

Three-Time 111

Chapter 111: 111. Great God is Truly a Good Person (Part 1)

For the first time, Ning Jing took charge of cooking instead of just tending the fire and being Su Liang's assistant; he made her a bowl of longevity noodles, but didn't even make one for himself, let alone Yan Shiba.

After making the longevity noodles, Ning Jing instructed Su Liang to prepare other dishes and even encouraged her to order some.

Su Liang complained, "Is this really the treatment between siblings? I'm not going to call Ning Jing my brother!"

When it was time for dinner, Yan Shiba saw a delicious-looking bowl of meat noodles in front of Su Liang and asked her where it came from.

"Today is my coming-of-age ceremony," Su Liang casually said.

Yan Shiba was stunned, "Liang, why didn't you say it earlier?"

Su Liang scoffed, "You spend all of my money on food and clothing, what difference would it make if I had told you earlier?"

Yan Shiba coughed slightly, "I'll pay you back once Sister's injuries heal! But our Xiaoliang has grown up so quickly. To celebrate such an important event, gold, silver, and jewelry are too mundane. Sister knows what Liang likes best let it be that!"

Su Liang asked, "What is it?"

Yan Shiba grinned and winked at Su Liang, "Of course, it's the beautiful Gu Ling!"

Ning Jing, who was sitting opposite, seemed completely unsurprised by Yan Shiba's words, remaining calm.

Without thinking, Su Liang glanced at Ning Jing and then nodded, "Alright, then it's settled. You owe me Gu Ling for my coming-of-age ceremony."

"Don't worry, Liang. Once I can walk again, I'll search for Gu Ling even if I have to dig three feet into the ground!" Yan Shiba promised, "But let's be clear: when I bring Gu Ling to you, you must make use of her!"

Upon hearing the deeply meaningful last word, Su Liang almost bit her tongue.

Yan Shiba looked at her suggestively, "I can tell you're no stranger to these things, Xiaoliang. If you don't understand, Sister will teach you!"

"Enough," Ning Jing interjected, putting an end to the conversation.

After that, Jian Shiba asked for a taste of Su Liang's longevity noodles, but before Su Liang could refuse, Ning Jing said that it was not allowed.

"You didn't even make it!" Yan Shiba retorted angrily.

Protecting her noodles, Su Liang replied, “He did make them. If he says no, it’s a no.”

Yan Shiba was shocked, “Oh my God! You can actually cook and even made food for Liang?! I knew it; you must have ulterior motives towards Xiaoliang! A proper man wouldn’t cook for a girl if he didn’t have other intentions. Xiaoliang, listen to your sister – he must want to sleep with you!”

Ning Jing didn’t bother to defend himself. Yan Shiba had always been against him, but he never cared to address it.

Su Liang quickly stopped Yan Shiba’s nonsense, “We’re siblings; don’t talk nonsense!”

Yan Shiba became indignant, “Liang, you can’t be so naiVe! There’s no such thing as pure friendship between men and women. Even siblings who are not blood-related can’t have a purely innocent relationship – even those with blood relations sometimes can’t...”

As Yan Shiba’s words became even more crude, Su Liang frowned and said, “Shut up now and eat, or leave! ”

Yan Shiba fell silent.

After a while, she murmured, “Can’t talk... Can’t eat...”

Su Liang’s forehead twitched, “Eat with your nostrils, then!”

Finally, there was peace.

After Su Liang finished eating the longevity noodles Ning Jing prepared for her and drank the soup, he asked her briefly, “How was it?”

Su Liang nodded, “The noodles were chevvyy, and the vegetables were cooked just right. It was a bit salty, though.”

Ning Jing’s eyebrows furrowed slightly as he recalled that he had added salt twice.

“You’re quite confident when it comes to cooking, impressive,” Su Liang teased.

It was a typical Great God’s behavior – cooking for the first time and not tasting the dish beforehand for its saltiness.

“I’ll keep that in mind for next year if you’re still here,” Ning Jing nodded.

The meaning behind his words had layers.

Firstly, Su Liang could only have longevity noodles made by Ning Jing on her birthday; at any other time, Ning Jing wouldn’t be responsible for cooking.

Secondly, Ning Jing wouldn’t “leave” their partnership; if they were not together by this same time next year, it would mean Su Liang left his side.

The latter had already been discussed and agreed upon.

“Fine,” Su Liang conceded, knowing that many things could happen within a year, and whether they’d still be together would remain to be seen.

“Liang, tomorrow is my birthday,” Yan Shiba weakly raised her uninjured hand, “I want to eat longevity noodles.”

“How do you prove that?” Su Liang asked.

“I have to go to the Underworld and ask the two people who gave birth to me,” Yan Shiba thought for a moment.

“Alright, tomorrow we’ll have meat sauce noodles,” Su Liang decided.

“Not ‘we’ – just the longevity noodles are mine!” Yan Shiba insisted on special treatment.

“I’ll add an egg to yours,” Su Liang said. Ning Jing spoke up, “I want two.”

Yan Shiba was angry, “I want three!”

Su Liang looked up at the sky speechlessly, “I’ll make meat sauce and eggs for you tomorrow, and I’ll have clear soup noodles, okay?”

In order to show her appreciation for Ning Jing’s cooking skills and his kindness, Su Liang wore the purple jade hairpin on Laba Festival the whole day.

Sharp-eyed Yan Shiba noticed that Su Liang suddenly had new jewelry and asked her where it came from. When she told him the truth, Yan Shiba started his old theory “What reason could a man have to give you a hairpin besides wanting to sleep with you? Oh my god, he even carved it by hand? What a scheming man!”

Su Liang responded, “First, make up for the coming-of-age ceremony you owe me, then you can babble.”

Though she had lived two lifetimes and was very mature in mentality, Su Liang still thought this new body was a very young Miss because she hadn’t even had her period before.

However, Su Liang did not know that the Original Master had her period last year, but it stopped after she was abused in Su Daqiang’s home. In the winter, she lived in a leaky shack and caught colds. She was not well-fed or well-clothed, so her period stopped.

That’s why Su Liang always felt chilly after she crossed over.

After a few months of conditioning and exercise, Su Liang found her period came back one evening.

For this, she specifically asked Yan Shiba how to deal with it since there were no sanitary pads in this world.

Yan Shiba instantly felt like a big sister; of course, she could teach Su Liang about this. The menstrual products she had had Auntie Bai sew for her before still had some unused ones, so she directly gave them to Su Liang.

Su Liang felt uncomfortable everywhere and couldn’t muster her energy during dinner.

When Ning Jing told her to practice her spear technique tomorrow, Su Liang said directly that she needed to rest for a few days.

“Why?” asked Ning Jing.

Yan Shiba snorted lightly, “If Lil’ Liang wants to rest, let her rest. What’s with the questions?”

Ning Jing asked Su Liang again, “Why?”

“I’ll talk about it later.” Su Liang frowned and got up to go out.

After Ning Jing cleaned up the kitchen, boiled the water, and specifically came to find Su Liang to ask why she wanted to rest for a few days.

He felt this wasn’t like Su Liang’s character. There must be something she was hiding from him, and it seemed Yan Shiba knew too.

Su Liang wrapped herself in a blanket, sat at the table, and motioned Ning Jing to come in and sit down, “Let me tell you about the differences between men and women.”

Ning Jing was momentarily stunned, walked over, sat down next to her, and indicated that he was all ears.

Su Liang picked up a pen and drew two rough human body structure diagrams.

Unlike the acupoint maps she drew previously, these diagrams had obvious male and female characteristics.

Ning Jing frowned slightly but didn’t say anything.

Following the same method as what her biology teacher taught her in her previous life, Su Liang gave Ning Jing a physiology lesson and even explained the principle of giving birth.

Staring at the two diagrams, Ning Jing initially felt a bit uncomfortable, but later he listened calmly and attentively and even asked a few questions about things he was unsure about.

Considering Ning Jing had already mentioned wanting to learn about Su Liang’s knowledge, Su Liang had first explained bizarre things like planes, trains, and people going to the sky. Now, Ning Jing didn’t find these things bizarre but rather had a sense of clarity as if mist had lifted.

These things were real. He didn’t understand before, but now he finally understood the underlying principles, and of course, he wouldn’t have to ask Su Liang why she needed to rest for a few days anymore.

“Being a woman is tough.” Ning Jing came to a conclusion. Experiencing discomfort for a few days every month and giving birth was even a greater ordeal.

“So, the reason you mentioned earlier that the law in your place allows women to be considered adults at 18 but only marry at 20 is because being too young and having children is not good for the body?” Ning Jing asked again.

Su Liang nodded, “We become adults at 18 for this reason since our bodies are not fully developed yet. But we can only marry at 20, and there are many other factors, including mental maturity and societal environment, and so on.”

Ning Jing understood, “You are very mature mentally. But, should we wait until after you are 18 to become a couple?”

Su Liang nodded, “Yes.”

“Let’s continue practicing after you’ve rested well.” Ning Jing got up to leave, then asked Su Liang, “Can you still cook?”

“We’ll see how tomorrow goes.” Thinking it was her first time, Su Liang assumed she would feel unwell for the next few days.

“I’ll ask Auntie Bai to help with cooking and pay her wages.” Ning Jing said. If it was just him and Su Liang, he could cook, learn even if he didn’t know, but he would never cook for Yan Shiba himself.

Su Liang agreed, thinking that Auntie Bai would also be happy to help.

When Ning Jing was at the door, he turned back and asked, “Aren’t you hungry?”

Su Liang hadn’t eaten much for dinner-

Su Liang wrapped herself in a blanket, revealing only a small, jade-white face, and looked at Ning Jing pitifully, “I want to eat Brown Sugar Stewed Egg, can you make one for me? I’ll pay you a wage.”

Ning Jing turned around, “Alright. No need for payment today. Before midnight, we are still brother and sister.”

The smile in Su Liang’s eyes spread.. Great God was really a kind and good person!

Chapter 112: 112. Happy New Year (Second Update)

Steaming hot brown sugar stewed egg, Ning Jing, who is quite confident in her cooking skills despite having little practical experience, took the initiative to cut some fine ginger shreds to cook with it.

Because he was recently learning pharmacology, he thought this was a good idea.

Opening the soup bowl, a sweet, warm aroma greeted them.

Su Liang said she wanted to eat one, so Ning Jing stewed four.

But, he brought two bowls and two spoons.

He said very directly, “If you can’t finish it, I’d like to try some too.”

Su Liang couldn’t help but smile, “Half for each of us.” Eating two was just right for her.

So, they shared the ginger brown sugar poached eggs that Ning Jing cooked for the first time.

Su Liang was initially worried it would be too sweet, but it turned out to be just right. Interestingly, the sweetness is not easy to control, and everyone has different preferences for sweetness.

It was just how Su Liang liked it, which surprised her, so she complimented, “Very nice.”

“I’ve tasted yours before.” Ning Jing said, noting that he tasted the sugar while cooking this time to control the amount.

Su Liang had once made brown sugar eggs for Yang Yu, and Ning Jing had asked, "Can't men eat it?"

That time, Ning Jing ate it.

Since it was made by Su Liang, of course, it had the sweetness she thought was appropriate.

So, it became the standard for Ning Jing's attempt this time.

Su Liang said, the Great God is really the Great God, although there was a mistake of adding salt twice, the correction and progress were very rapid.

After eating, Su Liang felt warmed up and much more comfortable.

"Is it that before midnight, if I ask you to do anything, there's a chance?" Su Liang jokingly asked.

"Normal things." Ning Jing set a limit. Just in case he said anything, and Su Liang whimsically asked him to eat the two snowmen in the courtyard, it would be awkward.

Su Liang didn't think of such a strange thing, and laughed, "Give me a smile?"

Ning Jing got up, took the small bowl in front of Su Liang, and used silence to indicate that this was not normal for him.

Su Liang yawned, asking if there was hot water. She couldn't take a bath, but she wanted to soak her feet.

Ning Jing nodded, asking Su Liang not to go out.

So, Su Liane enjoyed the hot water that Ning Jing personally brought over.

"Thank you so much." said, "I'll make you something delicious in a few days. Go back to sleep, I'll pour the water tomorrow."

Ning Jing then went out, closed the door from the outside, returned to his room, and took the two human body drawings drawn by Su Liang, along with the previous acupuncture map.

After reading only two pages of a book, the wind was blowing outside.

The room was heating with premium silver charcoal, and it was not cold.

Ning Jing glanced at the charcoal basin, got up, moved it to a different position, and placed it against the wall separating his room from Su Liang's.

The next day, Ning Jing went to Aunt Bai for help with cooking. Aunt Bai was surprised, "Is Liang girl not at home?"

"She... is sick." Ning Jing said.

Aunt Bai's expression tensed, "What illness has Liang girl got? Her medical skills are so good, how could she get sick?"

Ning Jing thought for a moment and said, "It's okay, she's just uncomfortable for a few days."

Aunt Bai hesitated for a moment, "Oh! Is it her period?" Realizing that Ning Jing was standing in front of her, she paused and laughed, "Okay, okay, I'll go right away! Don't be so formal about the salary. If you want to give money, I won't go!"

Things had changed from when Aunt Bai was initially upset about losing the job of cooking for Ning Jing and not earning any money.

Firstly, Bai's family's living conditions had improved significantly this year, thanks to the money-making opportunities afforded by Su Liang and Ning Jing. They were no longer so poor.

Secondly, Aunt Bai genuinely liked and was grateful to them, so she treated them like family.

Ning Jing didn't insist on giving her the money. There are many ways of giving compensation, and they could buy more when shopping for New Year goods and share what they "couldn't finish" with Bai's family.

Though it was not Su Liang's first period this time, it was almost the same. Her body had already improved significantly, but she still found it hard to bear at this time. It was a kind of indescribable continuous torment that was still within her limit, but exhausting.

To put it simply, Su Liang's biggest feeling was not pain but weakness and listlessness.

Aunt Bai treated Su Liang as though she was caring for a girl during her confinement, even more attentively than caring for her own daughter. This was mostly because Su Liang's family had everything they needed, and their material conditions were very favorable now.

From the beginning, Ning Jing had asked Aunt Bai about various nutritious foods, and he bought them all.

As for yesterday, when Yan Shiba saw Su Liang eating longevity noodles and realized that Aunt Bai was cooking the next day, he didn't even mention the noodles.

Yan Shiba wanted Su Liang to cook the longevity noodles specifically for her, not just to eat noodles.

After the difficult first two days, Su Liang's condition improved, and she sighed, "In my next life, I want to be a man."

Ning Jing said indifferently, "I'd like to try being a woman in my next life."

Yan Shiba, who was listening nearby, rolled her eyes up to the sky, "My sister Liang is no less capable than a man! Ning, you are really a pervert!"

Ning Jing looked at Yan Shiba.

Yan Shiba snorted, "What? Do you want to fight me?"

Unexpectedly, Ning Jing spoke, not about Yan Shiba calling him a pervert, but rather, "She is not yours."

Yan Shiba was stunned and rolled her eyes again, "If she's not mine, then is she nnn't flattpr vnnr«plfl"

Yan Shiba then asked "If Ning and I fell into the water together, who would you save?"

Su Liang never expected that she would be asked this kind of question one day, but it was not difficult for her to answer, "Of course I would save Ning Jing."

Yan Shiba's face darkened.

Ning Jing was composed, neither thrilled nor deterred.

When Yan Shiba asked Su Liang for a reasonable explanation, she said, "Because Zhengzheng likes his Uncle Ning so much, I don't want to see

Zhengzheng cry. "

Yan Shiba frowned, "Who is Zhengzheng?"

"A child we saved before, who has gone home now." Su Liang hadn't shared this with Yan Shiba.

Yan Shiba was annoyed, "I still owe you the coming-of-age ceremony, and you don't want the beloved Gu beauty anymore?"

Su Liang's mood was rather strange at the moment.

Under Yan Shiba's bizarre question setting, if Su Liang chose to save Yan Shiba for the sake of "Gu beauty", the one who would die was "Gu beauty" herself, then saving Yan Shiba would be meaningless.

Therefore, whether it was for the sake of Zhengzheng not crying or for the coming-of-age ceremony promised by Yan Shiba, Su Liang could only choose to save Ning Jing.

However, she couldn't speak the truth to Yan Shiba about this matter.

So Su Liang said in a faint tone, "Whether you give the ceremony or not, Gu beauty is still there. If we are destined, we'll meet eventually."

Yan Shiba was speechless...

Mrs. Bai no longer came to help with cooking, and Su Liang "recovered her life", resuming her busy and fulfilling life before. When she had some free time, she would continue to "teach" Ning Jing, passing on some knowledge he didn't know.

Before Su Liang and Ning Jing planned to buy New Year's goods, the steward of Ning Family sent Ning Jing two carts of things.

People and cars from the Wan and Yang Families also arrived one after another to deliver New Year's gifts.

In addition to the gifts from the Wan Family, there was also a letter from Wan Hui to Su Liang, with one sheet of paper having a cute little handprint and the crooked signature of Zhengzheng.

The gifts from the Yang Family included two letters, one from Yang Yu to Su Liang, and the other one was dictated by the illiterate Liu Xiaoyue and written by Yang Yu, but Liu Xiaoyue finally wrote her name herself, although the handwriting was not good.

Wan Hui mentioned that the Wan and Yang Families were already arranging to deal with the Li family, and the Ning Family steward was very efficient. The family of the three of them is now in the capital city, and this was deliberately sent back from the capital city to Qingyang City and then

sent here together. Zhengzheng misses his favorite aunt and uncle Ning very much and looks forward to meeting them in the capital city soon.

Yang Yu mentioned that although there were some obstacles in the middle, the Yang family had settled down, and their businesses had returned to the right track. She would personally go to the capital city to inspect the shop after the New Year and hoped to reunite with Su Liang by then.

In the letter, Yang Yu also praised Liu Xiaoyue, saying that she admired her very much after learning about her experience, and Xiaoyue was diligent in learning although she didn't know much. She planned to train Liu Xiaoyue to be a steward.

In the letter Liu Xiaoyue sent to Su Liang, she detailed her experiences and the process of her inner growth; perhaps because Yang Yu was the one writing it, Liu Xiaoyue only briefly mentioned her gratitude to Yang Yu. She said it was Su Liang who gave her a new lease on life, and she wanted to grow up and repay Su Liang someday.

was pleased.

All three letters made her feel that life had meaning and that helping others with good results could bring happiness and pleasure.

The important thing was not how Wan Hui, Yang Yu, and Liu Xiaoyue would repay Su Liang in the future, but Su Liang just wanted to see them do well, which made her feel that everything she had done before was worthwhile.

Su Liang shared this with Ning Jing, but Ning Jing didn't read the three letters, just saying he knew about them.

There were too many gifts received, including food. Ning Jing gave a lot to the Bai Family, some to his woodworking master Su Dakuan, and some to Su Bai.

Knowing that Su Liang had no time to make clothes, Yang Yu only sent two pieces of high-quality cotton cloth to make inner clothes this time, without sending other fabrics. Instead, she sent two boxes of finished clothes and shoes, one for Su Liang and one for Ning Jing. All of them were made with the best materials and embroidered by the best embroiderers of the Yang family, with both classic designs and the most fashionable styles in the capital city. She even carefully matched jewelry for each suit of clothes sent to Su Liang.

In this way, Su Liang and Ning Jing didn't need to buy any more clothes when they arrived in the capital city.

Tomorrow is New Year's Eve. Today, in front of Yan Shiba, Ning Jing asked Su Liang, "Can she leave now?"

Yan Shiba, who had already thrown away her crutches and walked freely the day before, said unhappily upon hearing this, "You can't wait for me to leave so you can make a move on Liang, can you? Keep dreaming!"

Unexpectedly, Su Liang looked at Yan Shiba and asked seriously, "When are you leaving?"

Yan Shiba was upset that every time she had conflict with Ning Jing, Su Liang had never sided with her! Not even once! From beginning to end, Su Liang didn't try to hide the fact that Yan Shiba was an outsider and didn't even bother to pretend to be polite!

“I’m not leaving!” Yan Shiba snorted coldly.

Su Liang nodded, “After the fifth day of the lunar month, we will set off for the capital city. You can stay here and ask Mrs. Bai to look after you.”

Yan Shiba frowned, “What’s the rush to go so early? Why can’t you take me with you?”

“Zhengzheng misses us.” Su Liang stated a reason.

“Those who don’t know would think that he’s your child!” Yan Shiba said unhappily, then asked again, “Why can’t you take me with you?”

“You can leave by yourself; we won’t stop you.” Su Liang shook her head, “Don’t pretend to be weak; it’s not interesting.”

Yan Shiba took a deep breath to calm her anger, “Fine, very good, you are so good to me, Liang! Ning, I’m leaving today, but just you wait; I’ll be back by Liang’s side! See you in the capital city!”

As soon as Yan Shiba finished her words, she slapped the table, stood up, and turned to walk out of the house.

Su Liang was a little surprised, and she packed Yan Shiba’s belongings, which were her clothes here, took some dried food, and sent it out to her.

“Liang, you really can’t bear to see me go!” Yan Shiba stood outside the door, her face lightening up when she saw Su Liang, and was about to hug her when she saw the bundle in her hands and immediately darkened her face again.

Su Liang sighed softly and stuffed the bundle into Yan Shiba’s arms, “I don’t know what being the leader of assassins means to you, but I hope you can figure it out yourself. Goodbye, and take care.” She turned back into the house and closed the door.

She was cold, decisive, and made her attitude clear, even too lazy to mention Yan Shiba repaying her. She didn’t even charge the medical fee, and just wanted to part ways right away.

Yan Shiba turned away with the bundle on her back and kicked a stone on the ground, saying, “Just wait, once I find Gu Ling, you’ll call me your sister!” first New Year’s Eve after crossing over was spent with Ning Jing.

They prepared a table full of sumptuous dishes, including a tea-flavored chicken. Su Liang made it to keep her promise, “If I have a pound of Da Hong Pao, I will make you tea-flavored chicken.”

She really had Da Hong Pao now. Ning Jing, as the head of Qian Country’s biggest tea business, the Ning Family, didn’t lack good tea at all. There wasn’t a full pound, but it was enough for cooking the dish.

After tasting the tea-flavored chicken made with Da Hong Pao, Su Liang couldn’t help but sigh, “This dish has a taste of extravagant luxury.”

Then, Su Liang put down her chopsticks, raised her cup smilingly, “Great God, Happy New Year. ”

Ning Jing picked up the tea cup and thought for a while before saying,

“Xiaoliang, Happy New Year.”

He insisted on keeping the word “little” but avoiding the word “little man” since it would be impolite.

Su Liang smiled radiantly, “May all our wishes come true in the new year..”

Chapter 113: 113. How do you know it won ‘t work if you don’t give it a try? (One more update)

Early on the first day of the new year, Bai Xiaohu and Zhuzi came to visit Ning Jing and Su Liang.

Having learned the local customs from Lady Bai, Su Liang prepared candies and desserts in advance. Ning Jing exchanged some copper coins when he went to town last time.

Bai Xiaohu and Zhuzi happily ran away with their money and pockets full of treats after receiving their New Year’s gifts.

Not long after, Erniu and another child came to visit and received their New Year’s gifts and candies after saying some auspicious words.

Each child received ten coins, all the same.

Lady Bai had specifically instructed not to give too much.

So, on that day, Ning Jing and Su Liang sat at home giving out New Year’s money to the village children, wave after wave.

When no more children came, half of the copper coins were left in the basket.

Su Liang picked one up and handed it to Ning Jing, “New Year’s gift.”

Ning Jing took it and handed Su Liang a copper coin, “New Year’s gift.”

Su Liang smiled and threw the coin into the basket, then got up and went to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

Ning Jing, however, put the copper coin Su Liang gave him into his wallet.

They made dumplings together, a skill Ning Jing had learned early on, and one he was much better at than Su Liang.

Su Liang cooked a few dishes, and after eating, they took Bai Xiaohu, Zhuzi, and Erniu to go for a hike together.

It was also the local custom to climb a mountain and look into the distance on the first day of the new year, symbolizing achieving new heights in the coming year.

On that day, Su Bai announced the plans to build a school in Kaichun Village, where children could study for free. The preliminary plans and budgets were ready, Su Liang had already handed over the startup funds and a year’s worth of backup funds to Su Bai, the teacher had been hired, and the location had been chosen.

The villagers were excited, and Lady Bai repeatedly praised Su Liang as the lucky star of their village.

The Bai family had originally planned to send Bai Xiaohu to school next year, but even with their savings, they still couldn't afford it, as they also needed to find a bride for Bai He. Their living situation was still tight.

Little did they know that Ning Jing and Su Liang had already arranged everything, but had never mentioned it before.

Old Bai said that they kept quiet for the villagers' sake, as it was important to treat everyone equally. If they gave special treatment to Bai family's two grandsons, it might easily arouse envy and jealousy among the villagers.

Now there were even gossipers who said behind their backs that the Bai family had gained a lot of money by ingratiating themselves with Ning Jing and Su Liang.

They only took a break for a day, and on the second day, Ning Jing and Su Liang's life resumed its previous rhythm.

The military exams would begin in early February, and although Ning Jing had said that Su Liang's chances of being among the top three were not a big problem now, he had always been very strict about teaching her martial arts and supervising her training.

On the third day, the manager of the Ning family arrived according to Ning Jing's instructions before the new year, and they began to pack their belongings to take them to the capital.

A lot of gifts from friends had to be left behind, as it was not safe to keep them here, and they did not know when they would return. They might not even stay in the village for a long time after their return.

The former owner's belongings and Su Liang's books, as well as some clothes they would wear, were left behind for her to take with her.

Ning Jing also left a suitcase.

All the other things were sent away in advance.

Su Bai had told the villagers that Su Liang would leave on the fifth day. On the fourth day, she brought the prepared medicine and visited several patients in the village for follow-up examinations, leaving prescriptions, and gave some instructions on what to pay attention to.

The ledger recorded the patients who had bought medicine on credit. Many of them had repaid their debts before Su Liang left, but there were also some who hadn't or didn't want to. Su Liang didn't chase them for payment but entrusted the ledger to Su Bai instead. Any money collected would be used as funds for the school.

On the fifth day, after breakfast, Ning Jing and Su Liang sent all the leftover food to the Bai family.

Old Bai had prepared a whole bag of baked sweet potato chips for Ning Jing to take. Lady Bai also got up early to steam a basket of dried green bean meat buns for them, which Su Liang had said were delicious the last time. All the leftover dried green beans were given to Ning Jing, saying that they might not be able to eat such things in the capital. He also took a jar of pickled radish from the Liu family.

Before leaving, Su Liang stood in the courtyard, looking at the first home she had after crossing to this world, feeling reluctant to leave.

At first, the courtyard was empty and deserted, but now every corner bore traces of their life.

The snowman made before the New Year had not completely melted yet, and its original shape was still visible.

“Will we come back?” Su Liang asked Ning Jing.

Ning Jing answered, “I will.” Su Liang nodded, “I will too!”

“Let’s go.” Ning Jing called Su Liang.

Su Liang took one last look, waved to the courtyard, locked the front door, got into the carriage, and sat next to Ning Jing.

The carriage slowly moved away from the gate.

The Bai family were all standing on the bridge to bid them farewell, Lady Bai’s eyes red, reminding Ning Jing to take good care of Su Liang.

“Ning Ge, Sister Su Liang, will you come back?” Bai Xiaohu asked with a creased brow.

Su Liang nodded, “We will.”

Zhuizi burst into tears, clinging to Su Liang’s legs, unwilling to let her go.

After coaxing him for a while, Zhuizi was finally taken away by Mrs. Liu, saying sulkily, “I will study hard and take the exam in the capital when I grow up so I can see Ning Ge and Sister Su Liang again!”

Ning Jing said solemnly, “Good. I’ll wait for you.”

Many villagers were at the entrance of the village to see Su Liang and Ning Jing off, giving them many foodstuffs. These gifts were not valuable, but they were full of heartfelt good wishes.

Su Bai also told Ning Jing to take good care of Su Liang.

As they watched the carriage leave, the sun was just rising in the east. Su Bai sighed, “I hope they have a safe and smooth journey.”

The carriage arrived in Feiyan Town, where Hu Er was already waiting.

He was cured and looked much younger, having given up the gambling business to work in legitimate businesses with the help of the Wan Family.

“Both of you are bound for success in the capital,” said Hu Er with a full smile, and he had Xiaoliu bring Su Liang and Ning Jing gifts – a box full of books he had collected using his old connections.

Knowing that Su Liang and Ning Jing were no longer short of money and wouldn’t care for other gifts, he had put much effort into obtaining these books.

Su Liang was very happy and thanked Hu Er. Then, they continued their journey.

By the time they reached the county town, Su Liang had already flipped through all the books given by Hu Er, merely checking out what was inside.

Most of them were miscellaneous books of various types, and a considerable number of them were not available through legitimate channels. Among these, there were two rather sinister books on poison techniques, badly damaged, but most of the content was still legible.

After reaching the county town, they didn't stay there. Instead, they headed towards the capital city, leaving Bei'an County behind.

They took turns driving the carriage along the way, just as before.

The capital city of Qian Country.

Nian Jincheng and Lin Bojun were sent to the south by royal decree before the new year, and the situation was tense but the two countries had not yet gone to war.

On the fifth day of the Lunar New Year, Xing Yusheng had intended to accompany Qin Yujin to the temple to pray for blessings. He also wanted to ask for his grandmother's blessings.

But before they could leave, they received news that Bei Jingwang had entered the capital city!

Xing Yusheng was first stunned, and then overjoyed, "Really? Where is he now?"

"He just entered the city gates!" the servant who reported the news said.

Xing Yusheng had not received a reply to the letter he sent to his grandmother, and his heart had been hanging ever since, not knowing what his father was planning.

There had been no news before, and suddenly he arrived in the capital city. With some calmness, Xing Yusheng realized that the people from Bei Jingwang Mansion must have secretly traveled to the capital and kept a low profile, or they would have encountered danger along the way.

No one knew whether the emperor could tolerate the Xing Family.

Although the Vassal Kings were not allowed to enter the capital without a summons, if one voluntarily gave up their territory and kingship, they would be no longer a Vassal King and would not have to abide by this restriction.

With that in mind, Xing Yusheng finally let go of his worries and hurriedly ordered Qi Jun to prepare the carriage. He wanted to pick up his grandmother.

"Master, the prince will have to go to the palace first. The Xing Family doesn't have a residence in the capital city..." Qi Jun reminded Xing Yusheng that with so many people in the Xing Family, he couldn't just bring his grandmother to the Qin Family and leave the others unattended.

Xing Yusheng frowned, "You go find an inn and book it."

"Yes!" Qi Jun went to do as he was told. His father worked for the prince's mansion, and he didn't leak any information before, probably to ensure their safety.

Both Old Master Qin and Qin Kang didn't show up, so Xing Yusheng's two cousins accompanied him to settle the people from the Xing Family.

"At least he has some brains," Old Master Qin commented on his son-in-law, Bei Jingwang.

Duanmu Chen had returned to the capital city before the new year, but the results of the iron mine smuggling case were not made public. The voices blaming Bei Jingwang as the mastermind never ceased.

It was Su Liang who had conveyed the message to Xing Yusheng, who then informed Old Master Qin without telling anyone else.

In the residence of the Fourth Prince, Duanmu Chen heard that Bei Jingwang and his family had suddenly arrived in the capital city, and he was initially surprised and then laughed, "The favor I sold to Su Liang hasn't been in vain after all. If they arrive here after the new year, it should be before the Lantern Festival. How is the preparation of the mansion going?"

Chang'an sighed, "The mansion is ready, but we haven't found all the fruit trees that Young Master Ning requested."

"Why haven't you found them yet? What if they arrive and there are things missing? Where would my face go?" Duanmu Chen snorted.

Chang'an hurried to find the trees.

Xing Yusheng met his grandmother, who was in good spirits and laughed, telling him not to worry and praised the talents of the two Qin Family young masters.

Bei Jingwang went to the palace, and Qi Jun booked an inn where the people from Bei Jingwang Mansion temporarily settled down.

When it was just his grandmother and Xing Yusheng left, she asked him who had given him the information in the letter.

Xing Yusheng told the truth, it was Su Liang.

To his grandmother's surprise, she sighed, "That girl is really kind. I later heard that she and Ning Jing only had a fake marriage and were actually siblings. They will be in the capital city soon, won't they? When the time comes, you should pursue her earnestly. As long as she is willing, your grandmother will arrange it, regardless of her background, for you to marry her as your main wife."

Xing Yusheng held his forehead, "I can't."

His grandmother frowned, "Why? Don't you like that girl very much? Your grandmother likes her too. The Xing Family is not what it used to be – peace is the most important thing now."

Xing Yusheng sighed, "I'm not good enough for her."

"Who says that?" his grandmother was not pleased to hear this, "How do you know it won't work if you don't give it a try? Your grandmother will definitely support you!"

Chapter 114: 114. Arriving in Beijing (Second Update)

Bei Jingwang Xing Ji came out of the palace at dusk.

The sunset draped the majestic palace in a hazy golden-red light. He turned his head for a glance, then shifted his gaze back. His followers waiting outside the palace approached and whispered a few words.

Master and servant mounted their horses and headed to the inn that Xing Yusheng had rented.

Ever since last year, when the court began investigating iron smuggling cases, rumors about Bei Jingwang being the mastermind had persisted.

Today, Bei Jingwang's entire family suddenly arrived in the capital, causing confusion among the various forces in the city, as the mastermind behind the iron smuggling case had yet to be revealed.

If it was Xing Ji, bringing his whole family to the capital would be akin to seeking death, wouldn't it?

If it wasn't him, the sudden move of his entire family to the capital would be even more intriguing.

During this time, the actions of the Duke of Qin, who was related to Bei Jingwang's family, had also drawn much attention.

Although Old Master Qin and Duke Qin Kang had not made any public appearances, many people saw the eldest grandson of the Qin family accompanying Xing Yusheng to settle in the Xing family and pay respects to Old Madame Xing.

Xing Ji entered the inn and headed straight for Old Madame Xing's residence.

Both Qin brothers had already returned home, and Xing Yusheng was having dinner with his grandmother. On the table was a medicinal diet that Su Liang had previously prescribed and prepared by the Qin family's chef.

"Mother."

The sound of the door opening, followed by Xing Ji's voice, footsteps coming in.

Xing Yusheng, with his back to the door, stood up from his wheelchair, the smile on his face disappearing. He bowed to Xing Ji, "Father."

Xing Ji's gaze shifted downward, noticing Xing Yusheng's stable standing legs, and nodded, "It seems you've been well cared for at your maternal grandparents' home."

Father and son had similar features; Xing Ji was a serious middle-aged man with an old scar on his left cheek, left from his days of fighting battles in his youth.

Among the three vassal kings, Bei Jingwang Xing Ji was considered the most likely to rebel because of his restless temperament in his youth, which was directed not inward but outward.

There was a year when Qian Country was invaded by a neighboring country in the north, and Bei Jingwang's family had no military power, nor was the royal family allowed to intervene. However, at that time, the Qian Country's northern army suffered successive defeats and seemed to be hitting Bei Jingwang's territory.

Xing Ji, with two followers, sneaked fearlessly into the enemy camp, captured the enemy general alive, and assisted the Qian Country's army in driving the enemy out of the border and capture three cities in a row.

At that time, Bei Jingwang Xing Ji became famous in one battle.

Although he made great achievements, it also exposed his strength, making the court extremely wary. Subsequently, the court arranged for him to marry the eldest daughter of the Duke Qin Family, who was believed to have been sent by the royal family to monitor Xing Ji.

Xing Ji and Xing Yusheng's father-son relationship deteriorated after the death of Xing Yusheng's mother, Qin Xiang. The catalyst was Xing Ji promoting his concubine shortly after Qin Xiang's death.

At the moment, there was not a shred of warmth between father and son as they reunited after a long time.

"His Majesty will issue an edict to confer me as Marquis Zhong Xin and bestow a mansion," Xing Ji told Old Madame Xing.

Old Madame Xing heaved a long sigh of relief, clasped her hands together, and muttered a Buddhist phrase, "As long as there are no problems."

Descending from a non-royal king to a Marquis ranked lower compared to the Duke's family, but at least this demotion signaled that the matter was over.

Otherwise, if the emperor had taken action first, the outcome would have been hard to predict.

Old Madame Xing asked Xing Ji to visit his father-in-law at the Duke Qin Family, and Xing Ji agreed.

"Yusheng, accompany your father," Old Madame Xing said.

Xing Yusheng hesitated for a moment before responding with a simple "Hmm."

Father and son left the inn, Xing Ji on horseback and Xing Yusheng in a carriage, heading to the Qin Family.

Although Old Master Qin did not particularly like his son-in-law because of his daughter's death, he did not embarrass Xing Ji, out of consideration for his grandson.

By nightfall, news of Bei Jingwang's arrival in the capital, voluntarily giving up his royal position and territory, and the entire family staying in the city had spread.

An Imperial Decree arrived in Xing Ji's hands the following day, signaling the end of Bei Jingwang and the birth of Marquis Zhong Xin.

Surprisingly, the bestowed Zhong Xin Mansion was once the mansion of the executed Marquis Chang Xin from the Gu Family...

Last year, after being searched and sealed, the Gu Family Mansion was still wanted by the Qian Country for harboring the escaped crown prince of Marquis Chang Xin, Gu Ling.

As for the emperor's decision to assign this mansion to the Xing Family, anyone with discerning eyes wouldn't believe it to be a coincidence. It was clearly meant to knock down Xing Ji and warn him to behave, or he would end up like the Gu Family.

Xing Yusheng, who had stayed at the Duke Qin Family's house the previous night, received the news and was stunned when he learned the location of their new home, "It's the former Gu Family?"

Qi Yan nodded, "Yes! Marquis has already sent my father with people to clean up the place. We'll move there in three days. Does Young Master plan to live there?"

Xing Yusheng thought for a moment and said, "Now that I'm the crown prince of Marquis Zhong Xin's family, shouldn't my residence be the one originally occupied by Gu Ling?"

Qi Jun nodded, "That's right, in theory."

Xing Yusheng sighed, "Gu Ling once saved my mother, I wonder where he is now and if he is safe."

"Young Master shouldn't worry too much, no news is good news," Qi Jun said.

Xing Yusheng nodded, "The current outcome is already quite good. Ning Jing and Su Liang may arrive soon. You go and see if there are any suitable mansions for them. It doesn't have to be too big, just quiet and elegant, and with a garden."

"I heard that the... our Zhong Xin Mansion is quite big. We could invite Ning Jing and Miss Su to stay with us. Everyone knows that Ning Jing initially took the exam using Young Master's name, and they are friends," Qi Yan said.

Xing Yusheng shook his head, "Ning Jing definitely doesn't want to live with me."

Qi Jun coughed lightly, "Considering that Ning Jing is now the head of the Ning Family, he will likely have their accommodations arranged in advance, right?"

"That's his business. I want to give Su Liang a mansion, just in case she doesn't want to live with Ning Jing," Xing Yusheng said.

Qi Yan's eyes lit up with joy, "Exactly! Let's go find it!"

Three days later, the plaque of Marquis Zhong Xin's Mansion was hung on the gate where Marquis Chang Xin's Mansion was originally located, and the Xing family officially moved in.

Xing Yu Sheng also moved in, mainly to please his grandmother.

Qi Yan and Qi Jun searched the capital city and bought a mansion not far from the Marquis Zhong Xin's Mansion. It was not very big, but there were many trees planted in it, very quiet. Xing Yu Sheng saw it and thought that Su Liang would like it.

As the Xing family returned to the capital city, the truth of the iron mine smuggling case was finally made public. The real mastermind was not Bei Jingwang, but Nanping Prince.

Moreover, the imminent war in the south was also related to the collusion between Nanping Prince and the enemy country.

When the emperor sent Nian Jincheng and Lin Bojun to the south, he gave them a secret order to behead Nanping Prince.

As for the still low-profile, yet no action till now, western vassal king, the emperor issued an order to summon the entire family of Prince Xiliang to the capital city.

However, Prince Xiliang had missed the good opportunity to show his loyalty. Even if he wants to come now, whether he can arrive safely in the capital city, no one knows. If he does not arrive within a limited time, it would be defying the order.

On their way to the capital city, Ning Jing and Su Liang also gradually learned about the news of the three vassal kings.

“It seems that Xing Yu Sheng’s father is still very shrewd.” Su Liang commented.

The one in the south had to die. The emperor had to choose at least one between Bei Jingwang and Prince Xiliang to stay, to avoid being criticized for not tolerating the descendants of the founding generals.

There may be only one chance to survive, and whoever gets it first will have it.

Although Bei Jingwang’s high-profile behavior in his youth led to jealousy in the court, it also made those in power believe that he didn’t have many schemes.

The overt power display didn’t count for much. Those who pretended to be waiting for death on the surface but schemed behind the scenes were even more wary.

Nanping Prince was the latter.

The seemingly most useless Prince Xiliang was also suspected of being the latter.

Not traveling slowly, Ning Jing and Su Liang arrived at Qian Country’s capital city in the evening before the Lantern Festival.

It was Su Liang’s turn to drive today. She dressed as a man, wearing a straw hat woven by Ning Jing herself, and curiously looked at the capital of Qian Country.

Compared to here, not only Bei’an County but also Pingbei City is rural.

As soon as they entered the city, the bustling market was immediately visible.

The two didn’t go to find Duanmu Chen or Xing Yu Sheng. Instead, they went directly to the Tea House that the Ning Family opened in the capital city.

The steward of the Ning Family in the capital city had already received the news and prepared a courtyard for the arrival of the family master. Their luggage had been transported ahead of time and was placed here.

It would be easy to buy a mansion for Ning Jing in the capital city, but Ning Jing sent a message saying that it was not necessary.

“Miss Wan came yesterday and asked to be informed when the master arrives.” The steward spoke respectfully.

“Where do they live?” Ning Jing asked.

The steward gave an address, and Ning Jing let him retreat.

Dinner was brought from the largest restaurant in the capital city. After eating, they changed clothes, left the Tea House on foot, and planned to go see Zheng’er first. They would deal with other people and things tomorrow.

They met Xing Yu Sheng halfway, which they did not expect.

Xing Yu Sheng was also very surprised. At first, when Qi Yan said that he saw two people ahead who seemed to be Ning Jing and Su Liang, he thought Qi Yan was mistaken.

When he was sure it was Su Liang, Xing Yu Sheng looked delighted, “When did you arrive?”

He came out this late because he heard that Old Master Qin suddenly fell ill and wanted to go to Qin Mansion to have a look.

“An hour ago.” Su Liang looked at Xing Yu Sheng, nodded with a smile, “You look good.”

As the heir of Marquis Zhong Xin, he no longer had to pretend to be weak.

Xing Yu Sheng grinned, “It’s all thanks to you. I really don’t know how to thank you. My grandmother will be delighted to know that you’ve arrived, she was just talking about you!”

“I’ll visit the old lady another day, haven’t thanked her for the medical book she sent me.” Su Liang smiled.

Qi Jun whispered in Xing Yu Sheng’s ear, “Why not invite Miss Su to Qin Mansion?”

Xing Yu Sheng nodded, looked at Su Liang and asked, ‘Where are you going? If you have time, can you please accompany me to Duke Qin’s Mansion? My grandfather is ill.’

Su Liang looked at Ning Jing, “You go find Zheng’er first, I’ll come over later.”

Xing Yu Sheng said seriously, “Don’t worry, Ning Jing. After the matter is settled, I will take Miss Su to wherever she wants to go.”

Ning Jing’s face was indifferent, “I’m not busy.”

“Let’s go together then.” Su Liang nodded, “Let Xing Yusheng show us the way.”

Xing Yu Sheng said, ‘We are friends, don’t be a stranger. Just call me by my name.’

Su Liang smiled, “You’re still a crown prince, so I won’t change what I call you.”

“As you wish.” Xing Yu Sheng nodded, inviting Su Liang and Ning Jing into the carriage, and they headed towards Duke Qin’s Mansion together..

Chapter 115: 115. Come over, I’ll use it for you (one more update)

In the carriage, Ning Jing sat with Xing Yusheng on one side, and Su Liang sat across from them.

“Do you two have a place to stay in the capital? I’ve found a mansion and registered it under Miss Su’s name. Everything is prepared, and you can move in at any time,” said Xing Yusheng.

Su Liang smiled and nodded, “Thank you, Young Master Xing, then I’ll gladly accept.”

Actually, it wasn’t necessary, but since she had already bought it, she accepted Xing Yusheng’s gratitude.

Xing Yusheng thought she would refuse but smiled when she didn’t, “That’s good. Whenever Miss Su is available, let’s set a time, and I’ll accompany you to move in.”

After saying that, he half-joked, "The mansion isn't that big, so if Master Ning has his own mansion, it would be perfect for Miss Su to live alone."

Ning Jing had no intention of speaking at all.

Su Liang chuckled, "He doesn't have a mansion in the capital, but I think I have one."

Xing Yusheng didn't understand, "You think?"

"Someone owes me one." Su Liang said.

Xing Yusheng had a thought, "Could it be... the Fourth Prince?"

Qi Yan and Qi Jun had run into Duanmu Chen's follower Chang'an while looking for a mansion. They found out that the mansion next door had been sold to an outsider earlier in the year.

Through previous letters, Xing Yusheng knew that Duanmu Chen had not only met Su Liang in Bei'an County but also cooperated with her. Otherwise, he wouldn't have known the outcome of the iron mine smuggling case in advance.

Although Xing Ji knew that he hadn't participated in the iron mine smuggling, he wouldn't dare to act rashly without knowing the situation clearly.

Even if it had nothing to do with him, he might still be framed. If the court wanted to get rid of him, they wouldn't care about the truth.

It's worth noting that the main culprits of the iron mine smuggling case, Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an, once claimed that their master was Bei Jingwang.

If Duanmu Chen's investigation had implicated Bei Jingwang, Xing Ji would have had no chance to defend himself and could only choose to flee or rebel.

Even if Xing Ji had no ambition, he would have to make sure that going to the capital wasn't a death sentence before daring to bring his family there.

So, Su Liang's early disclosure to Xing Yusheng, and then to Xing Ji, was crucial for Bei Jingwang Mansion at the time.

Duanmu Chen had always been known as a smiling fox, and the fact that he shared such critical information with Su Liang showed their close relationship.

Su Liang saw Xing Yusheng guessing and didn't deny it, "Yes, the Fourth

Prince. I helped him at the time, and that's what he promised me as payment.'

Xing Yusheng speculated that Su Liang had made a significant contribution during Duanmu Chen's investigation but didn't pry further. He said it was a coincidence because the mansion he had given Su Liang was right next to the one Duanmu Chen had bought for her.

"If it's really that mansion, we can open a small door to connect the two places," Xing Yusheng said.

"That would be great," Su Liang said, indicating that it was a good idea.

"It's also not far from Marquis Zhong Xin's Mansion. I'm afraid my grandmother and I will have to bother you often," Xing Yusheng cleverly mentioned his grandmother

because he thought he would be rebuffed by Ning Jing if he said it was just him, “Su Liang, you might not remember since you lost your memory, but today’s Marquis Zhong Xin Mansion was once Marquis Chang Xin Mansion.”

Su Liang was somewhat surprised, “Ah? I indeed forgot, but I do remember the Gu Family. So, you live in the former Gu heir’s place?”

Xing Yusheng nodded, “Yes. But I heard that he rarely lived in the mansion and mostly stayed at Huguo Temple. I don’t know where Gu Ling is now or if he’s safe...”

As Xing Yusheng spoke, he realized his slip of the tongue and quickly changed the topic, asking if Su Liang had met Nian Jincheng, who had previously gone to guard the mine.

Su Liang didn’t expect Xing Yusheng to seem so “concerned” about Gu Ling, as if the two had some connection.

She hadn’t heard about it from anyone.

“You lost your memory? You asked Nian Jincheng to help bring the medical book, and I had him send you a letter,” Su Liang said.

Xing Yusheng gave an awkward smile, “I forgot for a moment.”

As they talked, they arrived at Duke Qin’s Mansion. After getting off the carriage, Xing Yusheng hurriedly led Su Liang and Ning Jing towards Songfeng Residence.

“Young Master is here!”

Qin Yujin looked back and saw Xing Yusheng enter the door, followed by a young man and woman.

The young man was tall and slender, with fair skin, delicate features, and an ethereal temperament.

The young woman had delicate eyebrows and eyes, a delicate nose and cherry lips, and an unadorned face that still amazed people.

“How’s my grandfather?” An anxious Xing Yusheng asked.

The Imperial Physician was prescribing a prescription nearby, and the once-energetic Old Master Qin lay on the bed with his eyes open, motionless. Qin Yujin’s eyes were red as she said, “He had a stroke. He was fine at noon, and suddenly...”

Xing Yusheng instinctively reached out to pull Su Liang, “You quickly check on my grandfather!”

Ning Jing silently slapped Xing Yusheng’s hand away, as Su Liang stepped forward.

“Who are these two...?” Qin Kang had noticed Ning Jing and Su Liang as soon as they entered.

Xing Yusheng hurriedly introduced them, saying that it was the Su Liang he mentioned before who saved his life, and the other was Ning Jing from the Ning Family of Xunyang.

“Uncle, Miss Su has excellent medical skills and may have a solution.” Xing Yusheng said.

Qin Kang nodded, “Then we’ll trouble Miss Su.”

Su Liang took the pulse of Old Master Qin and diagnosed that he had indeed suffered a sudden stroke.

This was quite dangerous for the elderly.

“Ning Jing, golden needles,” Su Liang requested.

Ning Jing handed her the needle bag she carried with her.

The Qin family members were worried and did not pay attention to the interaction between Ning Jing and Su Liang.

“Since the crown prince has invited a famous doctor, then I...” The Imperial Physician finished writing the prescription and saw that no one was paying attention to him, as they were all focused on Su Liang, he spoke with displeasure.

Qin Kang quickly took the prescription and invited the Imperial Physician to sit down and rest.

The Imperial Physician continued to watch Su Liang, as she administered acupuncture on Old Master Qin. He changed his expression and eventually couldn’t help but approach and analyze Su Liang’s acupuncture technique.

Su Liang discussed and explained her technique with the Imperial Physician, and they both ended up engaging in a serious conversation.

After the acupuncture was finished, both Su Liang and the Imperial Physician took Old Master Qin’s pulse again, and began to discuss medical treatment options.

At first, the Imperial Physician refuted Su Liang’s suggestions, but after Su Liang patiently explained her reasoning, he was persuaded and discarded his original prescription. He then wrote a new one.

“The medication prescribed will definitely be effective!” The Imperial Physician confidently said, sweeping away his earlier conservatism.

“I will come every day to administer acupuncture for Old Master Qin,” Su Liang said.

“Will my grandfather recover soon?” Qin Yujin’s eyes brightened.

“We must not be careless. Pay attention to his diet as well.

Qin Kang sighed, “My father loves alcohol, and no advice can stop him from drinking it daily.”

“He will have to abstain from it in the future,” Su Liang said.

She then wrote a list of dietary precautions and handed it over to Qin Yujin.

The Imperial Physician asked Su Liang who her teacher was.

Su Liang truthfully answered, she was Su Yuanzhou’s granddaughter.

The Imperial Physician widened his eyes, he was evidently familiar with Su Yuanzhou but did not say anything else.

After confirming the time when she would come every day, Su Liang asked to leave.

“Miss Su, since you have just arrived in the capital city, why not stay with us?” Qin Yujin hurriedly offered, “I have heard my cousin mention you, and I am so glad to finally meet you.”

“I have other matters to attend to today. I will visit again another day,” Su Liang politely declined.

Xing Yusheng said that he had met Su Liang on the way and invited her over.

The Qin family did not insist further, and let Xing Yusheng and Qin Yujin see them off.

“You don’t have to go through the trouble. I am friends with the crown prince, so no need for such courtesy. I’ll come back tomorrow,” Su Liang said, leaving with Ning Jing straight away.

Qin Yujin stood next to Xing Yusheng and watched Su Liang’s brisk retreating figure, her face full of admiration, “She’s so capable and beautiful!” Xing Yusheng: ... What’s with his cousin getting so mesmerized by Su Liang?

“Cousin, if you don’t plan to pursue Miss Su, then let my older brother go for it! If I were a man, I would definitely chase her!” Qin Yujin said.

Qin Yuheng, the eldest son of Duke Qin, said solemnly, “My grandfather has always hoped that I would get married soon. As for Miss Su...

Xing Yusheng held his forehead, “Cousin, I knew her first.”

Qin Yuheng nodded, “Yusheng, you should perform well. Miss Su already has a guardian by her side.”

Xing Yusheng cleared his throat, “I know, ” and then turned back to check on Old Master Qin.

Not long after Su Liang left, Old Master Qin drank the medicine and showed some response when spoken to. Although he could not move or speak, it was a good sign.

Ning Jing and Su Liang walked toward the Wan Family in the capital city.

In the cold night breeze, Su Liang enjoyed the view of the capital city, finding it quite fresh and novel.

“Remember to collect the consultation fee from the Qin Family,” Ning Jing suddenly said.

Su Liang pondered, “Can the Qin Family’s life-saving medallion be used by outsiders?”

Ning Jing nodded, “It can be used by anyone, but only once.”

“Since Xing Yusheng no longer needs it, why don’t I ask for the Qin Family’s life-saving medallion? Just in case your identity is exposed one day, it might save your life,” Su Liang suggested.

Ning Jing stopped walking and frowned at Su Liang, “Are you serious?”

Su Liang nodded, “I am serious. You cannot wear a mask for your entire life. Everyone knows you were living in the Huguo Temple before, which is almost the same as being a monk. The Gu Family’s rebellion has nothing to do with you.”

Ning Jing averted his gaze and continued walking, “The Qin Family might not be willing to give it.”

“I know, but it doesn’t hurt to ask,” Su Liang replied. “They know who I am and should also know why I returned to the capital city. I’ll say it’s for my own life protection. The Qin Family is loyal and has a clean reputation, so the

Davcu Yusheng, whom they originally intended to save. You may not need it, but it’s better to be prepared..”

Chapter 116: 116. Settled with one word (second revision)

By the time Ning Jing and Su Liang arrived at the Wan Family after their visit to the Qin Family, it was already late and Zhengzheng was asleep.

Wan Hui was very pleased and said that Zhengzheng had been looking forward to their visit and asked about them every day.

Ning Jing and Su Liang went to see Zhengzheng. The little fellow was sleeping soundly with a rosy face, and there was a small wooden puppet Ning Jing had made for him next to his pillow.

Back in the outer room, Su Liang asked Wan Hui, “Sister Wan, have the Li family been causing trouble for you again?”

She shook her head. “The Li family has business problems, and Li Chen doesn’t have the time to bother us for now.”

And their business troubles were due to a secret alliance against them by the Li family, led by Wan Ning and other families.

“That’s good.” Su Liang nodded, “Let Zhengzheng sleep. We just came to pay a visit and have a look. We will visit again tomorrow.”

Wan Hui then mentioned that she had a large mansion, had prepared a courtyard for Ning Jing and Su Liang, and hoped they would stay.

She had just visited the Ning Family’s tea house the day before and knew that Ning Jing had not yet asked the steward to prepare a house for him.

“Our clothes and other things are over there, let’s go back for tonight.” Su Liang smiled. She had a book that she planned to finish reading that night.

Ning Jing asked, "Can I take Zhengzheng with me?"

Wan Hui was taken aback, then laughed and said, "Sure! What could I possibly worry about with you two? Take him! Don't rush to bring him back!"

So, Ning Jing went back into the inner room, carefully wrapped Zhengzheng in a small blanket and picked him up.

Zhengzheng unconsciously snuggled in Ning Jing's arms, never waking up. Wan Hui quickly packed a small bundle for Su Liang and let them take the child away.

As Lu Yu hugged Wan Hui and returned to their room, he suggested, "How about swearing brotherhood and sisterhood?"

Wan Hui laughed, "Father had mentioned it earlier, but the problem is that Ning Jing and Su Liang are not husband and wife. If Zhengzheng recognized them as his godparents, it would be a bit strange. Let's leave it for now. But I think they'll get married sooner or later."

The night grew deeper.

All the shops on the street were closed, and there were no more pedestrians.

Ning Jing, holding Zhengzheng, and Su Liang walked through the quiet streets back to the small courtyard behind the tea house.

The steward's subordinate, upon seeing them return, quickly greeted them saying the hot water was ready and asked if there were any other instructions. Zhengzheng slept with Ning Jing and did not wake up when he was placed on the bed.

Su Liang took a hot bath to freshen up, which was quite relaxing. She sat on the bed reading the rest of her book before sleep, and fell asleep quickly after laving down.

On their first day waking up in the capital city, Su Liang heard Zhengzheng laughing in the courtyard as soon as she opened her eyes.

She got ready and stepped outside, and Zhengzheng happily ran over calling out "Auntie".

As Su Liang crouched down to hug him, the little fellow's eyes sparkled,

"Auntie, I missed you so much!"

Su Liang smiled brightly, "I missed Zhengzheng too."

The servants brought breakfast. It wasn't made by the tea house, but bought from a famous breakfast joint in the city.

Breakfast with two adults and a child was delightful to Su Liang, and she found the food quite tasty.

According to Ning Jing and Su Liang's plan, they were supposed to visit the Lin Family today. Su Liang had promised Lin Xueqing that she'd visit her after arriving in the capital city.

Yang Yu mentioned in a letter to Su Liang earlier in the year that she would visit the capital city to inspect her shops after the new year. However, Wan Hui said last night that Yang Yu hadn't arrived yet. Su Liang was already acquainted with her.

The time to give Old Master Qin acupuncture treatment was a little later, so it was enough to visit the Lin Family first and then go to him.

Just after breakfast, Xing Yusheng arrived.

Seeing a little boy sitting next to Ning Jing, Xing Yusheng was taken aback and asked, "This is..." Could it be that Ning Jing had an illegitimate child? Surely not?

"He's our friend's child," Su Liang answered.

Xing Yusheng smiled, "How adorable. What's his name?"

"My name is Zhengzheng!" Zhengzheng's voice was clear and crisp. His full name was Wan Zhengmin.

"Zhengzheng, this is Uncle Xing," Su Liang introduced.

"Hello, Uncle Xing!" Zhengzheng waved to Xing Yusheng.

Xing Yusheng suddenly thought that getting married wouldn't be so bad. He could have a chubby baby the thought of it made him feel very blissful.

"Crown Prince Xing?" Su Liang noticed that Xing Yusheng was lost in thought and called him a couple of times.

Xing Yusheng blushed slightly, "Sorry. I was actually wondering if you're free today. We can go and look at the mansion together. If you find anything unsuitable, we can still make changes."

"We're not free." The one who spoke was Ning Jing. Zhengzheng parroted him, "Not free!"

Xing Yusheng felt awkward and looked at Su Liang.

Su Liang smiled, "We are visiting an elder today. Afterwards, I will be giving acupuncture treatment to Old Master Qin. The matter of the mansion can wait." Xing Yusheng nodded, "Alright, you're busy. I'll go and see my grandfather."

With that, Xing Yusheng took his leave.

Upon stepping onto the carriage, Xing Yusheng heaved a sigh.

Qi Jun asked, "Master, what's wrong? Did Miss Su give you the cold shoulder?"

Xing Yusheng shook his head, "How could that be? She's always very polite to me. Initially, I thought aside from Ning Jing, I was the closest person to her in the capital city. But I now realize that I had been overthinking. She has other friends and elders that I didn't know about."

"Master, if you want to know more about Miss Su, you can ask her directly. She is not the kind of person who likes to beat around the bush. She will tell you whatever she can," Qi Jun suggested.

Xing Yusheng sighed, "She saved me first, then my grandfather, and one could even say that she saved my entire Xing Family. I always feel like I owe her."

After some thought, Qi Jun said, "In my opinion, the biggest obstacle is still Ning Jing. With him by Miss Su's side, others have no chance to get close to her."

"That's obvious," Xing Yusheng acknowledged, obviously aware of that fact.

"Why don't the master have a talk with Ning Jing? I think Ning Jing genuinely treats Miss Su like his sister. The master has to pass Ning Jing's test first," Qi Jun analyzed.

Xing Yusheng frowned, "Ning Jing has never liked me, he never tried to hide it."

Qi Jun gave a light cough, "Master, don't overthink it. Ning Jing has always been aloof, it's not specifically towards you."

Xing Yusheng rubbed his forehead, "I'll think about it."

Ning Jing and Su Liang took Zhengzheng to visit the Lin Family.

Lin Boyan was working a position at the Ministry of Rites, and Lin Bojun had left the capital city on an official mission. Neither of the brothers was home.

Lin Shuzhi was overjoyed upon hearing the servant's report that Master Ning was visiting.

"Sister Su!" Lin Xueqing swooped in, her purple dress making her look like a graceful, purple butterfly.

Lin Shuzhi followed closely behind, and upon seeing Ning Jing and Su Liang, his face broke into a wide smile, "Finally, you're here!"

Zhengzheng peeked out from Ning Jing's back, curiously observing Lin Shuzhi and Lin Xueqing.

Lin Shuzhi paused, "So this is... the child from the basket that day..."

Ning Jing nodded. Lin Shuzhi and Lin Xueqing had seen Zhengzheng before when Ning Jing had hidden him in the basket.

"Grandpa Lin! Auntie Qing!" Zhengzheng repeated names after Su Liang.

Lin Shuzhi picked him up, cheerfully leading the way, "Now that you're here, feel at home!"

The earlier secrecy was due to the delicate situation surrounding the Bei Jingwang Mansion. But now that verdicts on the investiture and iron mine smuggling cases were out, Qian Country had no more nobles with a different surname, and Xing Yusheng had become the crown prince of a Marquis' mansion in the capital city. There was no need for discretion anymore.

Lin Xueqing, her arms linked with Su Liang's, was all smiles, "I've prepared rooms for brother Ning and sister Su! Now that you're here, don't think about leaving!"

"Auntie, come to my house!" Zhengzheng noted that his parents had also prepared rooms for Su Liang and Ning Jing, and he had put lots of treasures into it.

Su Liang noticed herself becoming increasingly popular all of a sudden. But the more this happened, the more she had to limit socializing. She had a lot to learn, so it seemed the most suitable to stay at the mansion Duanmu Chen had arranged for her.

The person who voiced the refusal was Ning Jing, he simply said three words, "I prefer quiet."

Lin Xueqing glared at him, "Brother Ning, do you find me noisy? Then you may leave, I invited Sister Su."

"She has to cook for me." Ning Jing didn't hesitate to imply that he was controlling and exploiting Su Liang.

Lin Shuzhi frowned at these words.

Su Liang laughed lightly, "I need to prepare for the Military Exam, there isn't much time left. I want to focus on training, hence I need a training ground."

Lin Xueqing sighed, "Alright, that's something we don't have at my house."

The Lin's were modestly off. The city mansion they lived in wasn't spacious, it was just enough for the two brothers. Having Ning Jing and Su Liang stay over would be a bit tight. There was no garden, let alone a large open space for a training ground.

After a while, a thought flashed across Lin Xueqing's mind, "Then I can stay at sister Su's house! Although my cooking skills are far inferior to sister Su's, both my dad and elder brother praised my dishes. I could take care of sister Su, and she would be able to focus on preparing for the Military Exam!" Looking at Lin Xueqing's sincerity, Su Liang declined gracefully.

So, Lin Xueqing had to give up.

Lin Shuzhi and Ning Jing took up a conversation while Su Liang and Lin Xueqing prepared lunch.

In the meantime, Lin Boyan returned.

As Lin Bojun was mentioned, who had gone to the South, Lin Shuzhi couldn't hide his worry. But his son had chosen this path. These were inevitable experiences, and all he could do was pray at home for Lin Bojun's safety and early return.

The atmosphere at lunch was warm and lively because of Zhengzheng.

Lin Xueqing mentioned Qin Yujin, saying they had already become good friends and she liked Qin Yujin very much.

"My second brother said when he left that, upon his return, if he has made accomplishments, he would propose to the Qin family!" Lin Xueqing sighed, "But, I discovered that Yu Jin seems to have someone in her heart."

Lin Shuzhi and Lin Boyan kept their composure, obviously Lin Xueqing had already informed them about this. Only Lin Bojun, who was out of town, remained unaware.

"You might know him, it's General Nian Jincheng." Lin Xueqing said.

Qin Yujin had treated Lin Xueqing as a confidante, and before Lin Xueqing could ask how Qin Yujin felt about her second brother, she found out Qin Yujin might already have someone she liked.

Su Liang was slightly surprised; it seems like she wouldn't need to play matchmaker for Lin Bojun after all.

"I hope Second Brother won't be too sad when he comes back. He's on good terms with General Nian," Lin Xueqing said.

This was a topic on which Su Liang couldn't easily voice an opinion. Qin Yujin had feelings for Nian Jincheng, but it was still unclear what Nian Jincheng thought.

In the afternoon, Su Liang and Ning Jing left the Lin Family with Zhengzheng and headed to the Qin Family.

On the way, Su Liang asked Ning Jing, "Do you think there's a chance for Nian Jincheng and Qin Yujin?"

"They are not suitable," Ning Jing replied, her expression indifferent.

Surprised, Su Liang had assumed that Ning Jing would say, "I don't know". "Why aren't they suitable?" she asked.

"If Nian Jincheng can't let go of the Nian Family, he should spare Miss Qin any anguish," Ning Jing said.

With a light cough, Su Liang replied, "You really are a good brother to him. However, I also feel that Qin Yujin and Second Brother Lin make quite a nice match."

"Uncle Ning and Auntie are a good match!" Zhengzheng chimed in, grinning from ear to ear.

Both Su Liang and Ning Jing chose to ignore the comment.

Upon their arrival at the Qin residence, Su Liang first administered acupuncture to Old Master Qin. His condition had improved somewhat compared to yesterday.

After that, Xing Yusheng mentioned that his uncle, Qin Kang, wanted to speak with Su Liang.

Ning Jing took Zhengzheng to play in the garden of the Qin Mansion, while Su Liang was led by Xing Yusheng to Qin Kang's study room.

In the study, Qin Kang first expressed his gratitude to Su Liang, then spoke directly. "Miss Su saved Yusheng, and now has saved my father. If there is anything the Qin family can assist you with, please do not hesitate to mention it. We will do our utmost to help."

Su Liang enjoyed dealing with people like this, who didn't talk about feelings or make empty promises, and who reciprocated favours with tangible benefits.

Today, Su Liang came prepared. Even if Qin Kang had not asked, she would have brought up her request.

"Since Duke Qin is so decisive, I won't be shy," Su Liang said with a smile.

"Miss Su, feel free to state your request," Qin Kang replied seriously.

"I would like the Qin family's Pardon Token," Su Liang said.

Qin Kang was stunned, as was Xing Yusheng who was seated nearby.

Truth be told, the fact that Su Liang saved Old Master Qin did not merit such a token. Even if Su Liang hadn't intervened, the old imperial physician could have saved the old man's life, albeit with differing outcomes. Su Liang was confident that she could get Old Master Qin back to full health.

However, if they include the fact that Su Liang saved Xing Yusheng, it was a different matter altogether.

Although Xing Yusheng had initially compensated her, his rewards could not make up for the timely warning that Su Liang gave, which not only averted a crisis for the Xing Family but also spared the Qin Family from getting involved.

Su Liang had the option to ask for nothing, but if she did ask for something, it was her rightful due, even if it was a Pardon Token.

If the token had belonged to Xing Yusheng, he would have given it to her without hesitation. But it belonged to the Qin family. It was not his place to say anything at this point.

Many things didn't need to be explained; Qin Kang understood them instinctively.

After a lengthy contemplation, Qin Kang sighed and nodded, "Agreed. The Qin family's Pardon Token will be given to Miss Su."

With a smile, Su Liang responded, "Perhaps neither of us will need it. This matter can remain confidential for now. If the Qin family should need it first, feel free to use it as if I had not made the request today. But if a day comes when I do need it, and the token is still available, I hope the Qin family will remember our agreement today. How does that sound?"

"It's a deal!" Qin Kang agreed, visibly relaxed..

Chapter 117: 117. Self-awareness (Midnight)

Su Liang was led by a servant to the garden to find Ning Jing.

Under the enthusiastic persuasion of Madam Qin and Qin Yujin, she had agreed to attend the banquet in the Qin Mansion in the evening.

After Su Liang left, Qin Kang couldn't help but sigh, "This woman has an extraordinary heart and an impressive demeanor. If she were a man, her future would be boundless. Making friends with someone like her is your blessing."

Xing Yusheng nodded with a smile, "My luck began to improve when I met Su Liang."

"How do you feel about her..." Qin Kang asked.

Xing Yusheng did not deny, "I had a good impression of her when we first met, and my grandmother also likes her. But to be honest, if we don't talk about status, I feel that I am not worthy of her."

Qin Kang seemed to be deep in thought, "After all these events, I still hear her call you 'Crown Prince Xing', so it seems she doesn't have any romantic feelings for you. And with the talented and handsome Ning Jing by her side, you..."

Xing Yusheng held his forehead, understanding his uncle's hidden meaning: If Su Liang did not even appreciate Ning Jing, you have even less of a chance.

Qin Kang coughed lightly, "Uncle is not saying that you're not good, just that compared to Miss Su, your character is a bit softer."

As an elder, Qin Kang naturally considered unmarried children from his family when encountering a good young lady, but being excellent and suitable were two different things.

Qin Kang thought Xing Yusheng was gentle and kind, without ambition, only wanting to live a peaceful life.

But Su Liang's return to the capital this time obviously had some big plans, or else she wouldn't have asked for a life-saving golden medal today.

Actually, Xing Yusheng knew some things in his heart. His admiration for Su Liang, even with a bit of awe, had given up before, but now he began to have thoughts again. One reason was that people around him encouraged him, and the second reason was that Ning Jing and Su Liang had no ambiguity, which made Xing Yusheng want to try.

Qin Kang's straightforward opposition was not what Xing Yusheng had expected.

"If it weren't for her asking for the life-saving golden medal today, I would have thought that if she was willing to marry you, nothing could be better." Qin Kang said with deep sadness.

Xing Yusheng's face was disappointed, but he still nodded, "I understand everything Uncle said."

"Your grandfather mentioned your marriage before, saying that there was a young lady he thought would be suitable, but he hadn't spoken to you about it before falling ill." Qin Kang said seriously.

Xing Yusheng was stunned and completely unaware of this.

"Now that the Xing Family has temporarily settled down, with your status, it is natural to marry a noble girl from a prominent family, but it is best to keep a low profile. Moreover, you don't want to find any support through marriage, so choosing a suitable young lady for you is the most important thing." Qin Kang said.

Xing Yusheng agreed with all of this, but the key was: Which young lady did his grandfather think was suitable for him?

Qin Kang smiled, "It's the Miss Lin from the scholarly family with three Top Scholars, the one who has been spending a lot of time with Yujin lately. Your aunt has always praised her. She was originally intended for Yuyan, but your grandfather thought Yuyan liked to play too much and hadn't settled down yet, and Miss Lin would be more suitable for you. You should know her. What do you think of her? If you don't object, I will find an opportunity to talk with her father about the matter."

Qin Kang's eldest son, Qin Yuheng, was not married yet, but his future wife was the housekeeper's daughter, and Lin Xueqing's character was too simple. Qin Yuyan, the second son, loved pleasure and used to frequent the brothel to listen to music, although he never did anything outrageous. But considering Lin Family's strict family values, they might not be willing to accept such a match.

Xing Yusheng did know Lin Xueqing, and Qin Yujin often mentioned her, saying she was good at cooking, had read many books, had a good personality, and even knew self-defense techniques.

“Miss Lin is very good, but...” Xing Yusheng hadn’t paid special attention to Lin Xueqing before, and suddenly it was mentioned, he didn’t really have any thoughts, “The Lin Family might think I’m too troublesome and not want to marry into the Xing Family. ”

“Your background is a bit complicated, but now it’s not troublesome. When Miss Lin comes over, you can take a closer look.” Qin Kang laughed, “They might not necessarily be willing.”

Xing Yusheng sighed, “Apart from my troublesome background, I really have nothing to offer. Scholarly families like the Lin Family, with three Top

Scholars, must look down on me.”

“Don’t belittle yourself. Just regard yourself as a member of the Qin Family. When I talk to the Lin Family about your marriage, I will also ask them to treat you as a member of the Qin Family. In the future, you don’t have to get involved in Xing Family matters. After you get married, you can move out and live on your own.” Qin Kang said, ‘Take this matter to heart. As for Miss Su, just let it go.”

Xing Yusheng sighed in his heart, but what else could he do? Both Miss Su and Miss Lin were excellent, but he was simply not worthy...

When Su Liang found Ning Jing, he was playing a game of chess with Duke Mansion’s Crown Prince, Qin Yuheng, in the pavilion, while Qin Yujin was taking Zhengzheng out on the lake.

“Auntie!” Zhengzheng saw Su Liang from a distance, waving at her from the boat, laughing so hard that only his teeth were showing.

The boat slowly approached the shore, and Su Liang jumped on. Qin Yujin smiled and said, “I am one year older than you, can I call you Little Sister Liang?”

Su Liang nodded with a smile, “Sure.”

Qin Yujin mentioned Lin Xueqing, saying she was her good friend, and had made an appointment to go to Huguo Temple together tomorrow. She asked Su

Liang if she wanted to come along.

“I know Xueqing.” Su Liang said, “Ning Jing studied under her father.”

Ning Jing was surprised, “So the amazing younger sister Xueqing mentioned is you?”

“It should be.” Su Liang said with a smile.

“That’s great! Would you like to join us tomorrow?” Qin Yujin was delighted.

Although Su Liang wanted to say that she was not available tomorrow, she suddenly remembered another person while looking at Jingzheng, “Miss Qin, do you know if there is a young monk named Cheng Yun at Huguo Temple in the capital city?”

“You can just call me by my name.” Qin Yujin thought about it and shook her head, “I didn’t pay attention. Are you looking for that monk, Sister Liang? I’ll send someone to inquire later.”

“No need.” Su Liang hurriedly replied, “We just knew each other before, and I heard he went to Huguo Temple during the New Year. I don’t even know if he left already.”

“Then, Sister Liang, you can come with us tomorrow to check!” Qin Yujin invited her once more.

So Su Liang agreed to it.

A banquet was held in Qin Mansion to entertain Su Liang and Ning Jing, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

After the banquet, they left.

Just as Su Liang left, Qin Yuyan, the second son of the Qin family, pulled Xing Yusheng aside and said, “Cousin, if you don’t plan to pursue Miss Su, I will! I’ve never seen such a special and unique girl!”

Before Xing Yusheng could say anything, Qin Kang kicked Qin Yuyan’s buttocks and snorted lightly, “Stop dreaming! If you want to pursue Miss Su, you better compare yourself with Young Master Ning first!”

Qin Yuyan was not angry, “Dad, Young Master Ning is like a block of ice, he doesn’t understand people like I do. What if Miss Su actually likes someone like

“There’s no what if, Miss Su has good eyesight.” Qin Kang looked at Qin Yuyan with a disdainful expression.

Qin Yuyan hugged Xing Yusheng with a sigh, “Cousin, listen to this, I must have been picked up by my dad!”

Xing Yusheng admitted that he was already taught by his uncle about self-awareness and understanding during the day, so he could totally understand Qin Yuyan’s mood.

However, he also felt that Qin Yuyan was overestimating himself and should save himself some face.

As soon as Ning Jing and Su Liang left the Duke’s Mansion, they saw Duanmu Chen’s follower Changan.

Changan had been waiting nearby for a long time. When he saw them come out, he hurriedly greeted them, “Miss Su, why didn’t you inform me when you came to the capital? My master has been waiting for your news!”

Su Liang smiled faintly, “I haven’t had time. If the mansion is ready, just give me the deed and keys, don’t bother showing me the way. I’ll move in after I’m prepared.”

Changan’s mouth twitched, “Miss Su is really busy. I’ll report back to my master first and deliver the things to Miss Su tomorrow.”

With that, Changan left.

Duanmu Chen was quite unhappy about Su Liang not having time to meet him, “That girl has never given me face! If she doesn’t come over, I won’t give her anything!”

Changan weakly said, “Shouldn’t Miss Su avoid my master in the upcoming collaboration?”

Duanmu Chen snorted, “Are you teaching me what to do?”

Changan: ...

“Fine. I’ll send her the belongings tomorrow.” Duanmu Chen said, “Wait and see, what Duanmu Ao will do when he finds out that she’s still alive and returns to the capital.”

Changan complied and then heard Duanmu Chen asking, “How’s the investigation on Miss Lin from Lin Family?”

Changan’s expression turned serious, “Subordinate has checked. Miss Lin has always lived in Pingbei City with her father in Qianshan Academy. She has no fiancée, nor has she had any unusual relationships with any men.”

Duanmu Chen nodded, “No surprise there. Considering Lin family’s reputation. I was just worried that she might have a secret love affair with a scholar. It’s for the best. Tomorrow I’ll go to the palace to see my mother and ask my father to grant their marriage, and make her my imperial concubine.”

Changan hesitated for a moment, “Would Imperial Concubine think Miss Lin’s background is too low?”

Duanmu Chen shook his head, “Now her background is just right. It seems low but her two older brothers hold unlimited potential since both of them are highly valued by my father. Father will definitely be satisfied..”

Chapter 118: 118. What is her background after all? (Second update)

Marquis Zhong Xin Mansion.

After returning from the Duke Qin Mansion, Xing Yusheng went straight to see his grandmother, Madam Xing.

Madam Xing hadn’t gone to bed yet. She was instructing two nannies to sort out the furs they brought from their previous Prince Mansion, intending to pick the best ones as gifts for the Qin Family.

Seeing Xing Yusheng coming back, Madam Xing waved him over, “How is your maternal grandfather doing?”

Xing Yusheng nodded, “He’s better than yesterday.”

“Su Liang’s medical skills are indeed extraordinary. It was a wise decision to invite her. How did you get along when you met today?” Madam Xing asked with a smile.

Xing Yusheng sighed, thinking of Qin Kang's words, "Not very well."

Madam Xing was surprised, "Did you express your feelings to her and get rejected?"

Xing Yusheng shook his head, "No, I realized that I'm not good enough for her. Fortunately, I didn't confess my love, otherwise, we might not even be able to remain friends in the future."

He didn't mention Qin Kang's words, so as not to upset Madam Xing.

After all, in Madam Xing's eyes, her oldest grandson was the best.

However, Qin Kang was always pragmatic and genuinely treated Xing Yusheng as his own child, looking out for his best interests.

Xing Yusheng thought that his grandmother would blame him for belittling himself, but Madam Xing surprisingly sighed, "In that case, let's forget about it."

Xing Yusheng was stunned. He thought that Madam Xing had made up her mind that Su Liang would become his wife.

Madam Xing held Xing Yusheng's hand and spoke solemnly, "After you left today, I mulled it over. You and Su Liang are not a good match. She is too capable and has her own ambitions, as she will certainly have things she wants to do upon returning to the capital city. It's our duty to help her if needed, but marrying her... even if she doesn't want to, I'm afraid you two wouldn't be able to live a good life together. As your grandmother, I only hope that you marry a suitable and kind young lady, and live a happy and comfortable life. That's the most important thing."

Times were different now.

It was reasonable for Madam Xing to think that Su Liang's background wasn't suitable for becoming Xing Yusheng's crown princess consort before.

Now, however, the situation of the Xing Family had changed drastically. Although they were still considered nobles, they haven't yet regained a firm foothold in the capital city and must be modest.

After several months of tension, now that the whole family was safe, Madam Xing's mindset changed. She only wished for the happiness and well-being of her most beloved oldest grandson. Career and ambitions were not important, and putting them aside was safer.

Xing Yusheng looked at his aging grandmother and nodded heavily, "That's exactly what I was thinking."

"But finding a suitable lady to marry is not easy in the tangled web of relationships in the capital city. I'll visit your maternal grandfather soon and ask your aunt to keep an eye out for any good matches for you," Madam Xing said.

Xing Yusheng hesitated for a moment and mentioned Lin Xueqing.

Madam Xing's eyes lit up, "That's right! How could I forget about Miss Lin! The Lin Family needs no further introduction between their noble reputation and excellence in both civil and martial skills! Have you seen Miss Lin? Do you like her? If you do, your grandmother will choose an auspicious day to propose marriage on your behalf!"

Xing Yusheng: ... This outcome is not what he expected, especially since Madam Xing had asked him to make a good impression in front of Su Liang that very same morning.

Although Xing Yusheng's impression of Lin Xueqing was somewhat blurred, everyone around him spoke highly of her, so he believed that Lin Shuzhi's daughter couldn't possibly be bad.

"Grandmother, there's no need to rush, is there? They might not be willing," Xing Yusheng said.

Madam Xing smiled, "So you mean you are willing?"

Xing Yusheng instinctively shook his head, then felt it wasn't appropriate, so he nodded, but then felt it sounded ambiguous, so he shook his head again. His expression was somewhat awkward as he explained, "It's not that I think Miss Lin isn't good, but I feel like I don't have any talents, and I'm afraid the Lin

Family won't approve. "

"Your grandmother doesn't like hearing that. What does it matter whether you passed the Top Scholar Exam or not? Being a wealthy idler without no burdens is a good thing, isn't it?" Madam Xing said.

Both Qin Kang and Madam Xing said that, so Xing Yusheng thought it over and felt that this marriage was indeed very suitable for him.

Xing Yusheng's fondness for Su Liang was never in question, but it was shallow. He had always been careful to maintain his friendship with her, looking up to her, but it could not even be called love.

Hearing that Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing had agreed to go to Huguo Temple together tomorrow, Madam Xing decided that she would go there to offer incense and express her gratitude for the Buddha's blessing upon the Xing Family, and that Xing Yusheng should accompany her.

Xing Yusheng knew that Madam Xing wanted to see Lin Xueqing, and as he had been hearing her name all day, he suddenly felt the urge to see Miss Lin again.

Last night, Ning Jing had returned Zhengzheng to Wan Hui.

Before dawn, Chang'an went to the tea house's backyard in secret and handed over the deeds and keys to Su Liang, who was exercising in the morning.

After returning, Chang'an told Duanmu Chen that Su Liang got up early to practice martial arts, and she was very diligent.

Duanmu Chen was taken aback, "Could it be that she wants to participate in the martial arts examination?"

Chang'an was surprised, "The selection for the martial arts examination will begin next month. But if Miss Su had this intention, why hasn't she mentioned it before?"

Duanmu Chen snorted, "What she is best at is talking nonsense to deceive me, and there are many things she doesn't want me to know!"

Chang'an nodded subconsciously, "Indeed."

Duanmu Chen glared at Chang'an, "You go challenge her to a fight, and see her strength, whether she has the opportunity to stand out in the martial arts examination."

Chang'an coughed lightly, "Master, this is not appropriate. Miss Su would definitely not be happy to fight with subordinates. If subordinates force her to fight, that would be provocation. Since Miss Su has come, subordinates believe that she must be sure."

Duanmu Chen pondered, "If she really performs brilliantly in the martial arts examination, it would not be a bad thing for me. After all, the opponent she has to deal with is not me."

"Will the master go to the palace today?" Chang'an asked.

Duanmu Chen nodded, "The matter with Lin Xueqing needs to be settled earliest possible."

After Su Liang had breakfast, the carriage of the Qin family arrived. Qin Yujin picked up Lin Xueqing first, then came to find Su Liang together.

"Little Sister Su!"

"Little Sister Liang!"

Two beautiful girls sat in the carriage, waving at Su Liang.

One was bright and charming, and the other was delicate and lovely. The picture was very pleasing to the eye.

Su Liang walked over, "I will not call you sisters."

"That doesn't matter!" Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing said in unison.

"Isn't Brother Ning going?" Lin Xueqing asked.

Su Liang shook her head, "He said you are too noisy."

Lin Xueqing's little face puffed up, "I haven't even complained that he is too boring! Su sister, you go home with me today and ignore him!"

Su Liang chuckled, "I'm just teasing you. He's in charge of moving today." "Are you moving to the house my cousin gave you?" Qin Yujin asked.

As soon as Lin Xueqing heard it, Xing Yusheng gave a house? To Ning Jing or to Su Liang? Could it be that he had feelings for Su Liang?

Su Liang shook her head, "No. I'll invite you to come visit after we settle down."

"Deal, I want to learn some moves from you too." Qin Yujin laughed.

The carriage slowly drove towards the western suburbs where Huguo Temple was located. Lin Xueqing was still thinking about the matter of Xing Yusheng giving a house, but she couldn't ask Su Liang directly with Qin Yujin there.

The carriage arrived at the foot of the mountain and stopped.

Qin Yujin felt strange, lifted the curtain, and saw that the road up the mountain was blocked.

The maid ran over to take a look, and soon returned to report, "It's the carriage of the fourth young lady of the Nian family that is broken."

Nian Ruxue? Su Liang had heard of her, Nian Jincheng's sister, who once had a marriage agreement with Gu Ling, and had also once hired an assassin from Yanyun Building to "look for" Gu Ling.

Lin Xueqing thought of Qin Yujin's apparent fondness for Nian Jincheng, and when encountering such a situation, he was bound to help Nian Ruxue.

As expected, Qin Yujin asked Su Liang and Lin Xueqing, "Do you mind if I invite the fourth young lady of the Nian family to join us in the carriage?"

Su Liang smiled faintly, indicating that she didn't mind at all. She was very curious to meet the fourth young lady of the Nian family.

Of course, Lin Xueqing didn't mind either. This was the Qin family's carriage, and Qin Yujin was the one who could decide.

The maid ran up again, and soon a young lady in white, accompanied by a pretty maid, came over.

"Xuexue, if you still want to go up the mountain, you can come with us." Qin Yujin said with a smile.

Nian Ruxue only saw Qin Yujin and didn't know who else was in the carriage. She sighed in relief, "I can only trouble you. Since my second brother left the capital, I have to go to Huguo Temple every day to pray for him. I didn't expect my carriage to break down halfway today."

"Come on up!" Qin Yujin reached out a hand, pulling Nian Ruxue into the carriage.

The maids were following behind.

As Nian Ruxue sat down in the carriage, she saw two unfamiliar young girls. She seemed to have seen one of them somewhere but couldn't remember where for a moment. She didn't know when the capital had gained these two beauties, and she had never heard of them.

Thinking about it, Nian Ruxue realized that the only people who had come to the capital this month were the Xing family. Qin Yujin was Xing Yusheng's cousin, so perhaps these two were the young ladies from the Xing family and Xing Yusheng had asked Qin Yujin to take them out to play?

Nian Ruxue's eyes fell on the clothes of Lin Xueqing and Su Liang, and she immediately noticed the gauze fabric she had wanted to buy but hadn't been able to.

Qin Yujin introduced Nian Ruxue to Lin Xueqing and Su Liang, simply giving their names.

"Miss Lin, is it the Lin family who has had three top scholars in one generation?" Nian Ruxue asked in surprise, "I have long heard of your fame." Lin Xueqing hurriedly said that Nian Ruxue was flattering her.

"How did Yujin become friends with Miss Lin? When I learned that Miss Lin was coming to the capital, I wanted to get acquainted, but I was afraid of being too abrupt." Nian Ruxue really liked Lin Xueqing's appearance.

Qin Yujin said that her father and Lin Xueqing's father were old friends.

This was not false. Qin Kang and Lin Shuzhi had known each other since they were young. Although they didn't interact much, they both admired each other.

However, the real reason Qin Yujin got to know Lin Xueqing was something she couldn't reveal.

"Yujin, you know such a wonderful person, but you didn't introduce her to me.

You deserve to be punished.” Nian Ruxue smiled and held Lin Xueqing’s hand,

“Come to my house as a guest sometime, and don’t invite Yujin.”

Lin Xueqing felt a little awkward about Nian Ruxue’s enthusiasm, as they were truly not familiar with each other. She just politely smiled in response, thinking that perhaps this was Nian Ruxue’s character.

Su Liang, who had been completely ignored by Nian Ruxue, didn’t feel awkward at all, and even seemed a bit amused.

As they were both Qin Yujin’s friends, Nian Ruxue was very close to Lin Xueqing on the one hand, and on the other hand, she seemed to have not seen Su Liang at all. Interesting.

After a while, Nian Ruxue seemed to realize that she had neglected Su Liang and apologized to her, “I was so happy to see Xueqing that I forgot about Miss

Su. You won’t mind, will you?”

Su Liang thought it was strange.

Did Nian Ruxue have some hostility towards her? Was she trying to stir up trouble between them? But they had only just met today.

Seeing that Su Liang didn’t respond, Nian Ruxue looked at Qin Yujin, “Is Miss

Su angry with me? I really didn’t mean it on purpose.”

Su Liang coughed lightly, “So just now Miss Nian was talking to me? I apologize, I was thinking about something else and didn’t pay attention. Surely

Miss Nian won’t mind, right?”

Su Liang returned Nian Ruxue’s words to her.

The atmosphere in the carriage suddenly became a bit strange.

Qin Yujin, also somewhat at a loss, hurriedly smoothed things over.

Lin Xueqing quietly held Su Liang’s hand, indicating that she was on Su Liang’s side. That Miss Nian was so strange...

In fact, Nian Ruxue also somewhat regretted not being tactful enough earlier.

She didn’t know why, but upon seeing Su Liang, she felt inexplicably uncomfortable. Despite her unclear identity, Su Liang gave Nian Ruxue a feeling of being outdone that she had never experienced before. The beauty and temperament of Su Liang had brought Nian Ruxue an unprecedented sense of oppression.

Nian Ruxue asked Qin Yujin how she met Su Liang, actually to find out about Su Liang’s background.

Qin Yujin only said that Su Liang was a female doctor who had recently been treating her grandfather.

"I see." Nian Ruxue smiled, "Su Liang must be a very skilled doctor. My grandmother has been suffering from a headache recently. Would Su Liang be able to go and treat her?"

Su Liang shook her head, "I don't have time."

Even if she was slow to realize, Qin Yujin could see that Su Liang didn't like Nian Ruxue. But she didn't think that Su Liang was the problem, because it was her that had asked Nian Ruxue to join the carriage midway, affecting Su Liang's mood.

Qin Yujin changed the subject and started talking about other things with Nian Ruxue.

"I want to participate in the military exam selection next month. Unfortunately, my second brother said he would instruct me properly but has been constantly on imperial errands and away from the capital." Nian Ruxue sighed lightly, "I don't have much confidence, but I don't want to miss this opportunity. If I can achieve a good ranking, my second brother will be very happy when he returns."

It sounded like her relationship with Nian Jincheng was very good.

Qin Yujin looked serious as she encouraged Nian Ruxue, "You must participate, I believe you can do it!"

Lin Xueqing really wanted to roll her eyes but held back out of politeness. Her sister Su was also participating in the Military Exam and she has no doubt Su would become the Top Scholar! At least that's what she thought!

The carriage stopped, and the four of them got off and entered Huguo Temple.

Qin Yujin and Nian Ruxue walked side by side in front.

Lin Xueqing linked arms with Su Liang, following behind and curiously looking at the surrounding scenery.

The four beautiful girls anickly attracted the attention of many people-

"Cousin! "

With a call, Xing Yusheng hurried over.

Nian Ruxue had a smile on her lips, ready to greet Xing Yusheng. But to her surprise, Xing Yusheng called out to Qin Yujin, bypassed them, and went straight to Su Liang and Lin Xueqing!

He didn't even glance at Nian Ruxue.

"Su Liang, you guys are here too!" Xing Yusheng greeted Su Liang with a smile.

Lin Xueqing wondered in her heart, remembering Qin Yujin mentioning that Xing Yusheng had gifted a mansion. No matter how she looked at it, it seemed that Xing Yusheng had set his sights on her sister Su.

“Miss Lin, we meet again.” Xing Yusheng’s gaze fell on Lin Xueqing’s face, his tone suddenly becoming a bit more formal.

Lin Xueqing nodded gently, “Crown Prince Xing.”

They had met briefly at the Qin Family, but neither had paid much attention to the other at that time.

At this moment, Xing Yusheng thought: Miss Lin is very beautiful, and she seems to be very close and friendly with Su Liang. She must have a very good personality.

Lin Xueqing thought: This guy must have come for Su, and just greeted me by the way. I have to tell Master Ning when I get back, so he has a sense of crisis.

Elder Lady Xing appeared not far away, and Qin Yujin immediately went up to pay her respects.

“It’s been many years since I last saw you, you’ve grown so much,” said Elder Lady Xing with an affectionate face.

Qin Yujin introduced Nian Ruxue, but Elder Lady Xing responded indifferently,

“I’ve long heard of Miss Nian’s reputation.”

Su Liang and Lin Xueqing walked over, and Elder Lady Xing’s eyes clearly brightened, “Little Liang has grown taller.”

Nian Ruxue was taken aback. Elder Lady Xing seemed to be very familiar with Su Liang, as if they had known each other for a long time.

Su Liang laughed lightly, “I was planning to visit you tomorrow, but I didn’t expect to meet you today.”

“Then you must still come tomorrow, I’ll be waiting at home,” Elder Lady Xing said cheerfully.

Su Liang promptly promised she would go.

Only then did Elder Lady Xing turn her gaze to Lin Xueqing, and feigning ignorance, she asked Qin Yujin, “This young lady is...”

Qin Yujin hurriedly introduced her, and Lin Xueqing paid her respects accordingly.

Elder Lady Xing then held her hand, smiling, “I saw your mother years ago, she was a famous beauty, and you really look like her.”

With a single sentence, she praised the two while also closing the distance between them.

Su Liang noticed that Elder Lady Xing was so close to Lin Xueqing, and she knew intuitively that it was not because she knew Lin Xueqing’s mother.

Turning her head, she saw Xing Yusheng sneaking glances at Lin Xueqing. What else didn’t Su Liang understand? It turned out that this grandmother and grandson had come to Huguo Temple for a blind date!

Su Liang didn’t mind, Xing Yusheng was a very nice person. If he lacked anything, it depended on who he was compared to. In fact, he seemed neither a scholar nor a martial artist. The latter was true

due to health reasons, while the former was false. As the former Crown Prince of Bei Jingwang, being a useless person was safer for him.

Seeing Elder Lady Xing holding Qin Yujin's hand with her left and Lin Xueqing's with her right, walking forward, while Xing Yusheng was talking to Su Liang, Nian Ruxue felt extremely embarrassed.

Not long ago, she deliberately snubbed Su Liang, and now she quickly experienced the feeling of being ignored. She didn't like this feeling at all.

It was one thing for Elder Lady Xing to like Qin Yujin, but to be so enthusiastic towards Su Liang and Lin Xueqing while seemingly looking down on her was unbearable.

This was the first time she had experienced this in her life.

Twirling the handkerchief in her hand, her gaze finally landed on Su Liang's back, and she muttered coldly, 'What kind of background does she have, anyway....'

Chapter 119: 119. It's Better When No One's Around (First Update)

By the time Qin Yujin looked back and realized that Nian Ruxue hadn't followed, she had already disappeared from sight.

Qin Yujin thought she shouldn't have invited Nian Ruxue to get in the carriage or she should have stayed with her, making everyone a little unhappy.

However, being held by Old Lady Xing, Qin Yujin couldn't leave, so she found an opportunity to tell a maid to find out where Nian Ruxue was, and let her know she could use a carriage from the Qin Mansion if she wanted to go back home.

Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing were both by Old Lady Xing's side, walking ahead. Su Liang deliberately slowed down, and Xing Yusheng noticed after walking a bit, then stopped to wait for her.

When Su Liang reached Xing Yusheng's side, she was already a distance away from Old Lady Xing.

She straightforwardly asked Xing Yusheng, "Why do you keep sneaking glances at Xueqing?"

Xing Yusheng's face stiffened, and then turned bright red. Was it that obvious? He thought no one had noticed...

Su Liang looked at Xing Yusheng, "Don't be nervous, think it over, and speak up. I don't intend to beat you up."

Xing Yusheng: ..

At this point, Su Liang walked ahead, and Xing Yusheng still stood there, dumbfounded.

Su Liang looked back, and Xing Yusheng quickly caught up, asking her, "Did you know Miss Lin for a long time?"

"Yes. Ning Jing and her could be considered childhood sweethearts? He learned from Xueqing's father." Su Liang said.

This was true, except the current Ning Jing was fake.

Xing Yusheng was surprised, "I see. So, you must have met her in Pingbei City, right?"

Su Liang nodded, "We lived together for a while at that time, but we didn't let anyone know because of your sensitive identity."

Xing Yusheng understood. At that time, he was Crown Prince Bei Jingwang, and Ning Jing had taken his identity.

If people knew that Ning Jing was Lin Shuzhi's disciple, it might involve the Lin Family in case Bei Jingwang Mansion had any incidents. After all, Lin Xueqing's two older brothers were both in the official circles, with promising futures, and their competitors wouldn't miss any opportunities to bring them down.

Considering this, Su Liang's relationship with Lin Xueqing was even closer than what Xing Yusheng thought.

But the phrase "childhood sweethearts" made Xing Yusheng couldn't help but ask, "Are Young Master Ning and Miss Lin just fellow disciples or...?"

"Just fellow disciples," Su Liang didn't beat around the bush, "Why? Are you concerned about Ning Jing or Xueqing?"

"I thought so." Xing Yusheng believed that Ning Jing was now completely indifferent, but if he had feelings, it would be towards Su Liang.

About Su Liang's question, Xing Yusheng looked at Lin Xueqing's figure ahead and decided to tell the truth, "My uncle and my grandmother both think Miss

Lin and I are very well-suited and want to promote this marriage."

"No wonder." Su Liang was right. Old Lady Xing came today to see Lin Xueqing.

"What do you think?" Xing Yusheng asked seriously. Su Liang was Lin Xueqing's good friend and also an important friend of Xing Yusheng. He highly valued her opinion.

Su Liang countered, "Is it just the elders' opinion? What do you think?"

Xing Yusheng sighed lightly, "I think Miss Lin is very good, but I feel like I don't have any talents and am not worthy of her."

Su Liang laughed, "The Lin family has three top scholars, but Xueqing isn't one of them. It's your family background that shelters you. You don't have any ambitions for a career, and Xueqing just wants to find a good husband and live a peaceful life. Marriage can be purer without worrying too much."

Upon hearing this, Xing Yusheng's face relaxed, "So, you think we're a good match?"

Su Liang shook her head, "I just said my opinion, but I'm an outsider. Xueqing may not be interested in you, and her brothers will have their own considerations.

Xing Yusheng nodded, "That's true. But hearing your affirmation, I'm half relieved."

"Are you in a hurry to get married?" Su Liang teased Xing Yusheng.

Xing Yusheng's face turned slightly red, "It's a matter of time. The elders are very concerned, and I think it's a good idea to get married. At that time, I'll move out of the Marquis Mansion and live on my own. By the way, if you don't need the mansion I sent you, I can use it myself, so we can be neighbors."

Su Liang: ... Xing Yusheng had sincerely given her the mansion yesterday, fearing that she wouldn't accept it, but now he has a target and plans to take it back to live with his wife.

Xing Yusheng clearly has a crush on Lin Xueqing.

"Um, if you need it, just forget what I said." Xing Yusheng realized what he had just said and felt a little awkward.

Su Liang shook her head, "I don't want it anymore. You keep it to marry your wife. I wish you success."

Xing Yusheng couldn't help but laugh, "I accept your good wishes."

Lin Xueqing looked back, just as her eyes met Xing Yusheng's.

Xing Yusheng thought that Miss Lin became more beautiful the more he looked at her, indeed softer and cuter than Su Liang.

Lin Xueqing was thinking: What is this guy laughing at? Is he having that great of a time chatting with Su Liang? What's going on with Ning Jing? If he doesn't make a move, his wife-to-be will be taken by someone else!

Old Lady Xing went to offer incense.

Lin Xueqing prayed devoutly, hoping for the Buddha's blessing to keep her second brother safe.

Qin Yujin prayed for the safety of both Nian Jincheng and Lin Bojun. She liked Nian Jincheng, while Lin Bojun had once saved her.

"Won't you go and pray?" Xing Yusheng saw Su Liang standing outside the temple, not planning to go in.

Su Liang looked at the towering and majestic Buddhist statue inside and put her hands together, bowed slightly, but did not go in.

At this moment, the abbot of Huguo Temple appeared with a group of monks to deliver sermons to the believers.

Old Lady Xing listened to the sermon inside, accompanied by Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing.

Xing Yusheng wanted to go inside but felt bad leaving Su Liang alone.

Following Su Liang's gaze, he saw a young monk with an exceptionally handsome appearance.

The monk also saw Su Liang and showed a surprised expression.

Xing Yusheng asked, "Do you know each other?"

Su Liang nodded, "Yes, we know each other. I didn't expect him to still be in Huguo Temple."

It was Cheng Yun. He had initially said that he had been ordered by his master to come to Huguo Temple to find his uncle and deliver scriptures. Su Liang thought he might have left by now, but it seemed that he had stayed in Huguo Temple.

“You go inside,” Su Liang said, “You can chat with Xueqing and tell her that you and I are just friends.”

Xing Yusheng was puzzled, “Why?”

“She really hopes that I will be with Ning Jing, and she may misunderstand that you are pursuing me,” Su Liang said.

Xing Yusheng couldn’t help but smile, “Alright. I will clarify this with Miss Lin.”

Su Liang sat on a stone stool outside the hall, looking at the clouds in the sky. The chanting of the old monk from behind filled the air with the fragrance of incense. For a moment, she felt as if she had returned to a previous life, a scene reminiscent of visiting an ancient temple.

When the chanting stopped, Su Liang heard footsteps approaching.

“Benefactor Su,” Cheng Yun came over.

Su Liang stood up, turned around, and said with a smile, “I thought you had left.”

Upon seeing her, Cheng Yun was delighted, “My master wrote to my uncle that he was going on a pilgrimage and asked me to stay at Huguo Temple. I didn’t know until I arrived here.”

“Do you know that Zhengzheng is also in the capital city now?” Su Liang asked. Their true acquaintance had begun because of Zhengzheng.

Cheng Yun was somewhat surprised, “Really?”

“I’ll tell Sister Wan when I go back and let her bring Zhengzheng to see you another day. She probably doesn’t know you’re here,” Su Liang said.

Cheng Yun waved his hand, “No need. Everything is fine here. If we are meant to meet again, we will.”

A little monk called for Cheng Yun, and he left.

Su Liang didn’t mention Yan Shiba. It seemed that Yan Shiba, who had said he would come to find Cheng Yun, had not yet arrived.

Looking at the hall again, both Madam Xing and Qin Yujin were gone.

Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing were standing under an ancient pine tree not far away. Xing Yusheng was talking, and Lin Xueqing’s expression was somewhat embarrassed.

Su Liang suddenly felt that she shouldn’t have come today. It would have been better to help Ning Jing move house.

Seeing Qin Yujin’s maid, Su Liang told her that she was going to stroll around the back mountain and asked her to call her when they were leaving.

Then, she began to walk towards the back mountain alone while enjoying the scenery.

A white figure appeared in her sight. As she approached, it was indeed Nian Ruxue. There was a man in luxurious brocade clothes in front of her, and the two seemed to be talking about something.

Su Liang intended to avoid them, but Nian Ruxue suddenly turned around and saw her, 'Miss Su!'

The man in brocade clothes followed her voice and looked over. His eyes fell on

Su Liang's face, and they suddenly deepened, "Who is she?"

Nian Ruxue forced a smile, "Your Highness, Second Prince, this is Miss Su

Liang, a very capable female doctor. She is currently treating Old Duke Qin!"

Second Prince Duanmu Ao? Su Liang's eyes shrank sharply, and she stopped trying to leave.

She knew that Duanmu Ao and Duanmu Ao were brothers, but they had different mothers and did not resemble each other in appearance.

Duanmu Ao was tall and sturdy, with a square face, narrow eyes, and a hint of blue-black in the depths of his pupils.

"Miss Su, this is His Highness, the Second Prince." Nian Ruxue could tell that Duanmu Ao's attention had shifted to Su Liang, and her smile became much more natural.

"Su, Liang? What relationship do you have with Su Yuanzhou?" Duanmu Ao finally remembered where he had heard this name before.

Su Liang remained composed, "Su Yuanzhou is my grandfather."

Nian Ruxue was taken aback. She knew about Su Yuanzhou, but she never expected Su Liang to be a descendant of the Su Family.

It was said that all the family members of the Su Family had committed suicide out of guilt.

Duanmu Ao suddenly turned his gaze to Nian Ruxue.

Nian Ruxue's heart thumped. Encountering the unscrupulous lecherous Second Prince, she couldn't avoid him. If it weren't for Su Liang's appearance today, she didn't know how this situation would have ended.

"You step back. I have important business to discuss with Miss Su!" Duanmu Ao snorted coldly.

Nian Ruxue breathed a sigh of relief, "Yes." As she spoke, she lifted her skirt and hurriedly ran away.

Su Liang stood still, watching Duanmu Ao stride over to her.

"I didn't expect that the Su Family would hide such a beauty." Duanmu Ao's lascivious gaze swept over Su Liang, "If your grandfather had sent you to me back then, they wouldn't have had to die! Since you are alive now, be my woman! This is what the Su Family owes me!"

Su Liang's expression remained unchanged, "Second Prince, this is a pure and peaceful place for Buddhism. Please watch your words; it is not good to be seen by others."

Duanmu Ao swallowed, “Little beauty, don’t be afraid. Look around, who else is here?”

Su Liang narrowed her eyes and spoke softly, “It’s good that no one is here.”

As Duanmu Ao reached out to touch Su Liang’s face, she sidestepped and simultaneously dealt a fierce kick to his lower abdomen!

Chapter 120: 120. Abstaining from lust benefits physical health (part 2)

Qin Yujin saw Nian Ruxue coming from the direction of Huguo Temple’s back mountain, and quickly walked over with Lin Xueqing, “Xuexue, did you see Su Liang?”

Nian Ruxue was neatly dressed with her usual complexion and smiled when she heard the words, “I was afraid of delaying you all, so I asked a servant to go back and find another carriage to pick me up. I was just enjoying the scenery in the back mountain alone, and I didn’t bump into Miss Su. What? Miss Su is missing?”

Lin Xueqing shook her head, “No. Su Liang has gone to the back mountain to enjoy the scenery and hasn’t gone anywhere else. Sister Qin, let’s go find her.”

Although Nian Ruxue’s words sounded quite normal, Lin Xueqing felt inexplicably uncomfortable.

I was actually looking for Yujin to go to the front hall to pray for my second brother,” said Nian Ruxue with a gentle smile.

“I’ll go find Liang, Xuexue, you should find a place to rest and wait for your carriage to pick you up,” said Qin Yujin before she headed towards the back mountain with Lin Xueqing.

Nian Ruxue knew early on that Qin Yujin liked Nian Jincheng, which was the main reason why Qin Yujin was always very nice to her.

She watched their figures heading towards the back mountain, turned around, and her smile disappeared instantly. Knowing that the lecherous Duanmu Ao was in the back mountain, she couldn’t be blamed for whatever happened.

As for Su Liang ... Nian Ruxue’s cold smile flickered. Duanmu Ao had a grudge against the Su Family and was interested in Su Liang. How could a poor, low-born orphan like Su Liang, even if she was treated as a distinguished guest in Duke Qin’s Mansion, escape from Duanmu Ao’s clutches? The Qin Family had always been insightful and would not stand against the second prince for her sake.

With that thought, Nian Ruxue felt relieved and leisurely walked towards the front hall.

Before Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing crossed the pine forest leading to the back mountain, they saw a beautiful figure appearing in their sight.

“Sister Sul”

“Liang! ”

Seeing Su Liang strolling leisurely towards them, the two hurriedly went to meet her, holding her on either side.

“You scared me to death. I’m so glad you’re okay,” Qin Yujin sighed with relief.

Lin Xueqing glanced behind Su Liang, “Let’s go back!”

Su Liang was puzzled, “What happened? What are you afraid of?”

As Qin Yujin led Su Liang back, she whispered, “We were just coming to find you when we heard someone say that the second prince is at the Huguo Temple today.”

“It’s really fortunate that Sister Su hasn’t met the second prince, otherwise who knows what he would do... He’s completely lawless, even daring to bully Sister Qin.” Lin Xueqing said earnestly.

Su Liang understood the situation.

Qin Yujin had been harassed by Duanmu Ao before and almost had an accident. Lin Bojun stepped in and saved her just in time.

At that time, Lin Bojun kicked Duanmu Ao. Consequently, Duanmu Ao held a grudge and sent people to harm Lin Shuzhi, Lin Xueqing, and chase after the Lin Boyan and Lin Bojun brothers.

Therefore, Duanmu Ao had a grudge against all three girls.

Su Liang laughed, “I didn’t meet the second prince, I only met the fourth Miss Nian, and after exchanging greetings, she left.”

Lin Xueqing’s face was puzzled, “When did Sister Su meet the fourth Miss Nian?”

Su Liang said it was not long before.

Lin Xueqing looked at Qin Yujin with a confused expression, “Why did the fourth Miss Nian say that she didn’t see Sister Su in the back mountain?”

Qin Yujin frowned without speaking.

Su Liang shrugged, “Really? That’s strange, we even talked.”

Su Liang originally didn’t know that Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing had just seen Nian Ruxue, but she specifically mentioned her just in case a situation like this would occur.

Back in the back mountain, Nian Ruxue was trapped by Duanmu Ao. After she saw Su Liang, her actions didn’t seem to hesitate to put Su Liang in trouble in order for her to escape. She was completely aware of what Su Liang might encounter after she left, but she didn’t care at all.

Su Liang knew that Qin Yujin liked Nian Jincheng, so she might be fond of Nian Ruxue by extension.

But having such a “friend” with a vicious heart is definitely not a good thing.

It’s impossible for Nian Ruxue to tell the truth to Qin Yujin, as it would expose her selfish deeds. It’s better to simply deny ever seeing Duanmu Ao, let alone meeting Su Liang, and claim complete ignorance of everything.

If it were another girl that Nian Ruxue tried to push into the fire pit instead of Su Liang today, what would happen in the end is hard to say.

Su Liang had known early on about Nian Ruxue hiring an assassin to kill Gu Ling, although she still couldn't understand why to this day.

However, this doesn't hinder her confirmation today that Gu Ling's ex-fiancée is a ruthless and unscrupulous person.

"Sister Qin, you don't suspect that Sister Su is lying, do you?" Lin Xueqing couldn't help but ask, "That fourth Miss Nian is so strange. I always feel that she has hostility towards Sister Su. They have only just met today, maybe she's jealous that Sister Su looks more beautiful than her."

If Nian Ruxue really was a close friend of Qin Yujin, she would be angry to hear Lin Xueqing's comment.

But at this moment, Qin Yujin suddenly remembered an old incident.

There was a Fifth Miss in the Nian Family named Nian Ruting, who looked even more beautiful than Nian Ruxue and was very introverted.

However, three years ago, Nian Ruting had a horse-riding accident, which not only crippled her leg but also disfigured her face. Later, she just disappeared and was said to have been sent to a country estate to recuperate.

After that incident, Qin Yujin's mother had warned her to be careful when dealing with other families' ladies. Be courteous on the surface, but be cautious when entrusting them with your heart.

At that time, Qin Yujin didn't quite understand the implications of her mother's words, but knowing that her mother would never spread rumors about others without evidence.

"Sister Qin?" Lin Xueqing saw Qin Yujin in a daze and gently pulled her, "What's wrong?"

Qin Yujin didn't know why she suddenly thought of Nian Ruting, she shook her head, "I'm fine. Of course I believe that Liang wouldn't lie. I don't know why the fourth Miss Nian said she hadn't seen Liang."

Qin Yujin's enthusiasm towards Nian Ruxue was only because of Nian Jincheng.

When she set aside her feelings for Nian Jincheng, her impression of Nian Ruxue was quite ordinary, neither good nor bad. It was far from how she felt about Su Liang and Lin Xueqing at first sight, as if they were destined to be great friends.

The three went to where Old Lady Xing was resting in the guesthouse, and a young monk brought in Huguo Temple's famous vegetarian dishes.

Old Lady Xing looked at the three flowers in front of her, her mood was uplifted, and she immediately ordered her servants to find Xing Yusheng.

"He might have gone to enjoy the scenery, let's not wait for him, let's try the vegetarian dishes first," Old Lady Xing smiled and served Lin Xueqing a dish.

Even Qin Yujin could see that Grandmother Xing had taken a liking to Lin Xueqing and had guessed it was for Xing Yusheng's marriage. Naturally, she was delighted.

About a quarter of an hour later, Xing Yusheng came over. As soon as she entered, her gaze fell on Lin Xueqing, then shifted to Su Liang, and she smiled, "The second prince was playing alone in the back mountain and somehow lost consciousness. He has just been carried down from the mountain." Grandmother Xing was startled, "You went to the back mountain? Xing Yusheng shook her head, "No, I heard it from someone else."

"That's good." Grandmother Xing was afraid that Xing Yusheng would be implicated.

Both Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing instinctively looked at Su Liang.

Su Liang chuckled lightly, "These vegetarian dishes are quite good. Can they be taken away?"

"If it's not enough, I can have someone else bring another portion." Xing Yusheng said.

Su Liang shook her head, "I've had enough, and I'll take one back for Ning Jing to try. "

Lin Xueqing grinned, looking as if she was thinking "my ship is sailing." Xing Yusheng chuckled, "I'll have someone prepare it."

Nian Ruxue, who hadn't yet left Huguo Temple because the carriage hadn't arrived, saw with her own eyes Duanmu Ao being carried down the mountain, and almost couldn't control her expression.

This outcome was completely different from her expectations.

She didn't know how Su Liang had managed to escape and why Duanmu Ao had fainted. She just had an inexplicable feeling that Su Liang must be her nemesis. Ever since they met today, things had been going poorly!

In the afternoon, on the way down the mountain, the carriage was the same as when they came, with only Qin Yujin, Lin Xueqing, and Su Liang.

Qi Jun was driving the carriage as a temporary coachman specially invited by Qin Yujin. The reason was that Qi Jun was trustworthy, so they could talk without any concerns.

"Liang, tell the truth. You really didn't see the second prince today?" Qin Yujin asked seriously.

Lin Xueqing's eyes sparkled, "Su, did you hit the second prince?"

Qi Jun, who was driving the carriage, instantly understood the meaning of him being the coachman and listened with his ears pricked up.

"Since you both guessed it." Su Liang was very composed, "It was me. When I saw the second prince and Nian Ruxue together, I wanted to avoid them, but Nian Ruxue suddenly called out to me."

Qin Yujin's face darkened!

"Nian Ruxue introduced me to the second prince, then ran away. The second prince had ill intentions towards me, and I just acted in self-defense. Don't worry, he won't die, and there won't be any obvious injuries. I was very careful when I acted." Su

Liang said, assuring them Duanmu Ao would be more cautious from now on, which would be good for his health.

Although Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing had already guessed it, they still looked at Su Liang with admiration when they heard such a calm explanation.

After all, they both despised Duanmu Ao and had been bullied and harmed by him before.

Qi Jun, who was driving the carriage, thought: Miss Su is indeed powerful! Unbelievable! Truly unbelievable!

After their admiration for Su Liang and the satisfaction of seeing Duanmu Ao being beaten subsided, Qin Yujin brought up Nian Ruxue again with a cold face: "I never thought she would be that kind of person. Everyone in the capital knows about the second prince's character, but she pushed Liang into the fire to save herself. It's simply..."

"Shameless!" Lin Xueqing said angrily, "This is too much! Su didn't have any grudges with her. If she had encountered trouble and asked for Su's help at that time, Su would have helped her for Qin's sake. Why harm others like this? Even when we met, she still claimed not to have seen Su! She's clearly up to no good!"

Qi Jun: Indeed! At first, the old lady even wanted to match her with his own master, but fortunately, she gave up!

Qin Yujin was even angrier at the thought, "I was really stupid to think the most beloved sister of General Nian would have a good character!"

"It's not Qin's fault. That Miss Nian is just too good at pretending. Even General Nian may have been deceived by her." Lin Xueqing said seriously.

With a cold face, Qin Yujin suddenly slapped the side of the carriage, "How can Nian Jincheng not even recognize his own sister? I'm so disappointed!"

Seeing the usually dignified and elegant Lady Qin breaking her calm, Su Liang thought it was pretty cute.

Qin Yujin then said irritably, "I thought he was someone who had both wisdom and bravery, but he couldn't even see the person next to him clearly. Since it was me who introduced Nian Ruxue today, if she had really harmed Liang, I would have been to blame!"

At this moment, Qin Yujin considered a terrible possibility: if it had not been Su Liang who went to the back mountain at that time, but Lin Xueqing, or even herself who had once escaped from Duanmu Ao's hands, the consequences would have been unimaginable!

If Qin Yujin's initial fondness for Nian Ruxue was due to Nian Jincheng, then at this moment, her disappointment and disgust for Nian Ruxue almost wiped out her love for Nian Jincheng.

Thinking of the warm and harmonious sibling relationship she had seen and heard between Nian Jincheng and Nian Ruxue, Qin Yujin found it difficult to treat the siblings separately.

Whether Nian Jincheng was just poor at sensing people, or he had another side that was unknown to others, in any case, Qin Yujin's fantasy about him was shattered by Nian Ruxue's actions today.

The carriage first took Lin Xueqing home.

As soon as she entered, she went to find Lin Shuzhi, wanting to share what happened today with him.

Lin Shuzhi sat quietly by the window, and as Lin Xueqing entered the courtyard, she said with a smile, "Father will never guess what happened to me today, and there's good news! I think, maybe, probably, possibly, my second brother doesn't have to be sad anymore!"

Although it was a bit unkind, Lin Xueqing thought it was best for Qin Yujin to give up on Nian Jincheng and marry her second brother. In terms of background, her second brother might not be as good as Nian Jincheng, but she, as a sister, was certainly much better than Nian Jincheng's sister. She was very confident of this, and the advantage was entirely on her second brother's side.

Lin Shuzhi looked through the window and saw his precious daughter so happy, but he sighed deeply.

The door opened, and Lin Boyan appeared in front of Lin Xueqing.

"Big brother, you're here!" Lin Xueqing ran over, smiling, "Su sent some vegetarian dishes from Huguo Temple to Elder Brother Ning, but I forgot to bring some for Father and Big Brother. Let's go there together another day!" Lin Boyan nodded, "Okay."

"Father, Big Brother, what's wrong?" Lin Xueqing finally noticed something was off about the atmosphere.

Lin Boyan rubbed his brow, his expression weary, "Today I met the fourth prince, and he is interested in engaging little sister as his imperial concubine. The imperial decree will arrive soon.."