread the news that the Eldest Princess and Princess Ning Xin had personally witnessed the Seventh Prince developing the antidote for mania.

After confirming that everyone in the capital knew this news, Meng Yan looked at the stars in the sky outside.

"Li Xiaoran, as a good friend, this is all I can help you with!"

The Eldest Princess also received the news and stated that it was true.

After Princess Ning Xin received the news, she was silent for a moment before finally admitting it.

Although she didn't like Li Xiaoran, Princess Ning Xin still admired what her seventh brother and his wife had done.

Therefore, she affirmed all of this as well-

After Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran prepared their luggage and got into the carriage the next morning, many commoners arrived outside the Seventh Prince's residence.

When Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran came out, the crowd knelt down to them. "Thank you, Seventh Prince and Seventh Consort, for saving us!" Everyone thanked them.

To be honest, Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng didn't expect this scene.

Upon feeling the sincere gratitude of those commoners, Li Xiaoran, who had felt brokenhearted yesterday, immediately recovered.

Yes, there were indeed many ingrates in this world who trampled on other people's sincerity.

However, there were also many people who knew how to be grateful, such as the commoners kneeling and thanking her.

Luo Cheng stood up and said, "Everyone, get up! Being able to help everyone is a very meaningful thing for us as well. Back then, we did all this to help the commoners in the capital regain their peaceful lives. Therefore, if everyone really wants to thank us, please live a good life in the future. That will be the best repayment for us!"

"Today, we're going back to my fief. Everyone, farewell!"

Li Xiaoran also bowed and said, "Fellow villagers, please take care. We'll meet again!"

"Goodbye, Seventh Consort!" The commoners cheered in unison.

Just like that, Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng got into the carriage and headed towards the capital's city gate.

The commoners couldn't bear for them to leave, so they followed them.

However, as Luo Cheng and the others' carriage moved, more and more commoners followed them.

When Meng Yan saw so many people bidding farewell to Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng, she smiled.

Ma Chongshan asked, "Do you like Seventh Consort that much?"

Meng Yan said, "That's right! She understands me, and it's all thanks to her that we can be together! To be honest, I like Li Xiaoran very much and feel very comfortable around her, since I don't have to worry about so many things. I just have to be myself!"

At the same time, in another restaurant, Duan Sha was also standing in front of the window on the second floor and watching Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng leave.

After returning to the capital, Duan Sha had been recuperating.

On the first day she returned to the capital, she found Grandpa Miao, who usually nursed her health, to take her pulse.

Duan Sha was overjoyed to hear from Grandpa Miao that her illness had really healed. It was just that her body was still a little weak.

Doctor Miao was actually very curious as to why Duan Sha had recovered on her own.

After Duan Sha told him about her experience, Dr. Miao couldn't figure it out either. He only felt that Duan Sha was lucky enough to meet a benefactor.

After the Duan family found out that Duan Sha had recovered, they didn't publicize it. Instead, they asked Doctor Miao to keep quiet about it and secretly nurse Duan Sha's body.

Originally, Duan Sha wanted to look for Li Xiaoran when she was in better health to thank her for giving her luck.

However, she didn't expect to hear that the Seventh Prince and Seventh Consort were going back to their fief before she could even find them.

Therefore, Duan Sha rushed over to send Li Xiaoran off.

"Li Xiaoran, Li Xiaoran!" Li Xiaoran, who was sitting in the carriage, suddenly heard someone calling her, so she lifted the curtain and looked out.

She saw Duan Sha standing in front of the window on the second floor of the restaurant opposite them.

"Wait for me to find you!" Duan Sha was very emotional.

When Li Xiaoran saw that Duan Sha looked very energetic, she knew that she had recovered.

"Sure! We'll welcome you!"

After hearing Li Xiaoran's words, Duan Sha was completely relieved!

"I'll definitely come! Have a safe trip!"

As she spoke, Duan Sha waved at them.

"Thank you!" Li Xiaoran also waved at her as she said goodbye.

Soon, Li Xiaoran, Luo Cheng, and the others left the capital city's gate.

After sending them off, Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng got out of the carriage again. After they bowed to the commoners who came to send them off, they left.

After the emperor learned that Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran had left, he sighed.

He knew very well what the empress dowager had done, but when it came to choosing between his son and mother, he still chose his mother.

At this moment, the emperor completely understood that he would never be able to repay his debt to Luo Cheng in his life.

Forcing Luo Cheng to stay by his side was the greatest harm to him. After he stopped the empress dowager, he only said one thing.

"Mother, let Luo Cheng return to Sichuan!"

The empress dowager looked at the emperor, but didn't do anything in the end.

Because the empress dowager also felt a little guilty. After all, she had done those things behind the emperor's back.

In the end, Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng successfully left the capital.

While breathing in the fresh air on the road, Li Xiaoran completely relaxed.

To be honest, even if they didn't do anything every day, they would still feel tense in the capital.

Now that she had left the capital, she felt relaxed and relieved of a heavy burden.

As Li Xiaoran looked at the scenery outside the carriage, she said, 'We're finally home! I wonder how Father, Mother, and Sister are doing now?'

Luo Cheng said, "Don't worry! Everything is fine at home. If anything really happened, Zi Yan would have sent a message long ago!"

After Li Xiaoran thought for a moment, she felt that Luo Cheng made sense, so she didn't say anything else.

After walking for a while, Li Xiaoran felt sleepy, so she simply lay on Luo Cheng's thigh and fell asleep.

When he saw Li Xiaoran's serene countenance, Luo Cheng's heart softened.

Li Xiaoran was his achilles heel. No matter who it was, they couldn't touch his achilles heel.

The empress dowager had probably already received his return gift!

As expected, after the emperor received the truth about what the Dark Dragon Guards had found out, he was immediately furious.

With that evidence, the emperor went straight to the empress dowager.

"Mother, how are you going to explain this?"

The empress dowager didn't understand why the emperor was so angry until she looked at all the things the emperor had thrown at her. Then, her face paled.

"Impossible, that's impossible. Son, someone must be framing your uncle!"

The emperor stared at the empress dowager and questioned her with a hostile expression, 'Mother, as expected, you've always been biased towards my uncle! Now that there are witnesses and evidence, do you still want to find excuses?' The so-called uncle the emperor was talking about was the son the empress dowager had in her later years.

This uncle was three years younger than the emperor.

However, this uncle had been pampered since he was young, so even after he became an adult, he was still an irresponsible person who did many ridiculous things.

However, they didn't expect him to come to the royal family to cause trouble this time!

Chapter 555: Luo Cheng's Analysis

In the past, every time his uncle committed a crime, the emperor would turn a blind eye on account of the empress dowager.

But this time, things were different.

His uncle actually had designs on him.

His uncle dared to hurt his consort, so who knew how arrogant he usually was?

Therefore, this time, the emperor decided to teach his uncle a lesson.

“Mother, I can not announce what Uncle has committed this time. It’s just that I have to teach him a lesson. I remember that there are many places in Sichuan that need to be explored and opened up. Why don’t I let Uncle go over and open up the mountains?! Since Uncle committed a crime, he has to abide by the rules there. I’ll specifically remind the people there not to let Uncle have the chance to slack off!”

The empress dowager was surprised to hear that.

“Son! No matter what, he’s your uncle! You can’t treat him like this!”

“How did I treat him? Why didn’t you see how he treated me? He isn’t acting like an uncle. Mother, why didn’t you tell Uncle in advance and let him think before he does anything?!” The emperor roared angrily, “If you think that my punishment is unfair, hand this matter over to the court!”

The empress dowager said, “No, you can’t go to the court. If you really go to the court, your uncle will be screwed!”

When the emperor heard the empress dowager’s words, for some reason, he felt very upset.

“Mom, I’m your son! Why do you always favor mu uncle?”

When the empress dowager heard the emperor’s words, her heart ached, but there were some things she really couldn’t say to him.

“My son, I dote on you too. It’s just that this concerns the Li family’s reputation, so I have no choice but to do this!”

The emperor’s face was filled with disappointment and his heart ached.

At this moment, the Dark Dragon Guards received a letter.

After the emperor opened the letter, his pupils dilated when he saw the words carved in wood.

For some reason, upon seeing the emperor’s expression turn uglier and uglier, the empress dowager had a bad feeling.

“No wonder you were biased towards my uncle right from the beginning. It turns out that my uncle was the child between you and your lover, but was placed under my grandfather’s name. Not only did you hide this matter from my grandfather until he died, but even I was kept in the dark. I found it strange that you always stood on my uncle’s side.” As the emperor spoke, he laughed maniacally.

“So all of this is because my uncle is the child between you and your lover!”

These words made the empress dowager's expression change.

The empress dowager never expected that this secret would be revealed one day.

However, now really wasn't the time!

The emperor was already angry. Now that he knew the truth, he was even angrier.

"You've been unwell recently, so I'll seal Cining Palace and let you recuperate in peace!" With that, the emperor left angrily.

By the time Luo Cheng received the news on the way, the empress dowager had already been locked up. The empress dowager's youngest son had also been whipped 30 times by the emperor and sent to an unknown place to recuperate.

Of course, this was only for appearance's sake. In fact, the empress dowager was being confined, and the emperor's so-called uncle had been sent to a godforsaken place by the emperor. Then, the emperor got someone to monitor his uncle every day as he farmed every day and lived the life of a poor commoner.

Speaking of which, Luo Cheng had accidentally discovered these things.

At that time, Luo Cheng found it strange that the empress dowager was so concerned for his so-called granduncle.

Therefore, when he found out that what happened in the royal family that day was related to his granduncle, he began to investigate further.

The empress dowager thought that she had kept the secret well hidden, but her attention on her illegitimate son was too abnormal.

That kind of care and protection didn't seem like an older sister's care for her younger brother. Instead, it was like a mother's care for her son.

At first, Luo Cheng was shocked by the thought that flashed across his mind. But later on, Luo Cheng became more and more convinced that this was the case.

Therefore, Luo Cheng began to investigate everything that had happened back then!

Fortunately, Luo Cheng had found someone who knew the truth, so Luo Cheng asked him everything he wanted to ask.

Therefore, after the empress dowager made things difficult for him, Luo Cheng began to plan.

At the same time, several princes experienced some accidents.

At first, no one suspected Luo Cheng!

However, later on, they encountered many unlucky incidents and assassination attempts.

When they thought of what they had arranged for Luo Cheng, they were immediately shocked by its similarity with what they had experienced.

Because everything they had encountered now was what they had arranged for Luo Cheng back then.

The most unlucky person was actually the second prince. From the day Luo Cheng left, the second prince suffered various assassination attempts one after another.

What was even stranger was that the second prince was unlucky, but the second prince's consort was fine.

Every day, he lived in fear. Finally, the second prince broke down one day and entered the palace to look for the emperor in tears.

It was unknown what the second prince had said to the emperor, but after he returned from the royal family, the second prince stayed in his residence all day and didn't dare to go out again. He even sent someone to negotiate with Luo Cheng.

Of course, that was later on.

When Li Xiaoran woke up from her dream, she sensed that Luo Cheng was in a good mood.

"Husband, did something joyous happen? Tell me so I can share in the joy!"

Luo Cheng asked, "Actually, it's nothing significant. Do you remember why we came to the capital in the first place?"

"Now, the show in the capital has begun!" Luo Cheng smiled and said, "Come over here. Then, I'll tell you!"

Li Xiaoran stuck her head over. As she listened, her eyes widened.

Hearing this, Li Xiaoran was immediately amused. "They deserve it. You should have taught them a lesson like this long ago!"

Luo Cheng asked with a smile, "Are you happy now?"

When Li Xiaoran saw a boundary by the road, she immediately thought of something and said, "I'm more than happy. I'm so happy that I want to eat a few more mouthfuls! By the way, husband, is Clear Spring Town ahead? I heard that there's a very famous dish called Spring Water Chicken here. Why don't we try it?!"

Luo Cheng nodded and said, "We're not in a hurry anyway, so eat whatever you want!"

Li Xiaoran shouted happily, "Alright, let's turn around and set off for Spring Water Town!"

Chapter 556: Brat

Clear Spring Town was actually a very small town.

It was said that during a great drought one year, there was no water for dozens of miles.

All the crops died in the fields. When a certain family arrived, they were already parched.

Just as the family thought that they were doomed, they suddenly realized that there was some water on a few stones.

The family was overjoyed. They quickly moved the stone away and dug another pit with something.

Sure enough, after the water was dug out, this family was saved.

Later on, many people rushed over after hearing the news and settled down near this spring.

Gradually, after several generations, Clear Spring Town was formed.

The town was built of limestone, mainly to keep out the damp.

As she stepped on the limestone slab, Li Xiaoran felt a sense of assurance.

It was almost evening, so the group stayed at the only inn in town.

After Shu Ruyue and Wu Qinghe put their luggage away, they went out to stroll around.

Because they had agreed to meet at the Spring Water Chicken Restaurant in town in a while, they weren't worried that the two of them would get lost.

After Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng washed up, they strolled along the streets of Spring Water Town as well.

Li Xiaoran said, "The air here is much moister than that of the capital. I feel much more relaxed walking on the streets here!"

Luo Cheng also felt that the climate here was very different from that in the capital.

"No wonder there was a spring here during the drought back then. There must be a reason."

As they walked, they chatted.

"I'm gonna beat you to death. You're so young, but you're already like this. What will become of you grow up in the future?! Although I, Liu Cuifeng, haven't studied much, at least I know what a person's bottom line is. I won't do any business today. I'm gonna teach you a lesson!" At this moment, a feisty scolding came from an alley ahead.

Before long, a young boy ran out of the alley.

Then, a woman with a broom in her hand chased after him.

"Young brat, stop right there if you dare!"

"I'm not stopping. If you have the ability, catch up to me!" After the brat in front ran a few steps, he grimaced at the woman behind him before continuing to run forward.

Because he ran quickly, the young man didn't notice the two people who had appeared in front of him.

Seeing that he was about to run into Li Xiaoran, Luo Cheng quickly walked forward and grabbed the young man.

"Let go of me!" the young man shouted when he saw that someone had grabbed him.

Seeing that he didn't have the strength to break free from Luo Cheng's grasp, the young man opened his mouth to bite him.

Seeing this, the woman behind immediately warned loudly, "Young brat, don't you dare!"

But the kid ignored her and reached for Luo Cheng's wrist.

Luo Cheng was a martial artist, so how could he be bitten by a brat?

Before the boy could bite his wrist, Luo Cheng had already pinched the boy's cheek tightly with his other hand, preventing him from moving.

At this moment, the woman also rushed over. When she saw that her brat had been restrained, she thanked him politely.

"Thank you for your help! My son is too rash and must have offended you.

Please forgive him!"

Luo Cheng nodded, then tapped the kid's acupoints and let go of him.

When the brat saw this, he immediately wanted to run, but his legs felt like they weighed a thousand pounds and he couldn't move them at all.

"What's going on? Mother, why can't I run?!" the boy shouted in fear.

"What are you shouting for? Your acupoints have been tapped. Young brat, I've already told you that there's always someone more capable than you. Do you think you can outrun everyone just because you can outrun my broom? You're overestimating yourself!" The woman took the opportunity to educate her son.

Li Xiaoran walked over and looked at the brat in front of her with interest.

"You seem very unconvinced! Kid, you think you're very smart, right?! Why don't we compete?!"

The young boy said aggressively, "Fine, let's compete. What do you want to compete in?"

When Li Xiaoran saw the other party's confident expression, she smiled.

"Since you're so smart, we naturally have to compete in terms of intelligence. How about this? I'll ask three questions. If you answer two correctly, I can let him unseal your acupoints!"

The young man said confidently, "Alright, I agree. You can ask the questions now! "

Seeing that this kid had fallen into her trap, Li Xiaoran said, "In what situation is five greater than zero, zero greater than two, and two greater than five?" As soon as this question was asked, the boy was dumbfounded.

The others who were watching immediately pondered over it as well.

However, no matter how everyone thought about it, they felt that this question was impossible!

“You must have made a mistake. How can there be a situation where five greater than zero, zero greater than two, and two greater than five?!” The young man thought about it for a long time, but he couldn’t figure out the answer.

Li Xiaoran said with a smile, “No, there’s an answer to this question. It’s just that you can’t solve it!”

The boy thought hard again, but shook his head and said in resignation, “I don’t know!”

A student with a scarf on his head walked out and mocked, “Su Mao, there’s actually a question you don’t know the answer to! To think that you claim to be the smartest child in Clear Spring Town!”

Su Mao retorted, “Hmph, who gave you the cheek to mock me? If you have the guts, say the answer.”

This child’s real name was Ma Zong. However, because his face was slim, the children in the school gave him the nickname “Horse Face”.

Su Mao and Ma Zong were rivals in school.

One had an average family background, was smart, and studied dilligently. He was often praised, but he was a little arrogant.

The other was from a rich family, but his grades weren’t good. Although he studied hard, he often ranked at the bottom of the class.

Therefore, these two children were often compared.

Over time, the two of them became arch-enemies.

“Hmph, I’m not as smart as you, so I can’t answer the question!” Ma Zong admitted, “On the other hand, no matter how smart you are, Su Mao, didn’t you suffer a setback today?”

Su Mao was furious, so he turned to look at Li Xiaoran.

“Then tell me, what’s the answer?”

Li Xiaoran revealed the answer with a smile.

“When zero is the fist, second is the scissors, and fifth is the paper, five is greater than zero, zero is greater than two, and two is greater than five!”

Chapter 557: Best of Three

The crowd was dumbfounded.

Someone in the crowd immediately slapped his thigh and said, “That’s right!

Why didn’t I think of that?!”

This time, Su Mao’s face flushed and his dissatisfaction disappeared.

“I don’t believe it. Give me another question!” Su Mao issued a challenge.

Seeing this, Li Xiaoran raised her eyebrows.

“By the way, I didn’t say what you have to do after you lost!”

Su Mao was stunned when he heard Li Xiaoran’s words.

Just now, she said that she would unseal his acupoints if he won, but she didn’t say what he had to do after he lost.

Li Xiaoran said, “You can go back on your word. After all, I didn’t make things clear to you previously!”

Su Mao was stunned for a moment. He didn’t expect Li Xiaoran to say this.

It would have been fine if Li Xiaoran hadn’t said this, but these words immediately aroused the child’s ego.

Su Mao said, “No need. Let’s do it the same way as before. Tell me, if I lose, what do you want me to do?”

Li Xiaoran reminded him, “Don’t you regret it? There won’t be another opportunity after this!”

Su Mao said, “I won’t regret it. Tell me your conditions!”

Su Mao’s mother had been standing at the side and watching. She hadn’t expressed her opinion ever since this matter began.

After Li Xiaoran thought for a moment, she said, “In that case, I won’t mention the condition for the time being! Since it’s not something outrageous, you can definitely do it!”

Su Mao said, “In that case, let’s continue!”

He didn’t believe that he couldn’t answer the remaining two questions.

Su Mao was quite confident in himself.

He was confident in himself, so he felt that the woman in front of him wouldn’t win no matter what.

“Alright, I’ll ask!” Li Xiaoran said with a smile, “Three lit candles are placed on the paper box. A gust of wind blew one out and the other two continue to burn. How many candles are left in the end?”

After Su Mao thought for a moment, he replied, “Not a single one is left!” “Su Mao, why are you so slow-witted today? How can there be none left? There has to be at least one left!” Although Ma Zong and Su Mao weren’t on good terms, he was really anxious for Su Mao now.

“Shut up! If I say there’s none left, there’s none left!” With that, Su Mao looked at Li Xiaoran. “Tell me the answer.”

Li Xiaoran said with a smile, “That’s right. The correct answer is none left!”

“How is that possible?” Ma Zong muttered in surprise, “One has already been blown out!”

Su Mao reminded him, "Ma Zong, use your brain! The candles are placed on the paper box. When the other two candles are burned out, they will definitely light the paper box. After the paper box is lit, the remaining candle will also be lit and burn away!"

Ma Zong was dumbfounded.

He had never expected this question to be answered like this.

"Alright, now that I have one win and one loss, it's time for the last question. Come up with the question!" After answering a question correctly, Su Mao was even more confident in himself.

When Li Xiaoran heard this, she smiled and asked another question.

"There were five apples in the basin. The five children each got one, but there's another in the basin at the end. Why?"

As soon as she said this, Su Mao's mind began to race.

However, even after thinking about many possibilities, Su Mao couldn't figure it out. In the end, Su Mao had no choice but to admit defeat.

"I can't think of the reason."

"Actually, the answer is very simple. When the last child took the apple, he took the basin with him! Therefore, in the end, there was still an apple in this basin!" Li Xiaoran announced the answer.

Su Mao frowned and said, "Aren't you playing dirty?"

Li Xiaoran reminded, "What about you? Aren't you playing dirty by letting your mother chase you just because you run fast?"

Su Mao said indignantly, "How is that the same? I escaped with my own abilities!"

Li Xiaoran said with a smile, "That's right. At least I won with my own abilities!"

This time, Su Mao sighed.

"Forget it, I admit defeat! Tell me, what exactly do you want me to do?"

Li Xiaoran said, "Actually, my condition is very simple. I came to Clear Spring Town to eat Spring Water Chicken. I want you to bring me to your town's restaurant that makes the best place for Spring Water Chicken!"

As soon as he said this, Su Mao's expression became strange and his gaze landed on his mother.

"Ahem!" Su Mao was a little embarrassed and said, "Why don't you add another condition?"

"No need, this will do!" Li Xiaoran insisted.

When Su Mao heard this, he pointed at the woman on the other side.

"In that case, go find my mother!"

As soon as he said this, Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng were shocked.

Luo Cheng couldn't help but ask, "You're not fooling us, are you?"

"Su Mao isn't fooling you. Aunt Ling's Spring Water Chicken is the best in our town. Unfortunately, other than us locals, everyone from other places has been fooled by that Spring Water Chicken Restaurant!" Ma Zong confirmed that what Su Mao said was true.

At this moment, Su Mao's mother, Su Ling, walked forward.

"Greetings, you two. If you really want to eat authentic Spring Water Chicken, come to my house!"

After Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng exchanged looks, they finally reached an agreement.

After Li Xiaoran thought for a moment, she looked at Su Mao and asked, "I still have two good friends at the Spring Water Chicken Restaurant. Su Mao, please help me bring a message to Shu Ruyue and Wu Qinghe. What do you think about letting them come with you?"

"No problem. Take it as my condition for losing to you just now!"

With that, Su Mao turned and ran towards the Spring Water Chicken Restaurant.

"Please follow me!" Su Ling said with a smile.

Li Xiaoran nodded and followed Su Ling to a courtyard with Luo Cheng.

It looked like an ordinary courtyard from outside, but after entering, they realized that it was a completely different world.

The house was beside a stream. Sitting in the courtyard, they could see the stream and the sound of flowing water.

And not far away, there was an open waterhole.

The water was clear and there was nothing inside.

Su Ling explained with a smile when she saw Li Xiaoran sizing up the spring water curiously, "This well was the first life-saving spring water. Many spring water in the village was drawn out from here."

When Li Xiaoran heard this, she was immediately surprised. "You mean this spring is the spring that saved that family back then?"

Chapter 558: I Respect You

Su Ling explained with a smile, "You didn't hear wrongly. It's indeed that spring. As for me, I'm the descendant of the family who was saved by the spring water!"

Li Xiaoran had a guess, so she asked, "Could it be that this Spring Water

Chicken is also a delicacy passed down from your family?"

Su Ling briefly explained the origins of the Spring Water Chicken, "That's right. The Spring Water Chicken has also been passed down from our family. Back then, our ancestors were chefs who liked to eat and study cooking. After our ancestors received the spring water, they settled here and raised some chickens, ducks, and fish. After several generations of cultivation, we realized that the meat of chickens raised with spring water was very good, so we developed our own recipe for Spring Water Chicken."

When Li Xiaoran heard this, she marveled at her luck.

They encountered the descendants of the Spring Water Chicken's founder so easily.

Su Ling said, "Rest in this pavilion for a while! There are mosquito repellent grass planted outside, so the mosquitoes won't bite you! I've already made a pot of good tea. Try it while I go make Spring Water Chicken for you now!"

Li Xiaoran said with a smile, "Thank you. There are a total of six of us. Sister Su, please prepare more delicious food for us!"

Su Ling nodded and went into the house to prepare.

Su Ling's place was also used to receive guests in the capital, so she wasn't troubled by Li Xiaoran's request.

After Su Mao brought Shu Ruyue and the others over, he rolled up his sleeves and went into the kitchen to help.

Shu Ruyue said after coming in, "How did you find such a good place? The mountains and rivers here look so beautiful, and even this courtyard looks very unique. Just sitting in it makes people feel relaxed and happy!"

"As expected, great minds think alike!" Li Xiaoran looked at Shu Ruyue with approval.

Wu Qinghe couldn't help but say when he saw the two women nodding happily, "Come on! Brother Luo Cheng and I are still here. Do you two have to be so mushy?"

"It's none of your business!" Shu Ruyue made a face at Wu Qinghe before she went to the stream at the side with Li Xiaoran to play.

At this moment, the sun was setting in the west, so the courtyard looked very beautiful. Amidst the hot weather, Li Xiaoran also wanted to step on the stream to cool down.

While Li Xiaoran and Shu Ruyue were enjoying the cool breeze, Luo Cheng called Wu Qinghe to sit down and the two of them poured tea to drink.

After drinking a mouthful of tea, Wu Qinghe's face was filled with surprise.

"These tea leaves are very ordinary! But why does this tea taste so good?"

Luo Cheng said, "Because the water is different!"

Wu Qinghe understood what Luo Cheng meant and didn't ask anything else. He just focused on tasting the tea.

Luo Cheng thought of something and put down his teacup as he asked, "When we were in the capital, I remember asking you to divine the situation at home.

Why didn't you tell us the outcome?"

Wu Qinghe fell silent when he heard Luo Cheng's words.

"They thought that I wouldn't be able to divine it. It's hard to predict the outcome, and the outcome isn't definite. It's constantly changing!"

Luo Cheng already knew the answer.

"You haven't told anyone about this, have you?"

Wu Qinghe shook his head and promised, "Brother Luo Cheng, you're the first to know about this!"

Luo Cheng instructed, "Don't tell anyone in the future. I'll tell my wife!" Wu Qinghe nodded and changed the topic.

At the same time, Su Ling and Su Mao were cooking while chatting in the kitchen.

"Mother, I keep feeling that these people who came today aren't as simple as they seem!" Su Mao thought of something and said, "Did I cause you trouble?" Su Ling smiled when she heard Su Mao's words.

"What nonsense are you talking about? There's no trouble. Don't worry too much about it. They're just a few customers who came to eat Spring Water Chicken!"

Su Mao pursed his lips and complained, "Mother, don't lie to me! Every time something happens at home, you refuse to tell me!"

Su Ling said, "I just want you to focus on your studies. Mao'er, you can't rely on your intelligence to slack off. You have to know that there are many people in this world who are more capable than you. If those who are more capable than you work harder than you, don't you think you should feel ashamed?"

Su Mao said, "Mother, don't change the topic! Let me tell you, I've grown up now. I'm not someone you can fool so easily! You just act tough all the time just to protect yourself!"

Su Ling didn't expect her son to have matured at some point in time.

"Are you slacking off on purpose? Are you thinking of quitting school and coming back to work for me?"

Su Mao didn't say anything. He just added firewood to the stove with his head lowered.

"Mother!" The fire burned brightly, giving Su Mao's face a warm glow. "I've thought about it for a long time. I like to study, but I don't want to be an official! Mother, don't force me to participate in the examination! That man is heartless. No matter how outstanding I am, he won't look at us again!"

The kitchen was silent.

After a while, Su Ling's voice sounded.

“Mao’er, the reason I want you to participate in the imperial examination isn’t to make your father feel regret, but to let you display your strength when you go to work for the commoners.”

“In the beginning, I did hate your father very much. I hated him for being so heartless as to abandon us for wealth and glory. But later on, when I calmed down and thought about it carefully, I realized that wasn’t I stupid too? From the moment your father appeared to the moment I became pregnant and had you, I believed him so foolishly that I didn’t even realize that the marriage contract was fake!”

When Su Mao heard his mother’s words, he wanted to comfort her, but he said something else in the end.

“I’m very glad that you and that man don’t have a marriage contract. This way, I won’t be that man’s son! He can forget about letting me call him Father! My surname is Su now and will be Su in the future! I’m your son, not someone else’s!”

Su Ling laughed when she heard her son’s words.

“Since you’ve said so, study hard in the school from tomorrow onwards. I won’t force you anymore. If you really don’t want to take the examination, you don’t have to participate in it!”

When Su Mao heard that his mother had relented, he immediately cheered.

“Thank you, Mother! Mother, don’t worry I’ll definitely study hard. I’ll go take the village examination, but I won’t take the general examination.. But when the time comes, with the title of a scholar, I can help you collect some money!”

Chapter 559: Who’s Su Ling?

“You’re really good at scheming! You’re already thinking about how to save money for me!” Su Ling teased.

“Of course. Mother, just wait to live a good life in the future! I’ll be filial to you in the future and make you happier than everyone in town,” Su Mao said.

“Alright, I’ll be waiting!” Su Ling said as she cooked.

Soon, a table of dishes was ready.

Li Xiaoran and Shu Ruyue ran out of the stream reluctantly and began to taste the delicious food.

It had to be said that this trip to Clear Spring Town was really worth it!

Spring Water Chicken was fed with spring water. After being slaughtered and washed, it was cut into small pieces and sprinkled with salt, ginger, and 80% rapeseed oil. A few minutes later, a

portion of the vegetable oil was poured out. Then, spring water was added, along with the peppercorns, dried chili, garlic, black beans, sugar, and more than ten other condiments that had been made in advance. It was simmered for about 15 minutes afterwards.

Although the others in Spring Water Town had learned how to make Spring Water Chicken, they couldn't master the essence of Spring Water Chicken.

Only the Su family had the master recipe for making Spring Water Chicken.

As the saying went, a real professional could tell what it was as soon as he took a sniff.

After this Spring Water Chicken was brought up, just the smell alone was enough to delight people.

Then, they picked up the pieces of chicken and put them in their mouths. The chicken tasted spicy and crispy.

After Li Xiaoran took a bite, she fell in love with this dish.

“Unfortunately, this spring water is indispensable to this Spring Water

Chicken. Otherwise, I really want to bring her to Sichuan so that I can eat

Spring Water Chicken whenever I want in the future!”

When Shu Ruyue heard Li Xiaoran's words, she nodded.

“Don't you know that the chefs here take in disciples? The kind that can leave after learning the recipe!”

When Wu Qinghe heard this, he started thinking about something.

“Just come back if you want to eat it in the future. There's no need to go through so much trouble! Besides, there are thousands of delicacies in this world. If everyone kidnaps a chef just because they like a dish, won't Sichuan be filled with chefs?” Luo Cheng said.

Li Xiaoran's eyes lit up when she heard Luo Cheng's words.

“Husband, I think that's a good idea. After we return to Sichuan, let's do a culinary competition! This way, we can taste many delicacies. How good would that be?!”

Luo Cheng said hesitantly, “Isn't that too troublesome?! Li Xiaoran, you know that I've never liked trouble!”

After Li Xiaoran thought for a moment, she persuaded, “Husband, now that you have a fief, although you weren't conferred the title of king, you're still a

prince. How your fief is managed is naturally up to you! Don't you want the commoners in your fief to live a prosperous life?”

“What does this have to do with a culinary competition?” Luo Cheng didn't understand.

“Hey, husband, listen to me tell you in detail! After this culinary competition is held, not only can it improve the economy, but it can also improve the happiness of the commoners. It can also allow our fief to receive a lot of taxes. In the future, we will have money to do things for the commoners!” Li Xiaoran tried her best to persuade him.

“Let me think about it! We’re still on the way home anyway. Let’s talk about this and that after we return to Sichuan! Li Xiaoran, can you let me have a bite of food now?” Luo Cheng put on a pitiful look.

Only then did Li Xiaoran realize something. She quickly picked up a piece of chicken and served it to her husband as an apology.

Luo Cheng quickly picked up a piece for Li Xiaoran and placed it beside her mouth.

Li Xiaoran opened her mouth and ate this piece of chicken.

“Oh my god, I can’t stand it! Zi Cheng, Zi Zheng, can you two stand your young master and Madam being so openly affectionate every day?” Wu Qinghe felt extremely bitter.

Zi Zheng said seriously, “I don’t think so. The better Young Master and Madam’s relationship is, the happier we are for them! As long as Young Master and Madam are willing to, they can be as affectionate as they want!”

“That’s right. The better Young Master’s relationship with Madam is, the more delicious the food will be for us. In the past, without Madam around, we didn’t get to eat delicious food along the way! We’re lucky that we no longer have to eat dry rations!” Zi Cheng echoed.

Ever since Li Xiaoran appeared, the quality of life of people who followed Luo Cheng had also improved.

Therefore, as long as the young master and Madam had a good relationship, they would agree with whatever they said.

Shu Ruyue mocked, “You’re just envious that the Seventh Prince can marry someone like Xiaoran! Look at yourself. You’re a bachelor now, so you’re envious! Wu Qinghe, you should learn a few moves from the Seventh Prince! If you meet someone you like in the future, it’ll come in handy!” These two people couldn’t spend a single day without bickering.

“Hmph, so be it. After I learn it, I’ll definitely use it to get a wife!” Wu Qinghe refused to admit defeat!

“If you really meet a girl you like, you won’t need me to teach you,” Luo Cheng suddenly said when he heard their conversation.

Wu Qinghe was stunned for a moment, then he revealed a contemplative look.

When Li Xiaoran looked at Wu Qinghe, who was deep in thought, and felt his emotional fluctuations, she was immediately amused.

Could it be that under the stimulation of her showing off her affection to Luo Cheng, Wu Qinghe was about to be enlightened?

Thinking of this, Li Xiaoran carefully observed the interaction between Shu Ruyue and Wu Qinghe.

Seeing this, Luo Cheng was immediately jealous.

“Stop looking and focus on eating! If you don’t eat this delicious food, you’ll be letting these delicacies go to waste!”

Li Xiaoran smiled and continued eating.

At the end of the meal, a woman suddenly rushed in.

“Su Ling, Su Ling, there’s bad news! That heartless man’s newlywed wife is here!”

As soon as she said this, Su Ling, who was tidying up in the kitchen, ran out.

“Who did you say is here?”

As soon as he finished speaking, a group of people came in.

Upon closer inspection, the group’s attire was out of place with the people around them. It was obvious that they were from some rich family.

A person who looked like a maid walked forward and asked loudly, “Who’s called Su Ling?”

Su Ling walked forward and asked in a neither servile nor overbearing tone, “I’m Su Ling. What’s the matter?”

After the maidservant sized up Su Ling, she came to the carriage behind her.

“Madam, Su Ling has already appeared. She’s exactly the same as in the portrait!”

“Looks like we didn’t find the wrong person today!” A sweet voice came from the carriage..

Chapter 560: Purpose

Soon, a charming woman alighted from the carriage.

Even as a woman, Li Xiaoran couldn’t help but marvel at her beauty.

It had to be said that the woman in front of her was really too beautiful!

Li Xiaoran had seen many handsome men and beautiful women in her life, but the woman in front of her was really charming.

“Hey, Xiaoran, you’re not allowed to look at other people like that!” Seeing this, Luo Cheng was immediately jealous.

Li Xiaoran said disapprovingly, “Husband, she’s a woman. Do you have to be jealous?”

Everyone liked delicious food.

Beauties were no exception.

Luo Cheng stared at Li Xiaoran stubbornly and said, “I don’t care. You can only look at me!”

“Alright, alright, alright. I’ll only look at you. I’ll only look at you, okay?” Li Xiaoran was amused.

After the woman came down, she scanned the people in the courtyard.

The people on Li Xiaoran’s side were obviously customers who had come to eat.

On the other hand, the woman in front of her was wearing an apron, so she was probably Su Ling, who she was looking for.

“You’re Su Ling?”

Su Ling looked at the woman in front of her calmly.

“I’m Su Ling. I wonder if you’re here to eat or for something else?”

“You recognize me?” the charming woman said firmly.

Su Ling nodded without hesitation.

“I recognize him. I went to the capital to look for Luo Junkun once. At that time, he was by your side.”

As soon as she said this, everyone understood.

No wonder Su Ling looked so calm. She already knew who she was.

After Su Ling thought for a moment, she said bluntly, “I have nothing to say to you! If you’re here to eat, I welcome you! If it’s because of Luo Junkun, there’s no need! We have nothing to do with Luo Junkun!”

The charming woman never expected Su Ling to say such a thing.

To be honest, just based on Su Ling’s words, the woman in front of her was quite admirable.

She had always thought highly of herself, but if she were in Su Ling’s position, she definitely wouldn’t be as magnanimous as Su Ling.

The charming woman sighed and said, “But didn’t you give birth to a son for Luo Junkun?”

“Madam, I’m afraid you’re mistaken. My father isn’t Luo Junkun, so you don’t have to worry about a son coming back to compete with your child for the family assets! My surname is Su, and I’m a member of the Su family.” At this moment, Su Mao stood up and said, “Everyone in town knows that anyone who marries a member of the Su

family, regardless of gender, will give birth to a child with the Su family's surname and become a child of the Su family. Moreover, everyone signs a promise before getting married!"

"Other things can be faked, but this promise has to be witnessed by the mayor, county magistrate, and the local people. At the same time, the officials and the people involved each have one copy and three copies. You can investigate," Su Mao said calmly as he looked at the woman.

His nominal father had been married for so many years, but he had never thought of his son because he knew this fact very well.

Su Mao wasn't his child, but the Su family's.

Even if this matter reached the emperor, it would still be carried out according to what the promise letter said.

When the charming woman heard this, she knew that it wouldn't be easy to achieve her goal today.

"Child, no matter what, Luo Junkun is your father. You can't refuse to acknowledge him!"

When Su Mao heard this, he immediately laughed out loud.

"At this moment, he finally wants me to be his son? Unfortunately, it's too late!"

After Su Mao finished speaking, his expression became serious.

"Madam, I know exactly what you're thinking and what Luo Junkun is thinking. Go back and tell Luo Junkun that since he made the choice back then, he shouldn't regret it now. If he's still a man, don't backtrack. This way, I can think more highly of him!"

When the charming woman heard Su Mao's words, she wondered if he was serious or not.

The woman suddenly said, "You have to know that if you follow your father, your future will be full of potential!"

Li Xiaoran was originally enamored by the charming woman's looks, but the other party's words and her schemes made her feel annoyed.

Li Xiaoran mocked, "What do you mean by having a future full of potential? How can a father who can abandon his wife and children in order to climb up the social ladder raise a good son? As the saying goes, a crooked stick will have a crooked shadow. Speaking of which, Su Mao should really be glad that his father abandoned him back then. Otherwise, Su Ling would have been angered to death by him!"

As soon as she said this, the charming woman's expression changed.

For some reason, Su Ling immediately had a bad feeling after hearing Li Xiaoran's words.

Just as Su Ling was about to ask something, Su Mao suddenly said, "I've said it before. I know what he's up to. I won't let him have his way. My surname is Su. I'll be a member of the Su family

for the rest of my life. I have nothing to do with Luo Junkun! Madam, you should leave this place quickly! This is my house!” Su Mao wanted to chase her away.

Li Xiaoran reminded Su Mao after hearing his inner thoughts, “Su Mao, why are you still hiding things from your mother?! Your mother has experienced too many things already. Instead of hiding this matter, it’s better to explain it to her directly!”

Su Ling said coldly, “Mao’er, explain to me clearly. You’re not allowed to hide anything!”

Su Mao knew that there was no point in hiding this anymore, so he simply revealed it.

“Mother, you don’t know how shameless Luo Junkun is. He wants to cozy up to Mr. Gao, so he wants me to get adopted by the Gao family. The reason I’m unwilling to participate in the imperial examination recently is because my path has already been ruined. If I reject the Gao family, I can forget about working in the officialdom from now on!”

When Su Ling heard her son’s words, she trembled with anger.

Turning to look at the charming woman standing not far away, Su Ling questioned sternly, “Luo Junkun wants Mao’er to follow him? Why? He thinks that selling himself a few times isn’t enough, so he plans to sell his son now? I’ve really underestimated his shamelessness!”

Luo Cheng suddenly said sarcastically, “I really didn’t expect a mere Mr. Gao to be able block a young man’s future.. How impressive!”