

## Three-Time 141

Chapter 141: 141. I'm really silly

Qian Country's capital city.

The progress of the Martial Arts Competition had passed the halfway point.

What most people were keenly discussing was that in the first five rounds, the only two female contestants, Nian Ruxue and Su Liang, both had five wins and zero losses.

Now, in the biggest Gambling House in the capital city, bets were being placed on who would win if Nian Ruxue and Su Liang fought each other.

Su Liang's friends had all placed bets on her, waiting to make a fortune when the time came.

Duanmu Ao publicly placed a heavy bet on his yet-to-be-wed Imperial Concubine Nian Ruxue, and the news spread far and wide.

This day, Su Liang woke up early to the sound of rain. After getting ready and opening the door, she saw the gloomy weather and the drizzling rain.

Although she practiced martial arts diligently, she didn't want to get wet in the rain unnecessarily. Thinking that the Martial Exam might be suspended for a day, she thought it would be nice to stay at home without going out.

After having breakfast, the rain showed no sign of stopping, but rather intensified.

Qi Yan braved the rain to inform Su Liang that the Martial Exam would be suspended that day and would continue after the weather cleared up the next day. The announcement had already been posted.

Xing Yusheng guessed that Su Liang hadn't left the house and specifically asked Qi Yan to inform her.

"Where is your master?" Su Liang asked.

Qi Yan laughed and said that Xing Yusheng had gone to the Lin's house. After picking up Lin Xueqing, the two went to Duke Qin's Mansion to visit Old Master

Qin.

Ning Jing applied acupuncture every three days.

Old Master Qin managed to get to his feet these past two days, though he still needed to lean on a cane and couldn't walk far.

However, the Qin Family saw hope for Old Master Qin's full recovery and were extremely grateful to Su Liang.

"Would Miss Su like to go there as well? Miss Lin and Miss Qin would surely be delighted," Qi Yan said.

Su Liang shook her head, "Not today, I want to rest and let them play."

When Qi Yan was about to leave, Su Liang suddenly asked, "I haven't seen your brother for several days, is he not in the capital city?"

Qi Yan nodded, "Ajun was sent out by the master to the south to find Second Master Lin. We didn't know that Second Master Lin was safe and sound at that time. The master saw Miss Lin was worried and asked Ajun to help send a message and see if there was any assistance needed."

"That's good," Su Liang thought Xing Yusheng was really thoughtful. Once Lin Bojun returned safely, their wedding date should be set soon.

After Qi Yan left, Ning Jing asked Su Liang if she had any free time.

Su Liang shook her head, "Nope, I need to make medicine," She thought he must want her to tell stories.

"I have time, I can help you," Ning Jing said.

Thus, as Su Liang worked on preparing the poison, Ning Jing acted as her assistant.

The sound of the rain was dripping gently, the two sat by the window, busy with their tasks, and chatted casually.

The Fifth Prince's Residence.

The weather was poor, and Duanmu Che had been coughing non-stop since he woke up. Yet, he still insisted on opening the window to watch the rain, making his attendant, Huang Bo, anxious.

However, Duanmu Che was always stubborn, and no amount of persuasion worked.

Helpless, Huang Bo mentioned Su Liang again, "Since the Martial Exam is suspended today, Miss Su must have some free time. Shall this old servant go invite her over?"

Instead of giving a cold face, Duanmu Che shook his head after coughing twice and said, "Maybe she no longer intends to inquire about the past from me."

"How could that be?" Huang Bo shook his head, "Su Liang didn't come because Master refused to see her before. She must be waiting for the Master to be willing to see her before informing her. Otherwise, her sudden visit would seem rude."

Duanmu Che's expression hesitated, "Could it be that..."

Seeing his attitude softened, Huang Bo nodded repeatedly, "It must be! She's just a young girl, she's come here twice, only to be turned away. The letter she sent on her second visit must have explained her amnesia, but Master didn't see it. If Master doesn't give the nod, how could she come here again? She's forgotten everything, she doesn't even know what the Master is angry about. She might think that Master is utterly disgusted with her and doesn't want to see her at all! It's all a misunderstanding!"

Duanmu Che was silent for a long time, then asked, "Didn't Xiao Muyun visit her again?"

"Why would Master mention those with the last name Xiao? Su Liang has long forgotten about him, and they only had that chance encounter at the restaurant. Su Liang went to see him probably to get some answers," Huang Bo said seriously,

"Master, having seen Su Liang's current outstanding performance, with her future prospects being boundless, how could she possibly be interested in a widower like Xiao Muyun?"

"Back then, she used to think that no one could match Xiao Muyun," Duanmu Che sneered.

Huang Bo sighed, "Master, don't cling to Su Liang's past. She was young and ignorant back then, and must have suffered a lot to be where she is today. Master should consider the Su Liang of the past dead and the current one as reborn. "

Duanmu Che murmured, "Reborn... It really does seem like she's been reincarnated.'

"So, shall this old servant go invite Miss Su Liang over?" Huang Bo's eyes were filled with hope.

Before Duanmu Che could answer, a servant's voice came from outside,

"Master, Fourth Prince has arrived."

Huang Bo frowned, "What is he here for?"

Duanmu Che gave Huang Bo a cold look, prompting him to hold his tongue and go out to greet the guest.

Duanmu Chen entered with Chang'an, who was carrying several gift boxes, and they were greeted inside.

"What brings Fourth Brother here today?" Duanmu Che asked coldly.

Duanmu Chen didn't mind, "I originally wanted to watch the Martial Exam, but unfortunately, the weather is bad. Since Fifth Brother didn't go these past few days, I came to check on you since I had some free time. How's your health?"

"Hmm." Duanmu Che's words had just fallen when he started coughing violently again.

Duanmu Chen sighed, "Fifth Brother, you've taken a lot of medicine these years, but there's been no improvement. When I went out at the end of last year, I found several medicinal diet recipes specifically for nourishing the body. They should suit Fifth Brother's constitution, so give them a try." Chang'an respectfully handed over a wooden box.

"Thank you for your concern, Fourth Brother," Duanmu Che nodded slightly.

Huang Bo took the box from Chang'an's hand.

"Father always praises Fifth Brother's chess skills, how about we listen to the rain by the window and have a few rounds?" Duanmu Chen had no intention of leaving.

Huang Bo hoped that Duanmu Che would decline on account of his poor health, but he nodded instead, "Alright."

Huang Bo set up the chessboard and asked, "Shall we invite a doctor over today?"

He implied to Duanmu Che whether he should go find Su Liang.

Duanmu Che shook his head, "No need. You may leave."

Disappointed, Huang Bo obeyed.

Su Liang didn't know what Duanmu Che was thinking. She planned to investigate the past events after the Martial Exam ended and had put him in the back of her mind.

After a whole day and two failed attempts, as the sky darkened, Su Liang finally made one of the medicines from the Poison Sutra.

"Do you want to try it?" Su Liang asked Ning Jing excitedly, holding the pitch-black pill.

This medicine was called the Leisurely Pill. When consumed, it would drive a person mad and delirious, and they would lose their clarity. However, the effect lasted only 24 hours, after which everything would return to normal.

"You try it," Ning Jing replied bluntly.

"Draw straws?" Su Liang suggested.

Ning Jing took the pill and put it in a small bottle, claiming it for himself. "It's mine now. Go cook."

Su Liang threw a few punches in the air behind Ning Jing's back.

Ning Jing turned around and saw Su Liang making a fierce face. He frowned slightly. "Not happy?"

Su Liang smiled as he got up. "How can I be unhappy? I've been sitting for too long; it's time to stretch."

Thanks to Ning Jing, the medicine was successfully prepared.

He was a man with incredibly nimble hands. Without his help, Su Liang would have needed more time to succeed and would have wasted a lot of good medicinal ingredients.

At this point, in a city six or seven days away from the capital, Qi Jun had already met his Master's future second uncle, Lin Bojun.

Nian Jincheng and Lin Bojun were ordered to leave the capital on an official mission, but their actions were meant to be kept secret. So no one from Lin's family had written to Lin Bojun before, fearing it would distract him.

And no one from the Nian Family would ever think of writing to Nian Jincheng.

As a result, neither of them knew what had happened in the capital during their time away.

Tonight, Qi Jun arrived.

Upon hearing that Lin Xueqing was given an Imperial Edict of marriage to Xing Yusheng, Lin Bojun's face darkened!

Qi Jun immediately explained the inside story of the marriage edict.

Lin Bojun's face brightened slightly after listening. "So that's what happened. Crown Prince Xing is Xiaoliang's friend and also Miss Qin's cousin. My sister shouldn't dislike him."

Qi Jun shook his head with a smile. "Miss Lin gets along very well with my Master!"

Lin Bojun snorted, "You're quite pleased, aren't you?"

Qi Jun instantly retracted his smile, saying solemnly, "It's my Master who is very pleased and fortunate to marry such a good girl as Miss Lin."

Lin Bojun sighed, "I haven't even gotten married yet, and I have to marry off my little sister."

Qi Jun took out letters from Lin Shuzhi and Lin Xueqing, written for Lin Bojun.

"Women don't stay in one place after they grow up; my sister was taken away by someone."

Qi Jun: ... didn't dare to speak.

Lin Bojun put away the letters and asked Qi Jun, "The Military Exam has started on schedule, right? Xiaoliang must have been quite impressive!"

With a smile on his face, Qi Jun said, "By the time I left, Miss Su had participated in several competitions and won every single one."

Lin Bojun laughed, "I knew it! Xiaoliang is the only girl in this Military Exam, and she's also the most dazzling one! I want to go back and watch her compete right away!"

Qi Jun hurriedly mentioned that Nian Ruxue had also joined.

Lin Bojun was a bit surprised, "General Nian's sister? Has she been eliminated?"

Qi Jun's mouth twitched slightly. The question was pointed; it was a rather obvious distinction.

Qi Jun told the truth: Nian Ruxue's performance had also been outstanding.

"But General Nian said his sister is a bit delicate. She claims to want to learn martial arts, but she's afraid of hardship, so she doesn't learn well." Lin Bojun wasn't biased against Nian Ruxue; he simply didn't know her and based his judgment on Nian Jincheng's words.

"Perhaps General Nian doesn't really know his sister's true capabilities. By the way, Fourth Miss Nian has already been granted to the Second Prince as an Imperial Concubine," Qi Jun informed him.

Lin Bojun was very surprised. After asking Qi Jun a few more questions and arranging for him to rest, he hurriedly went to find Nian Jincheng.

"What did you say?" Nian Jincheng frowned deeply, looking disbelievingly at Lin Bojun. "My fourth sister, was granted marriage to the Second Prince, as an Imperial Concubine?"

Lin Bojun nodded. "It's true. A follow from Crown Prince Xing brought the news, so it shouldn't be false. Besides, the marriage decree has been in place for some time now."

Nian Jincheng, who had been standing, suddenly looked so sick he collapsed into a seat.

Lin Bojun quickly comforted him, “I know you had the best relationship with your fourth sister, and you must be unwilling to see such a result. But the Imperial Edict is irresistible, so don’t act impulsively.”

Lin Bojun tried to put himself in Nian Jincheng’s shoes. If Lin Xueqing were involved in such a marriage, he might have been tempted to rebel.

Thinking about it, he realized that Xing Yusheng wasn’t so bad. After all, Lin

Xueqing had almost been granted marriage to the Fourth Prince as an Imperial Concubine, but it was the Xing Family that saved her from falling into a fire pit. No one else could have saved her.

Nian Jincheng stared blankly, not speaking, his fists clenched so tightly that his veins were popping.

Lin Bojun, fearing that he would do something stupid, tried to comfort him some more. However, he saw Nian Jincheng suddenly stand up and punch the table heavily.

“Nian...” Lin Bojun tried to reach out to him. But Nian Jincheng muttered to himself, “I’m so stupid.”

Lin Bojun paused and stared dumbfoundedly.

“She said so much; it turns out it was all lies, all fake!” Nian Jincheng was furious.

Lin Bojun was confused. Who? What’s fake?

Nian Jincheng slapped himself hard, shaking his head with a bitter smile, “How could I not even believe him, but instead believed a liar, a liar full of lies!”

Once, Ning Jing had said that Nian Ruxue was only using Nian Jincheng and not truly caring for him.

Nian Jincheng thought Ning Jing didn’t know Nian Ruxue at all, as he had the best understanding of his sister.

Before leaving the capital, Nian Ruxue tearfully told Nian Jincheng that she had been sent to Emperor Duanmu Yi by the Nian Family, had been slept with by him at Changchun Garden, and could only wait to be brought into the palace.

Because of this, Nian Jincheng had a knot in his heart, and whenever he was free, he racked his brains, thinking of how to save Nian Ruxue, the only family member who cared for him.

But now, Nian Jincheng suddenly learned that Nian Ruxue had been granted marriage to Duanmu Ao!

How ridiculous!

No matter how corrupt the Royal Family is, they would never send a woman who has been played with by the emperor to their son!

There was only one possibility: Nian Ruxue was lying! The relationship between her and Duanmu Yi, was nothing like what she had claimed!

Chapter 142: 142. Sorry, I can’t

The window was open, and the night breeze was chilly.

Nian Jincheng's face was terrifyingly gloomy.

Lin Bojun finally thought of a way to comfort him, "I heard from Qi Jun that your younger sister participated in this year's Martial Arts Exam and made a great impression. If she can make it into the top three, coupled with your previous achievements, there might be a possibility to ask the Emperor to reconsider the marriage."

Nian Jincheng looked at Lin Bojun in disbelief, "What did you say?"

Lin Bojun hadn't expected such a reaction from him. He hesitated for a moment, thinking that Nian Jincheng might not have heard him clearly. He repeated his words and emphasized their joint achievement in killing the Nanping Prince.

"She, in the Martial Arts Exam, made a great impression?" Nian Jincheng frowned.

"Yes!" Lin Bojun nodded, "Qi Jun said that before he left the capital city, the elimination matches had already ended, and your younger sister was unbeaten.

You had previously said that she only knew some fancy but impractical moves. That was quite an understatement."

Nian Jincheng's expression became enigmatic, "She really only knew some fancy moves."

"Maybe she practiced diligently and deliberately hid it from you to give you a surprise," Lin Bojun said.

"Hiding it from me..." Nian Jincheng said coldly, "There is no need for her to hide anything from me!"

Lin Bojun finally realized, belatedly, that Nian Jincheng's anger wasn't directed at the royal family for arranging the marriage...

"Are you alright?" Lin Bojun asked.

Nian Jincheng asked in return, "Where is Qi Jun? I want to see him."

Lin Bojun hesitated for a moment, and then nodded, "Alright!"

When Qi Jun saw Nian Jincheng, he remembered something.

That day at Huguo Temple, Nian Ruxue had framed Su Liang, but ended up biting the bullet and getting an arranged marriage for herself.

Xing Yusheng knew that Qin Yujin had originally had feelings for Nian Jincheng, but his favorite cousin's husband was Lin Bojun.

Because Nian Ruxue had a bad reputation, Nian Jincheng had always been protective of her, which made Qin Yujin's impression of Nian Jincheng greatly diminished, and so had Xing Yusheng's.

No matter how you looked at it, Nian Jincheng was an outsider.

Qi Jun decided that whatever Nian Jincheng asked, he would be cautious in his answers.

"Please sit down." Nian Jincheng had already calmed down.

"I prefer to stand." Qi Jun smiled.

"Suit yourself." Nian Jincheng didn't force him, "I heard that before you left the capital city, the Martial Arts Exam elimination matches had already ended. Did you go and watch them?"

Qi Jun nodded, "I watched them all."

"How did my younger sister perform?" Nian Jincheng asked.

Qi Jun thought that Nian Jincheng indeed cared about Nian Ruxue, and became more polite in his response, telling Nian Jincheng in details about Nian Ruxue's performance in the four elimination matches.

At that time, he and his brother Qi Yan had watched all the matches without missing a single one. It was Xing Yusheng who had asked him to help Su Liang by keeping an eye on formidable opponents.

Upon hearing that Nian Ruxue had disguised herself as a man and wore a mask, Nian Jincheng frowned.

"Miss Nian had good luck in the draw, and her opponents in the first three rounds were not very strong, but her opponent in the fourth round was quite powerful." Qi Jun said, "However, Miss Nian won without much effort."

Nian Jincheng's eyes narrowed, and after a moment of silence, he changed the subject, "Did my younger sister's marriage arrangement come about suddenly?"

Did anything happen before that?"

This was a question that Qi Jun couldn't answer.

It was not because he didn't know, but because he knew too well. Some things couldn't be said.

Xing Yusheng had sent him there precisely because he was always cautious and wouldn't talk too much.

It was Su Liang who had hit the second prince, and although the second prince and Nian Ruxue knew about it, they both could only swallow the bitter pill.

If Nian Jincheng knew about it, he might not hesitate to push Su Liang to the forefront for the sake of his sister. After all, he was a favorite among the Emperor's men and could speak up.

With this thought in mind, Qi Jun's expression remained unchanged, "I only heard that the day before the marriage arrangement, the second prince was injured by someone at Huguo Temple. I don't know anything else."

After a long silence, Nian Jincheng spoke again, "Were there any other women participating in the Martial Arts Exam?"

Qi Jun smiled, "There is also Miss Su Liang, a friend of my master. Nian Jincheng should know her."

At that time, Xing Yusheng had asked Nian Jincheng to help deliver a Medical Book to Su Liang.



Nian Jincheng nodded, "I know her. She was with a young man named Ning.

Did they both go to the capital city?"

"Yes. Young Master Ning will be taking the examination soon." Qi Jun said.

"I see, thank you." Nian Jincheng said.

Qi Jun left, feeling that something was strange...

Once again left alone in the room, Nian Jincheng pulled the wooden hairpin from his head and smiled bitterly, "It's not that Nian Ruxue left no clues; it's just that I've always been deceiving myself and others, thinking that sincerity can be repaid with sincerity... You're right, there's something wrong with the people of the Nian Family, including me..."

On the following day, when they hit the road again, Lin Bojun brought up the matter again and insisted that they share the credit for killing the Nanping

Prince. He was thinking that if Nian Jincheng wanted to do something for Nian

Ruxue, perhaps it could be helpful.

What Lin Bojun hadn't expected was that Nian Jincheng, who had previously been honest in reporting, suddenly said, "It's all your credit; it has nothing to do with me!"

Lin Bojun was perplexed, but Nian Jincheng refused to discuss the matter further.

In the capital city of Qian Country.

After the rain stopped, the ranking matches continued.

Princes and princesses still came every day, and there were more and more nobles in the stands.

On the seventh day of the ranking matches, Old Master Qin appeared in a wheelchair, and Madam Xing also came with the company of Xing Ji.

They had all come to watch Su Liang.

Duanmu Ao had treated Nian Ruxue as his own possession. He was genuinely concerned about her and could hardly hide his hostility towards Su Liang. That day, seeing Su Liang enter the stage, he sneered loudly, "Miss Su, who was once a weak and powerless girl two years ago, left the capital for a year and suddenly became so powerful. I wonder what kind of expert she met. People with such skills don't always take pupils so easily. After all, she is quite beautiful, so I can understand that!"

His words were just short of directly accusing Su Liang of obtaining her martial arts skills through unspeakable means.

Although there was no evidence, rumors often began like this.

Madam Xing was sitting not far away, and hearing this, she immediately frowned and couldn't help but speak up, "Your Highness the Second Prince seems to be unaware. After leaving the capital, Miss Su returned to her hometown, where Madam Xing happened to be recuperating with Yu Sheng in the villa of Bei'an County. Miss Su is skilled in medical arts and has saved many people. A high monk with wide travels happened to pass by Bei'an County and saw that Miss Su had a kind and

compassionate heart with the potential to become a Buddhist disciple. The monk accepted her as a disciple and taught her martial arts.”

Xing Ji: ... This is the first time he’s heard of it.

Xing Yusheng: ... So is he.

Qin Yujin exclaimed in amazement, “No wonder! That must be a truly accomplished master, who wouldn’t accept disciples lightly!”

Duanmu Ao’s face darkened, but he couldn’t refute. His words were baseless conjecture, while Madam Xing’s were based on her “personal experience.” Naturally, most people would believe the latter.

Moreover, the claim that “Su Liang is skilled in medicine” was supported by Old Master Qin as a living witness.

Even Duanmu Chen, who had known Su Liang early on, began to wonder if there was a truly accomplished monk who was Su Liang’s master...

Soon, this explanation spread and couldn’t be questioned. After all, it was said to be a high monk who travels, so he must have gone to travel all over the world again.

When Su Liang returned home after the competition, she learned that Madam Xing had “arranged” a master for her.

“Old ginger is indeed hotter.” Su Liang laughed lightly, “It’s all for the best. I should send a gift to Madam Xing as a thank-you.” She hadn’t thought of using this explanation for where her martial arts skills came from.

In fact, they were taught by Ning Jing, but her rapid progress was due to her past life’s foundation.

Ning Jing didn’t attend the contest any more but learned from Huang Bo that Su Liang had won another match, as well as the matter of “high monk teaching martial arts”.

“Xing Ji and the crown prince really lived in Bei’an County for a long time,”

Huang Bo said. “Xing Ji must really like Miss Su, or he wouldn’t defend her in public. Old Master Qin is well enough to go out, and he looks good. Let me go invite Miss Su now!”

Several praises of Su Liang were voiced by Huang Bo, but Ning Jing seemed to have developed a defiant attitude. “If she has something to say to me, she’ll come again.”

Huang Bo stomped anxiously, “Master, your life is in danger, stop clinging onto your pride!”

Ning Jing’s face darkened, but before he could speak, a report came from outside, “Master, the fourth prince is here.”

“I’m unwell and won’t see any guests!” Ning Jing replied coldly.

Huang Bo, who was interrupted by Duanmu Chen last time, didn’t have a chance to invite Su Liang and he wanted to go chase the visitors out at these words.

As he opened the door, he saw a purple-clad young girl standing behind

Duanmu Chen, beautiful and cold. Wasn’t she the one he wanted to find?

"Fifth brother, today I heard that Old Master Qin had a stroke, but he was cured by Miss Su. So, I went to her house to invite her to treat you." Duanmu Chen said with a warm smile. "You may not want to see me, but you can't refuse to see the doctor, right?"

Ning Jing sat in the shadows, and had already seen the purple figure, his expression slightly stunned.

"Fifth brother, since you're not speaking, we'll take that as permission to come in," Duanmu Chen said, smiling even more.

Huang Bo beamed, his attitude completely different from before, "Please come in, Doctor Sul"

Su Liang, carrying her medicine box, followed Duanmu Chen in and immediately smelled a strong medicinal odor.

Ning Jing sat by the window, his face pale and without a trace of blood, staring fixedly at Su Liang, as if lost in thought.

"Greetings, your highness, the fifth prince," Su Liang said, bowing.

She had been cooking at home when Duanmu Chen came to invite her with great fanfare, and there was no way she could refuse his request.

Su Liang knew that Duanmu Chen's main purpose was not only to provide her with an opportunity to approach Ning Jing, but also to please Duanmu Yi by showing concern for Ning Jing.

It was said that Ning Jing was Duanmu Yi's most beloved child, unmatched by any other.

"No need for formalities," Ning Jing said, pushing himself away from the shadow in his wheelchair. The light made his face even paler.

Duanmu Chen took a seat and asked Su Liang to check Ning Jing's pulse. His third goal was to find out if Ning Jing was really ill or pretending.

Huang Bo stood by, waiting anxiously.

After contemplating for a moment, Su Liang said, "Your highness' body is weak, and your internal organs are damaged. You need to be very careful with medication."

Ning Jing, who was originally weak, had overdosed on medicine and aggravated his condition.

"Does Miss Su have any good prescriptions?" Huang Bo asked impatiently.

"I'll try," Su Liang replied, "Acupuncture coupled with herbal decoctions, we'll need to nourish you slowly. If you can stand up later, you should exercise more."

Huang Bo nodded repeatedly, "From now on, we'll be relying on Doctor Sul"

Seeing the unusual relationship between Ning Jing and Huang Bo, and how Huang Bo kept interrupting Ning Jing, Su Liang knew that their master-servant relationship was out of the ordinary.

"When entrusted by others, I'll do my best," Su Liang said.

Ning Jing's expression was indifferent, "If I don't ask for your help, would you not save someone? May I ask Doctor Su, what do you think is the duty of a doctor?"

Su Liang shook her head, "There's no need to ask, but at least an invitation is necessary. A doctor's duty lies in compassion and skill. However, if a patient doesn't want treatment, their wishes should be respected."

"If someone's critically ill, speechless, and falls in front of you, unable to 'ask' for your help, do you just watch them die?" Ning Jing snorted.

Su Liang's face remained calm, "Of course I'd save them."

"Then how do you know if they want your help? Where's the so-called respect?" Ning Jing asked.

Su Liang replied, "When the patient can speak, we'll know. If they don't want it, we can just restore them to their original state, throw them back where they came from, and let nature take its course."

Duanmu Chen clapped and chuckled lightly, "That's true! Miss Su Liang is quite interesting. What do you think, fifth brother?"

"Thank you, fourth imperial brother, for inviting the doctor for me." Duanmu Che's deep eyes looked at Su Liang. She had completely changed from before. No longer naive, weak, and overly compassionate, she had become rational and calm.

"What's the need for politeness between us?" Duanmu Chen laughed and stood up. "I will leave first. Miss Su Liang will give my fifth brother acupuncture and prescribe medicine. If there are any medicinal materials missing, just let me know."

"Farewell, fourth imperial brother." Duanmu Che nodded slightly.

Huang Bo happily sent away Duanmu Chen, came back, closed the door, and let out a sigh of relief.

Su Liang finished writing the prescription, put down the pen, and saw Duanmu Che extend his hand.

She handed him the prescription, and Duanmu Che's eyes narrowed slightly. "I heard you lost your memory. I didn't expect even your handwriting to be completely different from before."

Su Liang was very calm, "I felt this was more appealing, so I specifically learned this font."

"What font?" Duanmu Che asked.

"Ning Jing's writing." Su Liang said.

Duanmu Che put down the prescription, looked at Su Liang, and asked, "So now you don't think highly of Xiao Muyun, but you are interested in Ning Jing? I originally thought you were different from before and could live without a man."

Su Liang knew from his words that Ning Jing had guessed correctly. Duanmu Che held deep prejudice against the original master and was inextricably linked to Xiao Muyun.

“There are men and women in this world. There are also some men around the fifth prince. Can I also say that you cannot do without men?” Su Liang said.

“Are you denying your relationship with Ning Jing?” Duanmu Che asked.

Su Liang shook her head, “This matter has nothing to do with the fifth prince, and I don’t need to explain it to you.”

“Is this your attitude when asking for help?” A nameless anger rose in Duanmu Che’s heart.

Su Liang shook her head again, “I don’t want to beat around the bush. If the fourth imperial brother hadn’t come to invite me today, I would still seek an audience with the fifth imperial brother after the Military Exam. But since I am here, if the fifth imperial brother needs me to treat you, I would like to know the full story. Please consider it as my consultation fee.”

“I saved your life back then, how will you repay me?” Duanmu Che said coldly.

Su Liang sighed lightly, “How could I know if the fifth prince didn’t say anything? In that case, I believe you. I will treat you without charging a single cent. As for the rest, if you don’t want to talk about it, I won’t force you.”

Duanmu Che stared intently at Su Liang, her back always straight and upright. Although she was polite in her words, she was not timid or humble at all, as if they were equals.

Duanmu Che blurted out, “Kneel and beg me! Then I’ll tell you!”

Su Liang frowned.

“What? You’ve become arrogant now? You think you’re very capable and can even dare to hit Duanmu Ao, without putting the royal family in your eyes?” Duanmu Che said coldly.

Su Liang knelt before Duanmu Che, “Thank you, fifth imperial prince, for saving my life. Please tell me about the situation with the Su family.”

This was her kneeling on behalf of the original master.

Duanmu Che silently looked at Su Liang without telling her to get up. Su Liang remained kneeling there.

After an unknown amount of time, Huang Bo brought someone along and didn’t hear any movement inside. He knocked on the door, “Master, Ning Jing, the young master of Ning, is looking for Dr. Su.”

There was still no sound, Huang Bo sensed something was wrong, his expression changed, and he forcefully broke open the door. However, he was stunned, “This...”

Ning Jing had already bypassed Huang Bo and entered, pulling Su Liang up from the ground.

“Who allowed you to come in?” Duanmu Che’s face turned cold.

Ning Jing’s expression was indifferent, “I will leave.” With that, he intended to take Su Liang away.

“Su Liang, have I allowed you to get up?” Duanmu Che snorted coldly.

Su Liang’s expression remained calm, “Fifth imperial prince, if you have any dissatisfaction with me, you can directly tell me. I have knelt for you already. If you are still not satisfied, then consider it as my one-time act of gratitude for saving my life, and we’ll no longer have any dealings. If you want to see me begging you miserably, I’m sorry, but I won’t.”

As soon as the words fell, Su Liang picked up her medicine box, and Ning Jing naturally took it from her, the two of them leaving together..

Chapter 143:143. Unmasking Her Disguise

“What is the Master doing?” Huang Bo completely failed to understand how things had developed to this point.

Duanmu Che picked up the prescription written by Su Liang again, his gaze solidifying onto it, not uttering a word.

Huang Bo sighed repeatedly, “The Master made Miss Su kneel, and she did kneel. Why must it be blown up to this extent? She is completely different from before. Why does the Master linger on the past?”

“Yes, she is different, so different....” Duanmu Che’s pupils held deep shadows, “I always had my doubts. Seeing her today has only validated my suspicions.

She is not Su Liang at all!”

“Master... what do you mean?” Huang Bo staggered.

“In just over a year, I don’t believe that a person can change so completely. Even if there was a wandering monk who taught her martial arts and her progress was rapid, her entire demeanor and manner of speaking are totally different. Even her handwriting doesn’t resemble her previous handwriting in the slightest! Is this possible?” Duanmu Che said coldly.

Huang Bo looked at him in disbelief, “Master suspects...that this Miss Su...is a fake?! Impossible, who would deliberately impersonate Su Liang?”

“You told me that she treated Xing Yusheng and cured Old Master Qin.

Huang Bo furrowed his brow, “I did say that.”

“If someone is impersonating Su Liang, these would be their objectives. Disguise technique can create a convincing false identity, for the rest, they can claim amnesia, even use their ‘amnesia’ as an excuse to openly ask about all of Su Liang’s past.”

Duanmu Che said coldly, “Even though Su Liang is a commoner, her identity is unique and as long as someone uses it well, there are endless possibilities.”

Upon hearing these words, Huang Bo's face changed dramatically, "Now that the Master has explained, it indeed makes sense. When you think about it, her transformation is simply unbelievable."

"Others may not know what the original Su Liang was like, but you and I saw her." Duanmu Che said coldly.

"But the old servant found out that when Su Liang was at the Huguo Temple, she hit the Second Prince. Surely it was because she knew that the Second Prince was involved in the deaths of the Su Family." Huang Bo frowned.

"How would you know that she didn't do that on purpose to gain my trust?"

Duanmu Che retorted.

Huang Bo furrowed his brow, "Does Master really think she is a fake? If so, what is she trying to do?"

"Don't forget, the Fourth Brother went to Bei'an County last year." Duanmu Che said.

Huang Bo's eyes widened, "Is Master suspecting that they knew each other in Bei'an County?"

Duanmu Che said coldly, "Bei'an County is not that big. She was with Ning Jing, the then Crown Prince Bei Jingwang Xing Yusheng, and was also the last of the Su Family, it is impossible for Duanmu Chen not to have noticed her." Huang Bo's expression was indescribable.

"Perhaps, she is a spy for the enemy, borrowing Su Liang's identity to intentionally get close to Duanmu Chen, and also to get close to me, using the platform of the military exam to achieve some unspeakable goal." Duanmu Che mused, "Or even, she is a piece placed covertly by Duanmu Chen!"

"Master made her kneel, to test her because he suspected her?" Huang Bo asked.

Duanmu Che coughed a few times, and nodded, "The current Su Liang, is indeed outstanding, and very special. The more so she is, the more suspicious I find her."

"This..." Huang Bo was most concerned about Duanmu Che's health. But what if Su Liang was indeed a spy with malicious intent? How could he entrust Duanmu Che's treatment to her?

On the handkerchief Duanmu Che used to cover his mouth, little plum blossoms blossomed with blood, his voice weak, "For the time being, I can't die. And even if I were to die, I will not be used by others."

Huang Bo sighed deeply, pushing Duanmu Che into the inner chamber, "Master's caution is right. But what if, that person is really Su Liang?"

“I believe in my intuition, she is not.” Duanmu Che’s pupils were devoid of any warmth, “Send a message to Lian Shun to come over. I will certainly expose her disguise, and give her nowhere to hide!”

The sky had darkened completely, there were very few pedestrians around.

Su Liang and Ning Jing were walking home together.

Ning Jing began, her tone cold, “Have you lost your mind?”

Su Liang knew what Ning Jing was talking about and heaved a light sigh, “The original Su Liang was saved by Duanmu Che, which allowed her to live and leave the capital for Su Village. Having taken her identity, I took it upon myself to thank Duanmu Che for his kindness. If I had to kneel, then so be it. I thought everything would go smoothly after that, but who knew Duanmu Che would turn out to be so peculiar in character.”

“There’s no need to go to him anymore,” Ning Jing said.

With a helpless look, Su Liang said, “There’s a limit to everything. What’s the point in trying again? He made me kneel this time, next time he might ask me to hurt myself. I have figured it out; he completely despises me and doesn’t seem interested in helping the Su Family avenge their injustice. I better not push myself into such situations anymore. As for the matters of the Su Family, I’ll think of another way.”

“How long did you kneel?” Ning Jing asked.

Shaking her head, Su Liang replied, “I don’t know, it doesn’t matter. It was good knee practice.”

The next day at the Battle Arena, Duanmu Chen publicly asked Su Liang if she was able to successfully treat Duanmu Che the day before.

Su Liang claimed that her medical skills were inadequate, and so she was unable to do so.

The bystanders were not surprised, as they were aware of Duanmu Che’s critical condition.

However, Duanmu Chen felt bewildered. He was present at the time; Su Liang seemed confident after checking Duanmu Che’s pulse, so what had changed?

However, deeming it inappropriate to question her publicly, Duanmu Chen simply expressed regret and said that he would seek another renowned doctor for Duanmu Che.

After the competition ended, Chang’an, following orders, asked Su Liang and she flatly stated that Duanmu Che made things difficult and hence the deal fell through.

Upon learning this, Duanmu Chen was even more bewildered.

He didn’t suspect that Su Liang was lying to him, since he had no connection to the past events of the Su Family and was not at odds with Su Liang.

But this led Duanmu Chen to suspect even more that Duanmu Che was faking his illness, thereby rejecting treatment out of fear of being exposed. If he were truly ill, why would he refuse treatment from a skilled doctor who could save him?



Su Liang was unaware of Duanmu Chen's thoughts. Determined not to deal with Duanmu Che again, she immediately put the matter out of her mind.

At the end of the ranking matches, as expected, Su Liang and Nian Ruxue triumphed with a perfect score in ten rounds, making it into the top ten.

There were five people, including them, who obtained a full score in ten rounds. As these five had not yet faced each other, their individual ranks were not decided yet.

However, the top thirty contestants had been preliminarily decided.

The reason why it was still preliminary was due to the upcoming challenge contests.

Registration for the contest spanned a day, and the selection process took an additional day for the participants who challenged the same person.

Su Liang predicted that she would get a two-day break as there was a low chance that someone would choose to challenge her.

As expected, after registration ended, Qi Yan informed Su Liang that none of the participants who had won all the ranking matches had been challenged.

Some competitors with lower ranks had been challenged by many participants.

Su Liang handed over the medicine that she had specially prepared for Qi Yan's and Qi Jun's father, Qi Jiang, instructing him on how to use it.

Qi Jiang had not fully recovered from an old injury.

"Thank you, Miss Su!" Qi Yan expressed his gratitude joyously.

Su Liang then asked about Qi Jun, "When will your younger brother be back?"

"The Martial Exam has been extended due to the addition of the challenge contest. At the earliest, Ajun will be able to reach the capital before the finals!" Qi Yan said.

After Qi Yan left, Su Liang mentioned Nian Jincheng again, "If you tell him about now Nian Ruxue harmed me, would he believe you

Ning Jing nodded, "He would."

"Would he argue with Nian Ruxue because of that?" Su Liang asked again.

Ning Jing nodded, "He would."

Surprised, Su Liang said, "You are so confident? That's his beloved sister."

"The reason before was that I didn't have any evidence of Nian Ruxue's wrongdoing, it was merely my own opinion." Ning Jing said with a calm demeanor, "Nian Jincheng doesn't distrust me. However, he thought that I was prejudiced towards Nian Ruxue. He thinks he understands her better than me."

Su Liang nodded, "Fine. You are indeed true friends. But righteousness and emotion, sometimes it may not be easy to distinguish clearly. I hope you won't be slapped in the face when he returns."

The selection of the Challenge Contest has ended. The ten martial artists who have obtained the opportunity to challenge will compete with the military exam candidates they have chosen tomorrow. If they succeed, they can replace them.

This includes Luo Rong, one of Su Liang's previous opponents. He chose to challenge the martial artist who ranked tenth in the qualifying exam, which was also the highest ranked opponent chosen by all challengers.

If he succeeds in the challenge, he will jump into the finals.

Qi Yan learned that Luo Rong and his chosen opponent knew each other, presumably, the odds were in his favor.

At nightfall, Su Liang and Ning Jing were having dinner at the Wan Family Restaurant.

After eating to his heart's content, Zhengzheng joyously ran around the room, proudly holding up the wooden toy airplane Ning Jing made for him.

Wan Hui and Lu Yu were discussing business in a private room next door.

The toy airplane was made by Ning Jing from a drawing Su Liang made. He wanted to see what a thing that could carry people and fly in the sky looked like, so he made several wooden models of different sizes according to the drawing.

The private room was street-side, with the window open.

Su Liang was about to ask Ning Jing if he was going to watch the Challenge

Contest tomorrow, but she saw him suddenly get up and run to the window!

Turning her head, she saw Zhengzheng had somehow climbed onto a chair by the window and was leaning out with his small body. Ning Jing quickly scooped him back in.

"Fly!" Zhengzheng held up his toy airplane with sparkling eyes, having been about to throw it out the window.

Ning Jing lightly spanked Zhengzheng with a serious expression, "No climbing around, no throwing things outside, you might hit someone."

Seeing this, Zhengzheng turned to Su Liang with a pitiful look.

Su Liang took a piece of paper from her medical box and quickly folded it into a paper airplane, which she threw to Zhengzheng.

His little face lit up with excitement, his gaze following the paper airplane.

Ning Jing reached out and caught it, handing it to Zhengzheng.

Now he could throw it outside, but the little guy didn't want to let go, he hadn't had enough fun yet.

Su Liang walked over and looked down.

Two men came out of the inn across the street. One of them looked up and made eye-contact with Su Liang, politely bowing in greeting.

It was Luo Rong.

After returning Luo Rong's nod, Su Liang heard Ning Jing saying, "His forehead is darkened."

Having been away from work for some days, Su Liang looked serious, "There may be trouble tonight. It seems that he will pose a threat to someone in tomorrow's Challenge Contest."

In the still of the night.

Both Luo's uncle and nephew had already fallen asleep. Su Liang and Ning Jing sat on the roof of the inn, quietly watching the stars...

After waiting for a while Su Liang began to yawn, finally seeing a figure appearing at the edge of their vision.

"Here they come." Su Liang said in a low voice, her hand already on the hilt of her knife, ready for battle.

The man moved with exceptional agility, taking unconventional paths, leaping over rooftops, and quickly approached.

Su Liang thought this was the man coming to kill Luo Rong, but to her surprise, the man settled on a nearby rooftop, waved carefreely in their direction, and said with a joking tone, "What a wonderful occasion, a man and a woman watching the stars on a roof. How charming. If I wasn't in a hurry to see Little Cheche, I would have joined you for fun." With that, he jumped again and floated away...

Su Liang looked perplexed, "Just a passerby?"

Ning Jing turned to another direction, "Here they come." This time, it was their real target.

The one who came was an older man, not the scholar who ranked tenth in the qualifying exam, but his father.

Like Luo's uncle and nephew, he was also from the martial arts world, they knew each other, but were not friends, and held long-standing grudges.

Luo Rong's strength was stronger, but his luck was too bad. He met Su Liang in the last round of the elimination match and was directly eliminated. Luckily, there was still the opportunity of the Challenge Contest, so he chose that man as his opponent.

Su Liang knocked the man unconscious and left him in front of Luo Rong's door.

The noise waked Luo Rong, he came out to check and was surprised! Seeing the man dressed in night-gear, with stupefying powder hidden in his sleeve, a dagger in his chest, what else was there to not understand? He immediately dragged the man inside.

The only thing the Luo's uncle and nephew were puzzled about was that it was obvious someone had secretly helped them, but they had no clue who this "good Samaritan" was...

After completing their mission, Su Liang and Ning Jing retired for the night.

In the mansion of the Fifth Prince, Duanmu Che had a visitor.

"On my way here just now, I saw a man and a woman sitting on the roof looking at the stars, that was so lovely. If I wasn't in such a rush to see Little Cheche, I would have joined them for some fun." The tall man who was speaking relaxed lazily on a cushion. His deep-set eyes were full of laughter.

He waved his hand at Duanmu Che, “Call me cousin.”

Duanmu Che appeared indifferent, “Lian Ershan, how is your Disguise Technique?”

At his words, Lian Shun shot up to his feet and twisted Duanmu Che’s ear, “Bastard! Call me like that again, and I’ll sell you off to Zuixiang Building as a host!”

Duanmu Che frowned, “Cousin.”

Lian Shun huffed, “That’s better.... Anyway, my Disguise Technique is obviously excellent. What do you need me for?”

“There are two women in the Military Exam this year, but the gap in their abilities from previous years is too large. I suspect they are spies in disguise.” Duanmu Che said with a straight face. “Give me some medicine that can expose their disguises.”

Lian Shun gave a strange look, “Little Cheche, you’re almost dying, and yet you’re worried about the country and the people. Have you lost your mind?”

Duanmu Che frowned, “Will you give it?”

Lian Shun signed melodramatically, “I’ll give It, I give It, after all, who am I? I’m your brother. But you need to tell me why you care about the two women who are participating in the Military Exam?”

“It has nothing to do with you.” Duanmu Che said coldly, “When the finals arrive, I will ask my Father Emperor to allow me to use your medicine to check both women’s identities..”

Chapter 144:144. Su Xiaoliang Wants to Kill Me

After Su Liang and Ning Jing resolved the trouble with Luo Rong and returned home, it was already past midnight.

Before each of them entered their respective houses, Su Liang asked Ning Jing, “Are you going to watch the challenge contest tomorrow?”

Ning Jing shook his head, “I can’t.”

“Why not?” Su Liang asked, puzzled.

“The Provincial Exam,” Ning Jing replied.

Startled, Su Liang held her forehead, “I completely forgot that you still have exams to take. You should’ve mentioned it earlier – I would’ve gone by myself tonight.”

Other scholars would be focusing on preparing for the exam, but even when Ning Jing had free time at home, he either helped Su Liang make medicine or worked on model airplanes — he never seemed to spend time studying.

However, this hadn’t affected Ning Jing’s performance in the past.

As for Su Liang, all she could say was that this was the style of a great god.

Unlike her, she diligently practiced martial arts every day for the Military Exam, and still had to summarize her experiences and lessons when she got home.

Early the next morning, Su Liang prepared a lot of food for Ning Jing.

As the morning light began to appear, Ning Jing carried his bookcase, stood in a long line, and entered the Examination Hall.

Su Liang accompanied him and watched as the last scholar entered, and the heavy doors of the Examination Hall closed with a thud. Only then did she turn around and leave.

By the time she returned home, the sun had just risen.

Thinking that Ning Jing would be away for the next three days, Su Liang felt somewhat uneasy. Although the two of them were quiet when they were at home, they hardly spoke to each other unless it was necessary.

Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing came to pick up Su Liang to watch the challenge contest.

“Ning Senior Brother will undoubtedly be fine, and so will Su younger sister.”

Lin Xueqing confidently said, “If both of you become the Top Scholars, you should be together! A match made in heaven!”

Su Liang calmly replied, “We’re already living together.”

“I mean getting married. Su younger sister, don’t play dumb.” Lin Xueqing’s expression was serious.

Su Liang raised her eyebrows, “You should talk to Ning Jing instead of me. I don’t have a say.”

Xing Yusheng smiled, “Let’s go; it’s getting late. My younger cousin must’ve already arrived.”

The Civil Service Provincial Examination Hall was heavily guarded, but the Military Examinations were open to all.

The curtain of the carriage was lifted, and Su Liang thought she would see Duanmu Che, but instead, she saw another completely unfamiliar young man smiling at her.

Su Liang felt strange. Was this someone the original master knew?

“Su younger sister, hurry up! I see Sister Qin!” Lin Xueqing pulled Su Liang’s hand and ran forward.

Following Lin Shun’s gaze, Duanmu Che saw Su Liang’s retreating figure, his expression slightly sinking, “Cousin, what are you looking at?”

“A little beauty.” Lin Shun said, getting off the carriage. Amidst the surrounding exclamations, he carried Duanmu Che horizontally out of the carriage.

Duanmu Che disliked this position very much, as he used to be carried off by Huang Bo.

Lin Shun put Duanmu Che in the wheelchair, patting his head, “Little Cheche, how come you’re getting more and more delicate?”

Duanmu Che's face darkened, "Lin Shun, mind what you say."

Lin Shun sneered softly, pushing Duanmu Che's wheelchair forward, "I'm not a prince; who cares about what I say?"

Xing Yusheng and Qin Yujin could sit with the princes and princesses in the spectator seats. If Lin Xueqing and Su Liang wanted to go, they could also follow them there.

But Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing both felt disgusted at the sight of Duanmu Ao, and since no elder accompanied them today, they didn't have to sit there either, so they didn't go.

Lin Shun sat next to Duanmu Che, very casually greeting Duanmu Chen.

"Master Lin, long time no see," Duanmu Chen smiled.

It was once rumored that Duanmu Yi's favorite concubine, Xianfei, was a daughter of the Lin's family – a Southern Guard General of Qian Country.

Old General Lin had passed away a few years ago, and his descendants didn't inherit his mantle. Although the Lin family was still a prestigious family in the south, they had somewhat declined.

"I heard that there are two girls participating in the Military Exam this year. Who are they?" Lin Shun asked Duanmu Chen.

Duanmu Chen scanned the crowd and his gaze fell on Su Liang, pointing her out for Lin Shun, "That's one of them. Her surname is Su, with a single name, Liang. The other is the Fourth Miss of the Nian Family. It seems she didn't come today."

Lin Shun looked at Su Liang, who was listening to Qin Yujin speak, and laughed, "So it's that little beauty."

Duanmu Che frowned, "Cousin."

Duanmu Chen wasn't meeting Lin Shun for the first time. He would come to the capital every year to stay for a while and visit Duanmu Che. It was rumored that Lin Shun was a famous playboy in the southern region of Qian Country.

Lin Shun seemed not to notice Duanmu Che's displeasure and continued chatting with Duanmu Chen, "Has Miss Su Liang married?"

"No." Duanmu Chen shook his head.

With a serious look, Lin Shun said, "If she becomes the Martial Arts Champion, you can ask the emperor for permission to marry her!"

Duanmu Che's expression tightened, "Cousin, what nonsense are you talking about?"

Lin Shun laughed, "Cousin, you're so weak, you need to marry a strong wife to protect you. Miss Su Liang is very suitable, and she's so beautiful, I'm even a little tempted!"

Duanmu Che frowned, "Stop talking nonsense!"

Duanmu Chen just smiled without uttering a word. He had an intuition that

Lin Shun was not as simple as he seemed, always speaking with phixea truth and falsehood. However, he could also tell that Duanmu Che and Su Liang were indeed on bad terms.

The first match of the Challenge Contest was between Luo Rong and his enemy.

That man's father went out last night and did not return. Today, he saw Luo Rong unharmed and guessed that something had happened to his father. However, he didn't dare to make a fuss at this critical moment, as their father and son were not innocent themselves.

What happened last night made Luo Rong even more determined to defeat his opponent fair and square.

Although the battle was stuck at first, the final result was that Luo Rong won. He went from being eliminated to being the tenth-place challenger.

After watching Luo Rong's match, Su Liang decided to leave.

Xing Yusheng wanted to arrange for Qi Yan to escort her back, but Su Liang politely refused, saying she wanted to walk by herself.

As soon as she left the Battle Arena, Su Liang detected someone following her.

Her first thought was that Duanmu Ao had sent someone to kill her.

Su Liang passed through an alley, where no one was around. She would soon reach the main street of the capital city.

But before she could leave the alley, a tall, thin man wearing a mask dropped from the sky, blocking her way. Without a word, he attacked her!

Su Liang's eyes narrowed, and as she dodged, she drew the Twin Blades hidden on her calf.

After dozens of moves, the man suddenly closed in on Su Liang, fainted, and then retreated and ran away...

Su Liang stood in the alley with her Twin Blades, feeling strangely. The man was not weak, but she didn't feel any killing intent. It was as if he had a stomachache and had left to find a toilet or had discovered halfway through the fight that he had targeted the wrong person. It was simply inexplicable.

And this man's figure seemed unfamiliar to Su Liang.

Leaving the alley, Su Liang went straight home.

The morning Challenge Contest was over, and only then did Lian Shun, who had earlier claimed that he needed to relieve himself, leisurely return to join Duanmu Che as they left.

After getting in the carriage, Duanmu Che asked Lian Shun, "Where did you

Lian Shun reached out and mussed Duanmu Che's hair, sighing, "Big brother has been worrying about you so much."

Duanmu Che frowned, "Answer my question."

"Last night, Old Huang told me everything about you and that little beauty Su Liang. I forced him to tell me." Lian Shun leaned against the carriage wall and looked at Duanmu Che, "You asked me for the Disguise Medicine because you suspected that she's a spy? I saw her up close just now, and there's no trace of disguise on her face."

Duanmu Che frowned, "You went to find Su Liang?"

"She doesn't know me." Lian Shun shook his head. "I didn't do anything to her." "Are you sure?" Duanmu Che asked.

Lian Shun snorted softly, "I can't be certain about anything else, but for Disguise Technique, if I say there's none, there's none. Look at how sick you are; why do you think so much? Have Old Huang go and apologize to her quickly and invite her to come and treat you!"

Duanmu Che shook his head, "I don't believe it. Even if she didn't use the Disguise Technique, she might not be Su Liang."

"Little Cheche, in this world, there may be people who look exactly alike, but there are no two completely identical people. Since you know her but have no evidence, it means that her appearance has no difference from the Su Liang you know. If she didn't use Disguise Technique, then it's real!" Lian Shun said. "Didn't you say there was a strange person in the martial arts world who could make human faces into masks, with no flaws when worn?" Duanmu Che said.

Lian Shun was taken aback, "Yes, there is such a person. Do you suspect that the woman is wearing a human skin mask after all?"

"It's not entirely impossible." said Duanmu Che.

Lian Shun looked helpless, "I give up; I'll go check on her again. If it weren't for fear of you dying from your illness, I wouldn't bother doing this!"

When the carriage stopped at the Fifth Prince's Mansion, Lian Shun was nowhere to be found inside.

Duanmu Che returned to the mansion but waited until dusk, and still, Lian Shun hadn't come back.

"If nothing went wrong, Young Master Lin should have returned by now!" Huang Bo thought uneasily to himself.

Duanmu Che's eyes turned cold, "Could he have been discovered and captured by that woman? I knew she had a problem! "

Just as his words fell, Lian Shun's exaggerated voice came from outside, "Little Cheche, save me, Su Xiaoliang is going to kill me!"

Duanmu Che's face changed, and looking out the window, he saw Su Liang standing expressionlessly in the yard. Lian Shun grinned, "Misunderstanding! It's all a misunderstanding! There are no human skin masks, just a real, genuine little beauty.. It took me a lot of persuading to bring her here! Little Cheche, hurry up and apologize to Miss Su Liang!"

Chapter 145: 145. You will definitely regret this later

Time went back to half a day earlier.



After returning home from the Battle Arena, Su Liang took the medical kit and went to the Duke Qin's mansion on horseback alone to give Old Master Qin a follow-up consultation.

Old Master Qin's complexion was quite good. After Su Liang performed acupuncture on him, and as it was approaching noon, Lady Qin insisted on having her stay for lunch.

Thinking about going back home alone and being unable to cook decent meals, Su Liang decided to stay.

In the afternoon, Qin Yujin returned home and asked Su Liang to stay with her until Ning Jing finished her exams and came back home.

Su Liang said that she wanted to practice martial arts and there was no suitable place for that in the Qin Residence, so Qin Yujin let her go.

Lian Shun talked to Duanmu Che to confirm whether Su Liang was wearing a human skin mask, but unexpectedly, no one was at Su Family's house, and Su

Liang hadn't returned.

Lian Shun went out for a while but couldn't find Su Liang, so he returned.

He strolled around Su Family residence and was attracted to the training ground, so he decided to study the martial arts equipment that Su Liang and Ning Jing trained with.

Feeling hungry, he went to the kitchen and ate the meat buns that Su Liang had made for Ning Jing in the morning, which he had not brought with him completely.

By the time Su Liang came back home, she found an unwelcome guest.

Originally, Lian Shun intended to act in secret, but after waiting for a long time, he changed his mind and greeted Su Liang directly.

"I'm Lian Shun, the cousin of Prince Duanmu Che. We met this morning at the Battle Arena," Lian Shun greeted with a fist and palm salute.

Su Liang frowned, "What brings Master Lin to my house without invitation?"

"I apologize. You weren't at home and it was cold outside, so I came in to wait, and also ate your meat buns," Lian Shun said with a smile.

He was observing Su Liang's reaction.

"Two meat buns, 500 taels each," Su Liang snorted lightly.

Lian Shun jumped up in shock, "Young lady, in broad daylight, you're openly robbing me!"

Su Liang bent down, drew a knife, and pointed it at Lian Shun, "If the fifth prince sent you, I don't know exactly what he meant. Either make it clear, or don't leave!"

When Lian Shun suddenly introduced himself, Su Liang recognized him as the masked man she had fought with in the alley that day.

After hearing Lian Shun's voice, Su Liang felt she had heard it somewhere before, and then remembered that on the night she and Ning Jing went to rescue Luo Rong, Lian Shun had "drifted" nearby and greeted them.

In this way, Su Liang guessed that Lian Shun had come to the capital city only last night.

And today, it was Duanmu Che who sent Lian Shun to test her.

Because there had been no killing intent during their fight.

About this, Su Liang's only feeling was that Duanmu Che was mentally ill!

She had visited him three times, finally being taken in by Duanmu Che the third time, and eventually had to kneel before Duanmu Che, but she didn't even get a chance to talk normally.

She had given up, but Duanmu Che had come to cause trouble for no reason, it was baffling!

Seeing Su Liang's cold face, Lian Shun sighed, "Forget it, forget it. I don't know why my cousin always suspects that you're fake. He believes in his intuition, and I believe in mine too! How can a spy be so brazen?!" Su Liang was taken aback.

Lian Shun's few words were packed with great information.

It made Su Liang's puzzlement about Duanmu Che suddenly clear!

So he thought Su Liang was an impostor, suspecting her as a spy?!

Seeing Su Liang's reaction, Lian Shun asked earnestly, "Miss Su, are you a spy?"

Su Liang snorted lightly, "I am."

Lian Shun laughed, "You can't joke about such matters. My cousin suspects that you are disguised. I happen to know the Disguise Technique and fought with you to get close to you, I apologize."

Su Liang's heart moved – Disguise Technique? She was very interested in this.

"I went back and told him that you hadn't disguised yourself, and guess what my cousin said? He suspected that you were wearing a human skin mask!" Lian Shun straightforwardly sold out Duanmu Che.

However, to be honest, Su Liang didn't think Duanmu Che was overly suspicious or mentally ill.

After hearing the inside story, she felt that Duanmu Che was just being cautious, which was understandable.

After all, in a certain sense, the current Su Liang was indeed fake, and indeed very different from the original owner.

It was because Qi Yan had checked that the original owner seldom went out in the capital city and knew few people, so Su Liang didn't pretend to be weak on purpose. After all, pretending wasn't a long-term plan, so she just acted as she pleased.

However, her drastic change had been noticed and suspected by someone, and that person was Duanmu Che.

The original owner was saved by Duanmu Che. Although she didn't know the

details, it was clear that Duanmu Che knew the original owner, and his dislike for Su Liang was because of the original owner's behavior.

Seeing Su Liang remaining silent, Lian Shun blinked, "You're not really wearing a human skin mask, are you?"

Su Liang snapped back to reality, and asked in return, "Aren't you afraid that I'm really a spy and will kill you to silence you, now that you've exposed your identity and intentions so easily?"

Lian Shun smiled faintly, "Your cousin knows I came to you. If you kill me, it would be hard to cover up. If you were really a spy, you would do your best to hide your identity."

"I don't have a human skin mask." Su Liang said, rubbing behind her ear and lower jaw a few times, "If you have a human skin mask, name your price, I want to buy one."

Seeing this, Lian Shun nodded, "I believe you. But I don't have such a treasure, and if I did, I wouldn't sell it."

"Is there anything else you need to confirm? I have a birthmark on my body, but your cousin probably doesn't know about it." Su Liang said. She had a plum blossom-shaped birthmark on her right shoulder.

Lian Shun's smile deepened, "That's enough, that's enough! Miss Su, please don't mind. My cousin was born into the royal family, and he has been poisoned several times since he was a child. He even had spies planted by his side to harm him, so he developed a habit of overthinking things!"

Su Liang found that Lian Shun appeared to be flippant on the surface, but was actually very good at talking. Saying Duanmu Che was paranoid was his way of showing goodwill towards her.

Su Liang nodded slightly, "Given the fifth prince's status, he can never be too cautious."

Hearing this, Lian Shun's eyes brightened, and he gave a thumbs up, "Su Xiaoliang, you are truly a magnanimous young lady! I will beat up my cousin for bullying you later!"

"There's no need," Su Liang shook her head, "Is there anything else you need?"

"Yes!" Lian Shun nodded immediately, "My cousin is on the verge of death, and I heard that you cured Old Master Qin's stroke. Can you also save him? No matter what your demands are, I will agree on his behalf. If he dares to disobey, I will sell him to Zuixiang Building!"

A baffled look appeared on Su Liang's face, "Zuixiang Building is...?"

"A small brothel on our side! I'll treat you to a visit when you come to my house! I'll make sure to return your meat buns at that time!" Lian Shun said with a full smile.

Su Liang's mouth twitched slightly, "As long as he's willing, I can treat him."

"Then let's go!" Lian Shun picked up Su Liang's medicine box from the stone table.

Su Liang stood still, "I have one more condition."

Lian Shun chuckled, "Su Xiaoliang, just name your conditions!"

“You have to teach me the Disguise Technique,” Su Liang said. Lian Shun was taken aback for a moment, “Is that all?”

Su Liang nodded, “That’s all.”

Lian Shun’s eyes lit up with joy, “No problem! Anytime!”

“Let’s go.” Now that Su Liang knew the cause of the matter, she had no objection to Duanmu Che and thought they could talk.

Although she was a fake, she wasn’t entirely so. Nobody would know except for her and Ning Jing.

Back to the present.

Su Liang met Duanmu Che again during her fourth visit.

Upon hearing Lian Shun’s words, Duanmu Che showed no intention of coming out, nor did he speak.

Lian Shun rolled up his sleeves, “Su Xiaoliang, Little Cheche’s garden here is quite nice. Let Old Huang take you to have a look! I’ll be in up first before calling you in!”

Huang Bo received Lian Shun’s eye signal and hurriedly walked over, politely saying, “Miss Su, let this old servant take you to the garden for a walk!” “Alright.” Su Liang remained calm and followed Huang Bo away.

Lian Shun entered, closed the door, walked up to Duanmu Che, pretended to slap his face, but suddenly changed direction and mussed up his hair instead.

“Little Cheche, I’ve checked all the boxes. No human skin mask. If she were a spy, I’d cut my head off and let you kick it like a ball!” Lian Shun said.

Duanmu Che frowned, “Are you sure you haven’t been blinded by her beauty and tricked by her?”

Lian Shun glared at Duanmu Che, “Would I harm you? If there were such a capable spy, what’s the point of getting close to you? Your brothers are all fighting for the imperial throne, while you’re just waiting for death!”

Duanmu Che’s face darkened, “How can her transformation in just over a year be explained? It’s impossible.”

Lian Shun said irritably, “What kind of explanation do you want? A young girl, once weak and protected, loses her memory after her family is destroyed. Can’t she change and become a new person? Does a woman have to be weak and unable to stand on her own to be normal? I think you’re the abnormal one! It’s okay that you’re cautious, but you’ve never lived outside the capital city, and your experience is too limited! Just because you can’t do something, doesn’t mean others can’t! What’s impossible for ordinary people isn’t necessarily impossible for everyone!”

Duanmu Che’s face stiffened, “I never thought women had to be weak.”

“Don’t deny it, you’re just prejudiced against her.” Lian Shun sighed, “In any case, if her appearance is correct, she is the real Su Liang.”

Duanmu Che fell into a long silence.

Lian Shun leaned back on the soft couch, closed his eyes as if napping, not urging him to make a decision.

“If she really is Su Liang, and she has the skills she has now, someone must be cultivating her behind the scenes. Su Liang might still become a spy.” Duanmu Che spoke again, presenting a new view.

Lian Shun covered his face with both hands and sighed, “Little Cheche, who scared you like this? People can occasionally have more trust in each other. The only thing you should consider now is how to survive! With the way you look now, she doesn’t have to harm you, you don’t have much longer to live! Are you still afraid of her treating you?”

Duanmu Che fell silent again and after a while said, “Before my health improves, I won’t agree to any of her terms.”

Lian Shun stood up and snorted, “Little Cheche, you’re so stubborn that it’s infuriating! If you weren’t my brother, I would’ve beaten you up already! Mark my words, you will regret this.”

He left the room after speaking, “I’m going to get Su Xiaoliang to come in and give you an acupuncture treatment! She’s a good person, not holding a grudge for what you did earlier. If you still don’t trust her, that’s up to you, but keep your mouth shut.. If you can’t speak properly, don’t speak at all! If you offend her again, I won’t help you!”

Chapter 146: 146. Suddenly becoming so well-behaved

The darkness had completely set in.

When Lin Shun found Su Liang, she was standing by the Garden Lake, gazing at the water’s surface.

Huang Bo was by her side, presumably speaking about something.

“Su Xiaoliang!” Lin Shun’s voice was filled with joy as he addressed her.

Upon hearing this, she turned around and saw a pair of radiant eyes and a set of neat white teeth, all under the cover of the night.

If she were asked to describe him in two words, she would say “sunshine”.

Among all the young men she had come to know since her transmigration, only Lin Shun emanated an inherent pleasant cheerfulness.

When Su Liang walked over, Lin Shun said, “Little Cheche believes that you are the real you.”

Su Liang looked indifferent, replying, “But?”

Lin Shun laughed heartily, “How did you know there was a ‘but’?”

Su Liang shrugged, “Intuition.”

“But he thinks that even if you are the real Su Liang, you might have been trained as a spy over the past year or so,” Lin Shun stated honestly, keeping nothing hidden.

Su Liang’s reaction was as he expected; she calmly said three words, “Makes sense.”

"I knew it! Su Xiaoliang, you are not as naive as my stupid younger brother!"

Lin Shun laughed heartily, "You'll treat him first. I'll teach you the Disguise Technique as a payment for treatment. We'll look into other matters once he has had some time to think, okay?"

"Does he agree?" Su Liang questioned.

Lin Shun nodded, "Absolutely, he always listens to me!"

Su Liang was silent, smiling.

The next time she saw Duanmu Che, his eyes were locked onto Su Liang, loaded with inquiries. He was silent, yet agreeable.

Su Liang had initially planned to abandon the idea of collaborating with Duanmu Che, but with the changes in the circumstances, she no longer sought any immediate answers. She treated him as mute.

After finishing with the acupuncture treatment, Su Liang instructed Huang Bo to administer the medicinal diet recipe she had prescribed. She encouraged him to follow the dietary restrictions she had mentioned as well.

"Master Lin had instructed us to prepare the medicine early in the morning!" Huang Bo said.

Duanmu Che frowned looking at Lin Shun and remained silent.

Huang Bo then presented the Medicinal Diet Recipe that Duanmu Chen had sent earlier, asking Su Liang if there was any problem with it.

On examining it, Su Liang saw that it was a copy of the one she had given to Qin Yujin, copied by Duanmu Chen.

Unsurprising.

She picked out two that were suitable for Duanmu Che's body's current condition.

"Are there issues with the remaining ones?" Huang Bo asked with a serious expression.

Su Liang shook her head, "No issues. It's just not suitable for your master's current weak health. He can use it when he gets better."

Huang Bo was naturally cautious about anything that came from Duanmu Chen, but Su Liang's response surprised him. It seemed like Duanmu Chen hadn't tampered with anything.

The diet recommended by Duanmu Chen, unsuitable for Duanmu Che's current condition, didn't signify anything, given that Duanmu Chen wasn't a doctor.

"It's getting late, so I'll take my leave now. I'll be back the day after tomorrow at noon." After preparing her medicinal kit, Su Liang took her leave.

Lin Shun requested her to stay for dinner.

"I'm not hungry," Su Liang shook her head.

Without pressuring her, Lin Shun said, "It's so late, you being outside alone is dangerous. Let me walk you home!"

Su Liang declined his offer politely, but Lin Shun still followed her out.

"Su Xiaoliang, how did you come across Ning Jing?" Lin Shun asked out of curiosity.

Su Liang shook her head and replied, "No comment."

"If he gets married, or if you get married, the two of you would split up, right?" Lin Shun asked again.

Su Liang replied with a question, "Have you never thought of the possibility that the two of us might end up together?"

Lin Shun smiled, "If there are mutual feelings, then you two wouldn't be sworn siblings."

Su Liang nodded, "Indeed."

"So what kind of man do you like?" Lin Shun asked. Offhand, Su Liang said, "Someone who is pleasing to the eyes." A large face came close to Su Liang's, "Look at me."

Su Liang moved away and shook her head, "Far from it."

Lin Shun laughed out loud, "Oh Su Xiaoliang, my feelings are hurt! This is the first time someone has called me ugly!"

Su Liang: ...So, he's hurt but still laughing? Sure.

Obviously, Lin Shun wasn't ugly. At first sight, he might not be as delicate as Duanmu Che, but he had an enduring charm. With his cheerful demeanor, being outgoing yet discreet, talkative yet not noisy, Su Liang felt that apart from Ning Jing, Lin Shun was the most comfortable male person to be around.

After asking a few questions, Lin Shun didn't inquire any further about Su Liang's affairs and began talking about himself.

It could be considered as a 'tit-for-tat'.

As they neared Su Mansion, Lin Shun suddenly resignedly said, "Su Xiaoliang, today upon seeing you, I understand the phrase 'familiar at the first meet'."

Su Liang moved forward to open the door, waved at Lin Shun, and said, "Get ready, tomorrow when I visit the prince's mansion, you will teach me the Disguise Technique."

Lin Shun looked up at the sky, sighed deeply, "Alright. Are you sure you don't feel the same way?"

Without getting any response, he heard the sound of the main gate closing.

As Lin Shun turned to leave, he heard Su Liang's voice from inside the gate, "Not yet."

The corner of Lin Shun's mouth lifted and he hummed a song, disappearing into the night.

As Ning Jing was not at home, Su Liang read till late. Then, she slept in until daybreak. After waking up and doing her morning workout, she prepared a light meal and secluded herself with her books again.

A lot of the books were gifted by Xing Ji. They covered various subjects and were all previous collections of Bei Jingwang Mansion.

By noon, Su Liang made a bowl of noodles. After eating, she packed her medicine box and set off.

Upon reaching the prince's mansion, Huang Bo politely let her in and informed her that Duanmu Che had slept better last night after taking the medicine he had been prescribed. Also, the signs of coughing up blood that had started showing a few days back didn't occur today.

For Huang Bo, what mattered was healing Duanmu Che. Everything else was secondary.

When Su Liang saw Duanmu Che, she noticed Lian Shun was not present. However, she didn't ask about him.

After she had checked Duanmu Che's pulse and administered acupuncture, she still did not ask how he felt, maintaining an eerily calm demeanor.

"Su Xiaoliang!" Lian Shun walked in briskly. "Little Cheche, you look much better today, but you're still ugly. Take your medicine properly, so you can become handsome and find a wife!"

Duanmu Che turned his wheelchair around, signaling that he did not wish to engage with him.

When silence fell again, Duanmu Che turned back to find that both Lian Shun and Su Liang had disappeared.

"Master Lin is teaching Miss Su the Disguise Technique. They have been preparing for it early in the morning. Miss Su just went to Master Lin," Huang Bo said.

Duanmu Che snorted coldly, "And they say he's not smitten by beauty?"

Being knowledgeable about medicine, Su Liang picked up the technique quickly.

Lian Shun praised her for having a nimble mind and skillful hands.

Secretly, Su Liang compared herself to someone else and found herself lacking.

She wondered how the Great God Ning was doing in the Examination Hall. After the tests, she planned to take the opportunity to visit the examination site.

Lian Shun noticed Su Liang drifting off, "Su Xiaoliang, what are you thinking about?"

Still handling the medicinal herbs, Su Liang replied, "Nothing."

In half a day, she had already grasped the recipe for the Disguise Medicine and successfully concocted it herself.

As the sun set, she left the Fifth Prince's Mansion carrying a vial of the Disguise Medicine she had made.

Lian Shun had intended to accompany her, but when Huang Bo said that Duanmu Che was looking for him, Su Liang decided to leave on her own.

She stopped at the Wan Family Restaurant on her way home and had her dinner before finally returning home.



The final day of the Challenge Contest coincided with the final day of the imperial examination.

Su Liang didn't go to watch, she was too busy with her own affairs.

The biggest difference from before was, she found cooking to be a waste of time when she was alone, unwilling to exert much effort, especially having to feed the fire herself. She would often forget to add wood. It used to be a task for Ning Jing.

That day, Su Liang went to the Fifth Prince's Mansion to administer acupuncture to Duanmu Che as usual. There was very little conversation between the two and they tried their best to avoid eye contact.

After that, Su Liang went to learn the techniques of Disguise from Lian Shun.

After Lian Shun explained for a while, Su Liang was still confused, "Do I need to try it on a human face?"

"Me," Lian Shun pinched his own face.

Su Liang warned in advance, "I'm new to this. If I ruin your face..."

Lian Shun confidently said, "I trust you. You can definitely succeed on the first try! Go ahead!"

Just as Su Liang was about to apply the Disguise Medicine on Lian Shun's face, Huang Bo came in to serve tea.

He intended to set it down and leave, but was stopped by Su Liang.

"Huang Bo, could you bring me a fish?" Su Liang asked.

Huang Bo was taken aback. The other day while showing Su Liang around the garden, he had mentioned that they had raised many fat fish in the lake. Duanmu Che, however, didn't like eating fish.

"You like fish?" Lian Shun asked.

Grasping the situation, Huang Bo quickly agreed, "Alright, I will get a fish right away!"

Lian Shun wanted to ask more, but Su Liang asked him to shut his mouth, close his eyes, and keep his face steady because she was starting.

Lian Shun could feel Su Liang applying the medicine onto his face. Her touch was firm, avoiding any suggestiveness.

He forgot to ask Su Liang what appearance she intended to change him into, and was full of expectation.

After some time, Lian Shun couldn't help but ask, "Are you done?" Su Liang took two steps back to examine her work, and then nodded, "Not bad."

As soon as Lian Shun opened his eyes, he rushed to find a bronze mirror, curious to see the fruits of Su Liang's debut in using the Disguise Technique.

Shocked, Lian Shun stared at the beautiful face reflected in the mirror...

"You... You... You turned me into a woman?!" made him utterly surprised.

He had been thinking that for Su Liang's first makeover, the resulting face would be one that she likes.

Well, now he knows, Su Liang never takes the conventional route!

"How is it?" Su Liang asked, quite satisfied with her work.

Holding up the mirror, studying his reflection from different angles, and touching his own face, Lian Shun objectively pointed out Su Liang's deficiencies in her technique. However, he approved of her first use of the Disguise Technique. Then, he pulled at his hair and said, "If you would do my hair, I'll be even more beautiful!"

Noticing it was getting dark, Su Liang suddenly remembered that Ning Jing should have finished his exam by now. As promised, she was going to cook him a delicious meal when he returned home...

Seeing Su Liang hastily packing up, Lian Shun invited her to stay for dinner again. He mentioned that he also liked fish and they could eat together.

"You can have dinner with your cousin," Su Liang said as she picked up her medicine box and left.

As someone entered the courtyard, Huang Bo appeared first, carrying two fat fishes. Behind him was a familiar figure – was it not Ning Jing?

"Miss Su, Master Ning is here to see you," Huang Bo said with a smile.

Following him out, Lian Shun's eyes narrowed slightly as he glanced at Ning Jing.

Ning Jing also noticed Lian Shun standing behind Su Liang.

Huang Bo looked astounded, "Master Lin? What happened to you?"

With a chill, Lian Shun walked up to Su Liang and said in a falsetto voice, "Who can I blame when Su Xiaoliang's Disguise Technique is so good? For her first try, my face is her masterpiece! All in all, I taught her well!"

"Su Liang," Ning Jing called her.

Carrying her medicine box, Su Liang quickly walked towards him, "I am sorry, I lost track of time. I am about to go home and cook for you!" As she said this, she took the two fishes from Huang Bo, not forgetting to thank him.

Ning Jing's gaze lowered to the two live fish twisting in her hands.

"For sweet and sour fish?" Su Liang asked.

Ning Jing took Su Liang's medicine box from her and nodded slightly,

"Mm-hmm."

The two left shoulder to shoulder, leaving an oddly expressionless Lian Shun behind.

"Huang Bo, why did the lady become so obedient when she saw Ning Jing? She even wants to go back to cook fish for him?" Lian Shun asked, his tone sour.

Huang Bo laughed and answered, "Obviously, she must likes Master Ning!"

Chapter 147: 147. It's up to you

The night wind was slightly cool, and the streets were sparsely populated.

"How did you do on the test?" Su Liang asked, then immediately realized it was a pointless question. Imitating Ning Jing's tone, she asks and answers herself, 'We'll have to wait for the results to be posted.'

"Didn't you say you weren't going to see Duanmu Che anymore?" Ning Jing glanced at Su Liang.

Su Liang looked serious, "Let me explain."

After telling the whole story, she asked Ning Jing, "Do you think I should heal Duanmu Che?"

Ning Jing's expression was indifferent, "If he continues to be disrespectful and reverts to his previous state, he'll bring it upon himself."

Su Liang smiled, "That's what I thought too!"

She knew that Ning Jing was always reasonable, and after knowing the truth, he wouldn't stop her from healing Duanmu Che.

Not only because Duanmu Che had saved the Original Master, but to find out the truth and avenge the Su Family, they also needed Duanmu Che to be alive.

It can't be said that Duanmu Che was wrong, or even stupid, for suspecting Su Liang as a spy. From his point of view and position, it was normal.

However, after harboring suspicions about Su Liang, Duanmu Che's inexplicable attitude towards her showed that he was somewhat indecisive in his character.

Since he had doubts, why did he wait until the Military Exam finals to expose her?

If he had suspicions, he should have investigated them sooner to avoid complications arising from delays.

Thus, Su Liang could only say that Duanmu Che was overly cautious in his thinking and insufficiently cautious in his actions.

He thought too much but didn't act decisively enough.

If Su Liang were indeed a spy, and if she sensed Duanmu Che's suspicions, it was possible for her to "make him sick" sooner. In comparison, Lian Shun was much more straightforward.

"Have you learned the Disguise Technique?" Ning Jing asked.

Su Liang nodded, "I've got the basics down, but I need to practice more! Want me to try it on your face?"

As soon as she finished speaking, she realized the problem, “You’d have to show your true identity for it to work.” Ning Jing simply responded with a word: “No.” Su Liang: .

“Never mind, I’ll try it on myself.” Su Liang said.

Returning home, both of them entered the kitchen together.

Ning Jing was preparing fish, occasionally adding wood to the stove. Su Liang couldn’t help but exclaim, “This is what partners in life do.”

One of the fish was made into squirrel fish by Su Liang, while the other one was kept in a basin to be eaten the next day.

Due to limited conditions, the color was far from ideal, but the fish was fresh, and the taste was good.

The two of them had a meal with another vegetarian dish and a soup.

That night, Su Liang used the Disguise Technique on herself before the mirror.

After finishing, she went out and saw that the light was still on in Ning Jing’s room. She called him out.

He had taken a bath once after returning from the test and had taken another one after preparing the fish at night. His hair was still wet and hung behind his head. Seeing Su Liang, his clear and cold eyes sparkled.

Su Liang, post-disguise, still looked like a woman, but her facial features had changed, making her look open, gracious, and full of heroic spirit.

“How is it?” Su Liang asked.

Ning Jing countered, “Is this your original appearance?”

Su Liang smiled, “You guessed it again.”

Ning Jing nodded slightly, giving his evaluation, “Beautiful.”

Su Liang chuckled and bowed, “Thank you for the Great God’s affirmation!”

“What was your original name?” Ning Jing asked.

Su Liang shook her head, “I won’t tell you.”

She knew Ning Jing’s real name but not his true appearance.

Ning Jing had seen Su Liang’s true appearance, so Su Liang decided not to tell him her original name.

This was only fair.

Ning Jing seemed to see what Su Liang was thinking, his expression indifferent, “Never mind.”

On the following day, their friends all came to their house.

Xing Yusheng went to pick up Lin Xueqing, and Lin Shuzhi also came along.

Qin Yujin directly brought Old Master Qin with him.

The weather was nice, and when the old master saw his granddaughter going out, he said he wanted to come along when he found out it was to Ning Jing and Su Liang's house.

Wan Hui and Lu Yu came with Zhengzheng, and seeing so many people, with no cook in the house, Wan Hui instructed her maid to order dishes from a restaurant to be delivered at noon.

Su Liang didn't stand on ceremony with them and just told everyone to make themselves at home.

Old Master Qin and Lin Shuzhi sat by the Garden Lake fishing, with Xing Yusheng accompanying them, occasionally turning his head to look at Lin Xueqing in the pavilion.

"You young people go have fun, I'll watch over Old Qin." Lin Shuzhi saw that his future son-in-law was restless, so he spoke up.

Old Master Qin cheerfully patted his grandson, "Go on! "

Only then did Xing Yusheng get up and go find Lin Xueqing.

As Lin Shuzhi and Old Master Qin chatted, Old Master Qin suddenly asked,

"Your second child is coming back soon, right?"

Lin Shuzhi smiled and nodded, "In the next three or five days." "That child is excellent." Old Master Qin said with a smile.

Lin Shuzhi immediately understood Old Master Qin's meaning.

As for his two sons, Old Master Qin, such a shrewd man, wouldn't just praise Lin Bojun if he only wanted to compliment someone.

Now that Lin Bojun is mentioned specifically, Lin Shuzhi feels that the Qin family also intends to form a matrimonial alliance.

As Qin Yujin's grandfather, Old Master Qin didn't speak explicitly, but Lin Shuzhi got the hint. He was thinking of sending a matchmaker to propose after Lin Bojun returns.

Although there is a disparity between the two families' status, Lin Shuzhi doesn't feel that his son is inferior to others.

He previously thought such a marriage wouldn't be possible because Lin Xueqing found out that Qin Yujin was fond of Nian Jincheng. But things are different now.

The other day, Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing went to Huguo Temple to fulfill their vows. Lin Xueqing happily said that this time, Qin Yujin had mentioned Lin

Bojun in front of the Buddha first.

Wan Hui wanted Su Liang to give some pointers on Lu Yu's martial arts, while Ning Jing, holding Zhengzheng, sat nearby to watch their practice.

"Go, Auntie!"

Wan Hui said that her husband would certainly be heartbroken.

Lu Yu lost.

Su Liang pointed out the problems in his moves with great sensitivity, and after a short while, they continued to spar.

She then demonstrated to Lu Yu how to use those martial arts training tools.

Wan Hui said she wanted to set up a training ground at home, too.

The food was delivered from the restaurant, and Wan Hui, Su Liang, Qin Yujin, and Lin Xueqing each cooked a dish in the kitchen.

Su Liang turned the fish brought back yesterday from the Fifth Prince's Mansion into braised fish.

Old Master Qin praised Lin Xueqing, and Lin Shuzhi praised Qin Yujin.

Su Liang felt that when Lin Bojun came back, his marriage with Qin Yujin would be put on the agenda.

In the afternoon, guests started to leave one after another, and Su Liang needed to give Duanmu Che acupuncture treatments.

"I'll go." Ning Jing said.

Su Liang shook her head, "No, it's not because of Duanmu Che, it's Lian Shun. He's good at disguise and knows about human skin masks. I'm afraid he'll find out that your face is fake."

"He'd have to be very close to me, touching the edge, to possibly discover it," Ning Jing said.

Su Liang thought it made sense. That day, Lian Shun deliberately fought her in close proximity to verify her disguise, but he couldn't confirm whether she was wearing a human skin mask, so he came back again.

It was also Su Liang who later rubbed her ears and jaw to prove that there was no anomaly.

By the way, Su Liang had been living with Ning Jing for more than half a year, and she hadn't found any flaws in his mask to this day.

With this thought in mind, Su Liang gave the medicine box to Ning Jing and told him the acupuncture methods for Duanmu Che.

"You go then." Su Liang said.

When it was time, Duanmu Che looked out the window.

Huang Bo smiled and said, "Miss Su should be here soon. It's only been three days, and Master's body has improved. Don't think too much." As soon as his words fell, a guard led Ning Jing into their sight.

There was no one else following.

"Master Ning, isn't Miss Su coming?" Huang Bo asked.

"I'm here in her place," Ning Jing said.

Huang Bo was surprised that Ning Jing also knew medical skills, and he looked at Duanmu Che, only to see him frown.

Huang Bo sensed that the atmosphere was off, so he invited Ning Jing inside first and hurriedly went to find Lian Shun.

“What? Su Xiaoliang isn’t coming? Ning Jing is here in her place?” Lian Shun was very surprised.

He came over and saw Duanmu Che and Ning Jing sitting silently, like two statues.

“Master Ning, I’m Lian Shun.” Lian Shun politely greeted, “Is Su Xiaoliang not feeling well

Ning Jing shook his head, “She’s not available.”

Duanmu Chen snorted coldly, “What a big shelf!”

Ning Jing remained calm and got up to leave

Lian Shun hurriedly pulled Ning Jing back, “He didn’t mean that! Don’t misunderstand!”

Ning Jing stopped and heard Lian Shun say to Duanmu Che, “Don’t forget what you promised me!”

Duanmu Chen remained silent with a stern face.

After finishing the acupuncture, Ning Jing left, and Lian Shun escorted him out before asking if Su Liang taught him his medical skills.

“Don’t call her that way.” Ning Jing said.

Lian Shun was stunned for a moment, realizing that Ning Jing was referring to the word “Xiao.” He laughed, “She doesn’t mind.”

“Others might misunderstand,” Ning Jing said.

Lian Shun’s smile seemed mocking, “If Master Ning doesn’t intend to marry her and insists on living with her, aren’t you afraid of others misunderstanding?”

Ning Jing’s face was calm, “It’s her who insisted on living with me.”

Lian Shun: .

When Ning Jing returned home, Su Liang was reading in her room. Hearing the noise, she didn’t come out but asked through the door if there had been any conflict with Duanmu Che.

Ning Jing said there wasn’t.

“Lian Shun thinks that me not marrying you and living together will cause others to misunderstand. What do you think?” Ning Jing asked.

Without lifting her head, Su Liang said, “Just say that it’s me who insists on living with you. Who said I have to get married? Will you get married in the future?”

Ning Jing shook his head, “I don’t have any plans for that.”

Su Liang sighed, “It’s not easy to find another partner who doesn’t need to hide secrets and live more comfortably. I don’t want to cook for myself either. You’ll do..”

Chapter 148: 148. You Are Not Yet of Legal Age

The civil examinations and the military examinations have both ended, and in five days, the examination results will be announced, followed by the final showdown of the martial arts competition the next day.

In this term's martial arts competition, the most eye-catching ones are the two young ladies.

They have maintained an unbeaten record all the way to the finals, becoming the leading contenders for the top three spots.

Various bets have sprung up in the capital city's gambling houses surrounding Su Liang and Nian Ruxue's final results in the martial arts competition.

At first, it was only about who would win when the two of them faced off.

But now there are bets on whether Su Liang will become the Martial Arts Champion or whether Nian Ruxue will become the Martial Arts Champion.

As well as whether the Martial Arts Champion of this term will be a man or a woman.

Xing Yusheng bet on all Su Liang-related gambling options, believing in the outcome that Su Liang would definitely become the Martial Arts Champion.

In the past two days, someone who bet the same way as Xing Yusheng was Lian Shun, who had just arrived in the capital city not long ago and had already become acquainted with Su Liang.

When Ning Jing saw Duanmu Che for another acupuncture treatment, Duanmu Che stayed silent, while Lian Shun sat by their side, smiling silently.

After Huang Bo sent Ning Jing away, Duanmu Che said coldly, "Does Su Liang think that by doing this, I won't suspect her of being a spy? I'm starting to suspect that she and Ning Jing were both sent to the capital under someone else's orders!"

Lian Shun rolled his eyes, "Little Cheche, just because you were born in the

Royal Family doesn't mean we have to understand your paranoid suspicions. Why do you think Su Xiaoliang wouldn't come and treat you personally? It's because she doesn't even want to see you! It's affecting me as well; I can't see her, and yet you still have the nerve to speak?"

Duanmu Che's expression stiffened, "She also asked me to tell her about what happened before!"

"Indeed, she had asked you and gave you some face, but you just refused," Lian Shun shook his head and sighed.

Duanmu Che sneered, "I think you've been bewitched by her!"

Lian Shun held his face and sighed deeply, "Yes! I've been completely bewitched by that little girl; I've never met such an adorable young lady before!"

Duanmu Che looked displeased, "You... You really have fallen for her?"

Lian Shun nodded without hesitation, "Why not? Don't tell me you're actually interested in her but don't want to admit it, and that's why you're acting so awkward. I can see that you don't like Ning Jing very much."



Without any hesitation, Duanmu Che refuted, "Nonsense! How could I possibly be interested in her? Ridiculous!"

"I hope not," said Lian Shun seriously, "Otherwise, I wouldn't let you."

"Are you serious?" Duanmu Che looked at Lian Shun incredulously.

Lian Shun smiled slightly, "Of course. You don't approve? That's unimportant." "Can't you see that she and Ning Jing are unclear?" Duanmu Che said coldly.

Lian Shun shook his head, "As far as I know, they are sworn siblings, and I believe it. Since they are not a couple, I can pursue her!"

"I don't agree!" Duanmu Che frowned.

Lian Shun walked over, ruffled Duanmu Che's hair and then walked out, "You're my cousin, not my father. Moreover, my father wouldn't even interfere in my matters."

When Huang Bo came back in, he saw that Duanmu Che was still angry.

He didn't know what had happened, so he heard Duanmu Che ask, "Do you think Lian Shun has fallen for Su Liang?"

Huang Bo was stunned for a moment and nodded, "It seems to be headed in that direction. Master Lin talks about Su Liang all the time, and he's very disappointed whenever it's only Master Ning that comes. By the way, Master

Lin just went out, saying he was looking for Su Liang."

Duanmu Che walked into his room with a somber face.

Ning Jing had just returned home when Lian Shun showed up.

He didn't go through the front door but came secretly.

At the moment, Su Liang was baking some cookies for Zhengzheng in the kitchen. Ning Jing made a few cute little animal molds for it.

"Su Xiaoliang!"

Lian Shun called out as he stood in the courtyard.

Ning Jing came out and asked, "What brings you here?"

Lian Shun's attitude was very friendly as he smiled and cupped his hands, "Master Ning, I'm sorry for the intrusion, but I just remembered that there are some more points about the Disguise Technique that I forgot to tell Su Xiaoliang."

"Wait a moment," Su Liang's voice came from the kitchen.

Lian Shun smiled at Ning Jing and walked towards the kitchen door. He saw Su Liang, wearing an apron and busy with her work, while an enticing sweet aroma filled the air.

"Wow! Su Xiaoliang, what delicious treats have you made?" Lian Shun was about to enter the kitchen to take a look.

A flash of green shadow passed by, and Ning Jing entered the kitchen before Lian Shun.

Lian Shun's eyes narrowed slightly. He didn't even notice when Ning Jing had approached...

"Alright." Su Liang divided the cookies into two portions, "This part is for Zhengzheng, and that part is for you."

"Mm," Ning Jing took them and prepared the cookies.

"What about mine?" Lian Shun asked softly.

Su Liang took off her apron, washed her hands and went outside, "Isn't your cousin feeding you well?"

Lian Shun's gaze lingered on Ning Jing's slender figure for a moment, then quickly turned back, smiling, "I'm just curious about the taste of the dessert you made. Can't I taste it?"

"Maybe next time," Su Liang shook her head.

This had nothing to do with hospitality.

These cookies were prepared specifically for Zhengzheng. Ning Jing also wanted to eat them and picked his favorite star-shaped molds, only wanting that kind.

Su Liang didn't even leave any for herself.

She didn't think it was appropriate to ask Ning Jing to share his snacks with an uninvited guest she wasn't familiar with.

Lian Shun sighed, "Alright. Can you make some for me next time?"

Su Liang shook her head, "It's not tasty. Don't get your hopes up."

Lian Shun: ...So she meant 'next time' as a way to brush him off. It's not tasty, yeah right!

Su Liang asked Lian Shun to sit in the courtyard, and she went to her room to get the medicine box.

"I thought we were friends. You won't even invite me in for a chat?" Lian Shun clearly felt Su Liang's aloofness.

Su Liang shook her head, "It's my bedroom. It's not appropriate."

However, the next moment, Ning Jing, who had come out of the kitchen with the desserts, first entered Su Liang's room, took a book out, and then returned to his own room.

Lian Shun: ...Was that boy showing off his privilege on purpose after hearing Su Liang's words?

"Need a demonstration?" Su Liang asked.

Lian Shun came to his senses and started talking about Disguise Technique with Su Liang. He had come prepared.

After Su Liang took notes, she asked how Duanmu Che had been doing these past few days.

"Much better than before, at least he's not vomiting blood anymore." Lian Shun smiled, "Thanks to you!"

"Does he still suspect I'm a spy?" Su Liang asked.

If he had dismissed his suspicions, Duanmu Che should have come to discuss important matters with her.

Lian Shun looked helpless, "I don't know why he's so prejudiced against you. Give him some time. He'll come around."

"I heard you say before that the fifth prince originally planned to verify the identities of Nian Ruxue and me on the day of the Military Exam finals." Su Liang said.

Lian Shun nodded, "That's not necessary now." "No." Su Liane smiled. "It's very necessary."

Lian Shun was stunned, and after a moment, his expression turned strange, "That Miss Nian, who's always dressed like a man and wearing a mask. Could it be... the real impostor is her?"

Su Liang shrugged, "I just have my suspicions. I don't have any evidence."

Lian Shun's eyes lit up, "Then let Little Cheche carry out the original plan!"

He seemed to be looking forward to someone getting exposed. Lian Shun asked if Su Liang had any enmity with Nian Ruxue.

"There's indeed a bit of that." Su Liang said.

Lian Shun patted his chest, promising to take care of this matter. If the Nian Ruxue participating in the Military Exam was a fake, he'd make her show her true colors!

"If you and Young Master Ning both achieve good results in the Imperial Examinations, do you plan to stay in the capital city to work?" Lian Shun asked.

"Who knows what tomorrow holds." Su Liang replied with an evasive remark.

Lian Shun told Duanmu Che that he intended to pursue Su Liang, but he didn't express his feelings today.

Although he seemed carefree on the surface, he was not impulsive. He felt that his understanding of Su Liang was not enough yet, and he knew very well that confessing now would definitely be rejected, and they might not even remain friends.

"Are you done talking?" Ning Jing asked from the corridor.

He had already changed his clothes and was holding a dessert box for Zhengzheng in his hand.

Su Liang stood up, "Yes, we're done. Please leave if you have nothing else, Master Lin. I have an appointment with someone and need to go out."

Lian Shun knew that it was Wan Family's grandson, the little boy called

Zhengzheng. He had seen him at the Battle Arena, and he was very cute.

"Alright," Lian Shun smiled, "Don't ignore me just because of my cousin. After all, I'm also your master in Disguise Technique."

Su Liang shook her head, "I won't."

With that, Lian Shun got up and left.

Ning Jing and Su Liang left together to meet Zhengzheng.

Su Liang teased Ning Jing, "Did you enter my room on purpose, just to show off to Lian Shun?"

Although they usually could go back and forth between each other's rooms, Ning Jing wouldn't enter Su Liang's room unless necessary.

"Yep." Ning Jing admitted without hesitation, "He is interested in you."

Su Liang facepalmed, "How did you know? He's just outgoing and enthusiastic towards everyone. We've only known each other for a few days. You're overthinking it. "

"He's not enthusiastic towards me." Ning Jing said. Su Liang coughed softly, "That's because you're a man." "Exactly because I'm a man." Ning Jing replied.

"So you, being a man, know better what he's thinking?" Su Liang was speechless, "Am I not allowed to have friends?"

Ning Jing shook his head slightly, "Having friends is fine, but not romantic relationships. You're not of age yet. You said it yourself, before eighteen, one is immature both physically and mentally."

Su Liang was simply dumbfounded.

Listening to Ning Jing's tone, he sounded like someone from the new era who had crossed over.

Su Liang couldn't help but mutter under her breath, "You're acting as if you're my dad or something.."

Chapter 149:149. Sister misses you so much

Ning Jing's footsteps faltered as she looked at Su Liang, her brows furrowing slightly, 'You once said that I resembled your son.'

Su Liang laughed outright.

Indeed. Back in Bei'an County, when Ning Jing went to take the exam, Su Liang prepared food for her, saying it felt like sending her son to sit for the National College Entrance Exam.

And now she was complaining that Ning Jing was being bossy like an old father.

"What do you think I really am like?" Ning Jing asked. She had let Su Liang say anything she wanted, one moment being like a son and another like a father? Could it still be possible?

Su Liang coughed lightly, "To be serious, we are brothers."

As they walked, Ning Jing suddenly said, "If you don't like me meddling in your affairs, just tell me."

Su Liang shook her head, "No, I was just joking. We are living together, supporting each other, and taking care of each other, as we should. I just didn't realize Lian Shun had feelings for me. If it's true, I would have to use you as a shield to discourage him, just the same. But your behavior today... is too childish."

Ning Jing snorted lightly, “Childish like your father?”

Su Liang was rendered speechless.

As they walked, Ning Jing asked again, “Why discourage Lian Shun? Just because you’re young?”

Su Liang shook her head, “My physical age is indeed too young, but my mental age is older than all of you. That is a reason, but not the whole thing. I think his personality is quite good, and if his character is not a problem, he can be a friend. But love is not something I want to think about right now, no matter who it is, I would discourage it.”

“What if someone makes you fall in love?” Ning Jing asked.

Su Liang laughed, “Well, that would be a different story. I haven’t experienced love in either of my two lifetimes, so I’m looking forward to it. If there really is such a person, I might even take the initiative to pursue them.”

“What if they refuse?” Ning Jing asked.

Su Liang said with a smile, “If they don’t agree, so be it! The next person will be even better!”

Ning Jing nodded, “I’m looking forward to it. Which man will be able to make you fall in love.”

Su Liang laughed lightly, “I’m more curious about which girl will make the great Ning feel mortal love.”

When Lian Shun returned to the Fifth Prince’s Mansion, he went straight to Duanmu Che.

Duanmu Che had just taken his medicine and felt groggy, about to lie down to rest. Seeing Lian Shun coming in, he sat up again and asked, ‘You’re already back? Were you rejected?’

Lian Shun shook his head and sat down beside the bed, holding his arms, lost in thought.

“Are you trapped by love?” Duanmu Che frowned.

Lian Shun knocked on Duanmu Che’s forehead, “What do you know about love traps? We’re grown-ups, what’s there to be stuck about? I just feel that I know too little about her to know how to pursue her.”

Lian Shun nodded, “On this point, I agree with you, but not completely. She does have a secret, but it’s definitely not that she’s being controlled by someone and acting as a spy.”

“What do you want to do?” Duanmu Che asked.

Lian Shun pushed Duanmu Che down, “What are you meddling in, Little Cheche? Hurry up and sleep! Oh right, that thing we talked about earlier, proceed as planned!”

“What thing?” Duanmu Che asked.

“On the day of the Military Exam finals, verify Nian Ruxue and Su Xiaoliang’s identities.” Lian Shun stood up.

Duanmu Che hesitated, “Didn’t you say Su Liang is real...?” His eyes narrowed,

“Could it be that Nian Ruxue is fake?”

“Aren’t you a patriot who hates spies the most? The opportunity to prove yourself has arrived!” Lian Shun grinned.

“Su Liang said Nian Ruxue is fake? How did she know?” Duanmu Che asked.

Lian Shun seemed deep in thought, “According to Old Huang, that day at

Huguo Temple, Su Xiaoliang hit that lewd Duanmu Ao, and as a result, Nian Ruxue was given as a marriage prize to Duanmu Ao the next day. Something must have happened between them, and it must be Nian Ruxue who was in the wrong!”

“With no evidence, you’re really blinded by Su Liang!” Duanmu Che said.

“Evidence? It’s easy, just wait for you to find out. Su Xiaoliang relied on her true ability to participate in the Military Exam. If Nian Ruxue is impersonated, which greedy person would resort to any means, and not be obvious at a glance?” Lian Shun snorted.

Duanmu Che’s drowsiness surged and he quickly fell into a deep sleep.

Lian Shun scratched his head, “Su Xiaoliang is too mysterious, and that Ning Jing, he’s just rich and very good-looking, what’s there to be smug about? I wish I had known earlier to join the Military Exam too! I always feel that something is odd about those two...”

As Nian Ruxue rose to fame in the Military Exam, Second Prince Duanmu Ao grew even more enthusiastic about her, visiting her at the Nian Family every now and then.

The members of the Nian Family naturally didn’t dare to stop him, and had to take care of him carefully.

Today, when the servant reported that Duanmu Ao had arrived again, Nian Ruxue’s face changed drastically.

But when Duanmu Ao saw Nian Ruxue, she changed her previous polite and distant demeanor, dressing up carefully and smilingly stepping forward to salute.

Duanmu Ao quickly dismissed the servant and entered the room alone with Nian Ruxue.

“You’ve figured it out?” Duanmu Ao’s gaze was deep and mysterious, as he fixed his eyes on Nian Ruxue’s chest, his throat rolling.

Nian Ruxue smiled softly, “Second Prince, what kind of tea would you like to drink?”

“Beauty tea.” Duanmu Ao said, reaching out to embrace Nian Ruxue.

Nian Ruxue dodged and saw Duanmu Ao’s face darken. She hurriedly explained, ‘When marrying into the royal family, anyone’s body must be inspected beforehand. If they find out I am not pure, I’d have no face left to live.’”

Duanmu Ao’s expression lightened slightly, “Fine, the wedding date is approaching soon.”

Nian Ruxue was somewhat surprised that Duanmu Ao gave up so easily. But she didn't know that he suddenly thought about his physical frailty. He still had lustful desires but couldn't let people find out about his hidden illness before taking her as his wife...

"Second Prince, with Su Liang around, I'm afraid I won't have a chance to become the top scholar." Nian Ruxue mentioned Su Liang.

Duanmu Ao's expression turned cold, "That little bitch! She should have been ground to dust back then!"

Nian Ruxue sighed softly, "But now, who knows what kind of adventure she has had, she has completely transformed herself, becoming so formidable. I'm worried that she returned to the capital city to investigate the cause of the Su Family's deaths. We all know that the Su Family committed suicide out of fear, but Su Liang may not think so. She dared to attack the Second Prince before, and she doesn't bear good intentions!"

Duanmu Ao grabbed Nian Ruxue's hand and forcefully pulled her onto his lap with a surprised cry.

"You want to use me to eliminate Su Liang before the final competition, don't you?"

Duanmu Ao sneered coldly.

Nian Ruxue's smile was unnatural, "It would be beneficial for both of us." Duanmu Ao laughed heartily, "I never expected this side of you! I like it!"

"Then..." Nian Ruxue stiffened her body, forcing herself to bear the discomfort, smiling gently and charmingly.

Duanmu Ao's eyes were filled with murderous intent, "You don't need to say it, I have already arranged everything for this matter! This time, she will undoubtedly die!"

Su Liang and Ning Jing stayed at Wan Hui's house for half a day. Su Liang thought it was time to leave, but heard Ning Jing say, "You didn't want to cook recently, didn't you? Why don't we stay at Zhengzheng's house for a couple of days. "

The most unexpected was Wan Hui.

She had already prepared rooms for Su Liang and Ning Jing, but they had never stayed before.

Su Liang guessed the reason and said with a smile, "That's great, then we'll mooch off Sister Wan's house."

Zhengzheng found out that he could sleep with Ning Jing tonight and cheered jubilantly.

Wan Hui instructed the maids to clean Su Liang and Ning Jing's rooms again.

When Wan Hui and her husband Lu Yu left and Zhengzheng was playing by himself, Su Liang took the opportunity to ask Ning Jing in a low voice, "Who?"

Ning Jing looked at Zhengzheng and said, "Lu Yu."

Su Liang frowned, "Is Li San going to kidnap the child again?"

Ning Jing could see the black fog in the center of Lu Yu's brow, but his wife and child were by his side, and his days were peaceful. It was impossible for him to suddenly want to kill someone. That

meant someone wanted to kill him or not just target him alone. But his life was in danger within three days.

The most likely person to target Lu Yu was Li Family Patriarch Li Chen.

If Li Chen firmly believed that Zhengzheng was his own flesh and blood, he would hate Lu Yu to the core, as well as Wan Hui, and Su Liang, who had ruined the blood test back then.

Moreover, Wan Hui mentioned two days ago that the partnership of Wan, Ning and Yan families had caused major problems for the Li family's business. Ning Jing brought back Su Liang's medicine box and the books they wanted to read.

Su Liang prepared herself to stay up all night.

Zhengzheng was tumbling on Ning Jing's bed when he heard someone

knocking on the door. He giggled and asked, "Who is it?"

There was no sound from outside, and Ning Jing walked over and opened the door, looking slightly startled.

Zhengzheng's eyes sparkled as he called out, "Mom!"

"Wan Hui" entered the room, and there was no flaw in her demeanor, gait, or voice.

"Why isn't the baby asleep yet?"

"Playing with Uncle Ning!" Zhengzheng said.

But Ning Jing saw at a glance that this was Su Liang in disguise, because she didn't change her clothes or hairstyle.

Just talking about the face, Su Liang's disguise technique was indeed not bad, and it was unrecognizable at first glance.

Su Liang went to the bedside and hugged Zhengzheng who jumped into her arms. Zhengzheng sniffed, "Mom's smell changed."

Su Liang returned to her original voice, "Where did it change?"

Zhengzheng widened his eyes in disbelief, staring at Su Liang, "Auntie?! ". He touched Su Liang's face with his small hand, looking very puzzled, "It's Mom!"

Su Liang laughed, "I'm fake."

"It's really Auntie! Auntie turned into Mom's appearance!" Zhengzheng's face was full of astonishment, "How did Auntie change? Can you change me to look like Uncle Ning?"

Su Liang nodded, "Of course, but we'll have to wait until Zhengzheng grows up a bit, you are too young now." She didn't want to use medicine on a child's face.

"That's amazing!" Zhengzheng exclaimed again, "Auntie is the most powerful in the world!"



Su Liang played with Zhengzheng for a while more before returning to her room next door, without removing her disguise.

Before going to sleep, Zhengzheng was still telling Ning Jing that his aunt must be a fairy.

That night was calm and peaceful, with no incidents.

Su Liang stayed up all night, only going to bed when it was almost dawn. When she woke up, it was already late morning.

Since Su Liang and Ning Jing were around, Wan Hui and Lu Yu didn't go out.

Wan Hui had the servants prepare breakfast and brought it to Su Liang, seeing the redness in her eyes, she advised her to sleep early at night and read during the day instead.

"Once I start reading a book, I always want to finish it all at once, otherwise, it's always on my mind," Su Liang said with a smile. "I'll be more careful next time. Where are they?"

"They are all fishing in the garden!" Wan Hui laughed. "Zhengzheng said that his Uncle Ning likes to eat fish, so he wants to catch a big fish for him."

Su Liang had removed her disguise before going to bed, so Wan Hui didn't see it, but she heard about it from Zhengzheng and asked.

"I've been practicing disguise techniques recently, just playing with Zhengzheng last night," Su Liang said.

They couldn't tell them about the danger Lu Yu was in because they couldn't explain how she and Ning Jing had gotten the information.

"You're really amazing!" Wan Hui exclaimed.

During their conversation, they brought up Yang Yu. In Wan Hui's letter to Su Liang before the new year, she said she would come to the capital city after the new year, but she still hadn't arrived. They wondered if she had encountered any trouble.

"I sent someone to the Yang Family at the beginning of the month with a letter. She should be back soon," Wan Hui said. "Don't worry too much, maybe she's too busy with her business and hasn't found time to leave. Yang's sister is not like me who only manages a few shops in the capital city. She has to manage the huge Yang Family business. It must be very hard."

By the time Su Liang finished her breakfast and went to the Garden Lake, she saw two adults and a child wearing straw hats fishing.

Zhengzheng was sitting upright, holding a small fishing rod that Ning Jing had made specially for him, looking very professional.

"Auntie has turned back into auntie!" Zhengzheng giggled.

Su Liang smiled, "Next time, I'll turn your mother into me."

Approaching noon, a guest arrived, who was now Little Monk Cheng Yun from Huguo Temple.

Previous time Wan Hui went to Huguo Temple, she wanted to bring back some vegetarian dishes, but there were none available at that time.

Today, Cheng Yun had specially brought some vegetarian dishes and took the opportunity to visit Zhengzheng.

“Little Yun Uncle!” Seeing Cheng Yun’s bald head appear, Zhengzheng called him happily.

Cheng Yun didn’t expect both Su Liang and Ning Jing to be there.

Wan Hui wanted to find a fishing rod for Cheng Yun to join them fishing.

Cheng Yun waved his hands repeatedly, “This monk is a man of religion; it is not appropriate.”

Fishing was for eating, which was a behavior of killing.

“Little Yun Uncle, I want to catch a big fish for Uncle Ning to eat! Little Yun Uncle, you eat too!” Zhengzheng’s little face was serious.

Cheng Yun kept chanting “Amitabha.”

“Thank you for the vegetarian dishes, I was just thinking about it. I’ll send you out, don’t make it hard for you to see this scene,” Su Liang said.

As if receiving amnesty, Cheng Yun bid farewell to Wan Hui and insisted that Su Liang didn’t have to send him off.

Still, Su Liang accompanied him out and asked him on the way, “Are you an orphan?”

Cheng Yun nodded, “Yes, someone left me at the temple gate, and my master picked me up.”

“Is it because you grew up in the temple that you naturally became a monk? Has your master ever said that you should devote yourself to Buddhist Dharma for the rest of your life?” Su Liang asked.

Cheng Yun shook his head, “No.”

“Has your master ever mentioned that you should return to lay life?” Su Liang continued.

Cheng Yun sighed lightly, “He has mentioned it, but he has not asked me to do so. He told me that no matter what, I should always stay true to myself.”

“Do you think being a monk is the most suitable path for you?” Su Liang asked.

Cheng Yun nodded, “Yes.”

“But if your Buddha nature wavers in the future, don’t be troubled and just follow your heart,” Su Liang said meaningfully.

Cheng Yun realized that Su Liang’s words had a hidden meaning. Initially, he thought she was trying to persuade him to return to lay life, but she didn’t.

As she watched Cheng Yun leave, Su Liang turned to walk back. She said those words because she thought of Yan Shiba when she saw Cheng Yun. Not that she thought Cheng Yun would end up with Yan Shiba, but she had a feeling that the handsome little monk would have some romantic entanglements someday. She hoped he wouldn't take it too hard.

Zhengzheng didn't catch any fish, but both Ning Jing and Lu Yu caught one each.

Su Liang, who stayed because she didn't want to cook, made delicious crispy fried fish nuggets, which Zhengzheng and Ning Jing both loved.

After tasting it, Wan Hui thought that her restaurant could add a new dish.

In the afternoon, Ning Jing went alone to the Prince's Mansion to give Duanmu Che a treatment.

Lian Shun said he had been to the Su Mansion, but no one else was there.

Ning Jing said that he and Su Liang were staying at a friend's house these days. When Lian Shun asked when Su Liang would return home, Ning Jing also said, before the finals.

Lian Shun still felt something was off. He thought Ning Jing should have noticed his feelings for Su Liang, but to say Ning Jing had hostility towards him? Not at all. Although cold, he is very polite, and Lian Shun could always get a response when talking to Ning Jing, it seemed like Ning Jing treated everyone this way.

Compared to Duanmu Che, Ning Jing had much better manners...

That night, Ning Jing still slept with Zhengzheng, and Su Liang disguised herself as Wan Hui again.

The danger to Lu Yu finally arrived at the deepest part of the night when everyone was sound asleep.

Su Liang had not slept for two nights straight, and neither had Ning Jing, who hid in an old cypress tree near Lu Yu and Wan Hui's lodging.

On the other side was Su Liang and Ning Jing's courtyard, not far away.

Seeing someone approaching, Ning Jing threw a stone from his hand, hitting the stone table in Su Liang's yard with precision.

Upon receiving the signal, Su Liang immediately got up and rushed out!

There were four people, all dressed in black and wearing masks, with a fierce killing intent.

Lu Yu was awakened by the sounds of fighting outside, hastily got up, leaving Wan Hui to hide and warning her not to come out.

When Lu Yu came out, he recognized Su Liang by her figure.

However, the assailants saw Su Liang's face and thought she was Wan Hui, not realizing their plan had encountered unexpected resistance.

Two of them attacked Su Liang while the other two rushed towards Lu Yu.

Wan Family's guards heard the commotion and came over as well.

Ning Jing aimed a homemade sleeve arrow at the back of the man fighting Lu Yu and fired!

By the time the man noticed, his body had already been pierced through.

The other three looked towards the tree where Ning Jing was hiding, and one of the two who were attacking Su Liang went over to deal with Ning Jing.

Ning Jing didn't move from his spot or fire any more sleeve arrows. The man approached the old cypress tree, and moments later, he fell from the tree and crashed onto the ground!

Ning Jing had dealt with two of them, and the remaining two were rather powerful.

Su Liang could still manage, but Lu Yu was struggling, and soon he got injured.

Ning Jing fired another sleeve arrow, hitting Lu Yu's opponent's shoulder, weakening their strength significantly.

A quarter of an hour later, everything returned to calm.

After killing the third person, Su Liang went to help Lu Yu and knocked out the fourth.

Then all the guards left.

Lu Yu looked at the old cypress tree, but Ning Jing had already gone down, accompanying Zhengzheng to sleep.

"He couldn't sleep, so he went out to admire the moon and noticed something was wrong and called me," said Su Liang, "I hadn't slept either, and was practicing my Disguise Technique."

Although Lu Yu thought it was a bit too coincidental, he didn't think much about it, "Thanks to you guys being here. My martial arts skills are still too weak."

Wan Hui, still in shock, came out of the room and saw Su Liang's face, she hesitated, "Xiaoliang, are you alright?"

Su Liang shook her head, "I'm fine, he's injured. Zhengzheng is sleeping there, he doesn't know anything. You guys need to interrogate this one left alive. If he was sent by Li Chen, he was definitely here to kill you and take the child." Wan Hui and Lu Yu's faces both turned ugly.

"The one thing you don't lack is money, so why not hire Yanyun Building's assassins, and kill Li Chen as soon as possible? Otherwise, he will do everything to kill you in his quest to steal the child," Su Liang said. Wan Hui's eyes flashed with determination, "Alright!"

Su Liang went back to her room, removed her disguise, and tried to sleep.

When she approached the bed, she noticed something was wrong.

Su Liang's eyes were alert, she was about to draw her knife when a hand pulled open the bed curtain, and someone leaped towards Su Liang, "Xiaoliang, sister missed you so much!"

Chapter 150: 150. Returning from the Reunion

Su Liang knew that Yan Shiba would reappear.

But when she really appeared suddenly, it still startled Su Liang.

Yan Shiba hung on Su Liang like a koala, "Liang sister, have you missed me?"

Su Liang pushed her away, and Yan Shiba fell on the bed, posing seductively, winking at Su Liang, "Sister will sleep with you tonight."

Su Liang rolled her eyes, "It seems your body is completely healed."

Yan Shiba immediately pretended to clasp her heart, "Not yet, my heart hurts,

Liang sister, you touch it."

Su Liang's forehead twitched, "I'm very tired, let's talk about whatever you want tomorrow."

"Alright." Yan Shiba turned around and lay down beside Su Liang. "Come, sleep."

Su Liang shook her head, "I'm not used to sleeping with others." "When I capture Gu Ling for you, won't you sleep with him?" Yan Shiba smirked.

In the next room, Ning Jing glanced at the wall, his expression calm, and continued reading.

Su Liang frowned, "Less nonsense, get out!"

Yan Shiba's smile deepened, "I love it when Liang's sister scolds me, it's so refreshing!"

Su Liang: ...

A moment later, Su Liang picked up Yan Shiba and threw her out of the door. "Liang sister, the way you hold me is still so heart-throbbing!" Yan Shiba said from outside.

Su Liang ignored her and went to sleep.

She knew that when this woman reappeared, she would still not learn to behave properly.

"Sister will help you find Gu Ling again!"

Hearing Yan Shiba's voice, Su Liang snorted, "As if you could find him."

After arranging the bedding, Su Liang suddenly remembered that before the Gu family's accident, Gu Ling had been staying at Huguo Temple. Was Yan Shiba going to the temple to look for clues? Cheng Yun was there!

Su Liang sincerely hoped that Yan Shiba would keep away from Cheng Yun, otherwise, there would be a scene of a seductive woman tempting a little monk, and she couldn't help but worry for Cheng Yun.

Su Liang slept until daylight.

She woke up to hear Zhengzheng playing in the courtyard and Ning Jing talking.

When she got up and went out, Zhengzheng called aunt and ran over. Su Liang picked up Zhengzheng and saw Ning Jing working on a new wooden sculpture.

Su Liang put Zhengzheng down, and he ran out with his short little legs.

She sat down across from Ning Jing and saw that he was carving a boat this time, which was beginning to take shape.

“Just now, Lu Yu came, and the person captured last night was interrogated.” Ning Jing said.

Su Liang narrowed her eyes, “Was it Li Chen who sent someone to kill and snatch the child?”

Ning Jing nodded, “They were hired by Li Chen with a high price. Their mission was to kill Lu Yu, snatch Zhengzheng, and keep Wan Hui alive so that she could exchange you for Zhengzheng.”

This was why there was a black mist in Lu Yu’s forehead. If Ning Jing and Su Liang had not intervened, he would have been in grave danger last night.

“Me?” Su Liang frowned, “Is it because I foiled Li Chen’s plan of blood recognition that he has a grudge against me? But it’s impossible for him to return the child!”

Ning Jing nodded slightly, “Knowing that you are skilled in martial arts, if Li

Chen only wanted the child, he would not have provoked you again. Killing Wan Hui and Lu Yu, hiding the child for a few years, the Wan family would have no evidence and could not do anything about him.”

Su Liang’s eyes grew cold, “Children’s appearances change quickly. In a few years’ time, he could say he adopted a son or had a child with another woman. By then, the Wan Family couldn’t prove it was Zhengzheng.”

“Leaving Wan Hui alive and targeting you is a foolish move.” Ning Jing said, “I suspect someone else is behind it.”

Su Liang was taken aback, “Are you saying that besides Li Chen, there is someone else behind the scenes?”

“The relationship between you and Zhengzheng’s family is known to those who keep an eye on you in the capital. The entanglement between the Li and Wan families is not a secret.” Ning Jing said.

“Duanmu Ao? Nian Ruxue? Using Li Chen to do the dirty work for them? Knowing that I care about Zhengzheng, they could kidnap him and set up a trap to harm me.” Su Liang thought.

“It’s possible.” Ning Jing said.

Su Liang sighed softly, “But there’s no evidence. I’m afraid only Li Chen knows whether someone is conspiring with him. If so, who is it?”

The breakfast Wan Hui had kept warm for Su Liang was still on the stove.

“The assassins that Li Chen paid for, I’ll just pay more and they’ll betray Li

Chen.” Wan Hui’s expression was cold, “Lu Yu has gone to contact Yanyun

Building. I’m willing to pay the highest price for that man’s head!”

Previously, Wan Hui only wanted to separate and never be involved again, but Li Chen’s repeated offenses had made her reach her limit.

Su Liang anticipated that Yan Shiba might come to find her again, but she didn't mention it to Wan Hui, thinking it would be best to go through Yanyun

Building's normal channels. After all, the Wan family was not short of money. If she invited Yan Shiba to help, he would surely seize the opportunity to discuss conditions and create trouble.

The trouble was temporarily resolved, but apart from Li Chen, it was still unclear whether there were others behind the scenes.

However, Su Liang and Ning Jing were going home.

Zhengzheng didn't want to, so she clung to Ning Jing's leg and refused to let her go.

Ning Jing was helpless with the child, so she agreed to stay for another two days.

When Ning Jing met Lian Shun again, he asked her if he could go to see Su Liang.

Ning Jing shook her head, "It's someone else's house, it's not convenient."

Lian Shun had no choice but to give up for the time being.

Lin Xueqing and Qin Yujin came to visit, and Wan Hui warmly received them.

Lin Xueqing mentioned that her second brother was expected to arrive in the capital the day after tomorrow, and Qi Yan would go out of the city to meet him tomorrow.

When Lin Xueqing left, she took a letter, which Su Liang gave to her, and asked her to give it to Qi Yan to deliver to Nian Jincheng.

In front of Qin Yujin's face, Su Liang openly stated that she had written about the incident where Nian Ruxue had set her up at Huguo Temple.

Although Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing did not expect Su Liang to report the incident to Nian Jincheng in this way, since it was a fact, there was nothing that couldn't be said. They also wanted to see if Nian Jincheng could tell right from wrong and whether he would favor Nian Ruxue unreasonably.

Xing Yusheng received the letter and handed it to Qi Yan.

Early the next morning, Qi Yan set out to leave the capital.

When Duanmu Ao saw Nian Ruxue again that day, he told her that his carefully arranged plan of borrowing a knife to kill people had failed.

The person behind the scenes that Su Liang had yet to confirm was Duanmu Ao.

Considering Duanmu Ao's character, he wouldn't usually be so cautious. However, due to his previous conflict with Nian Ruxue, he had been severely reprimanded by Duanmu Yi and was told to behave himself recently, not to cause trouble, and to focus on the current negotiations with Yin Country involving Su Liang and Nian Ruxue, two outstanding women from the Military Exam, which were related to Qian Country's reputation.

Therefore, after Duanmu Ao saw Su Liang and Wan Hui's family together several times, he planned to use Li Chen to get rid of Su Liang.

Unfortunately, the master Li Chen hired was more than enough to deal with

Wan Hui's family. As long as they caught Zhengzheng, they could control Su Liang. However, they didn't expect Su Liang to have stayed at the Wan family that day, causing the plan to fail.

Nian Ruxue was disappointed, "How can she be so powerful?"

Hearing this, Duanmu Ao felt very upset and thought he had lost face, so he grabbed Nian Ruxue's hand and said, "The emperor is watching, and it's not suitable to act against her for the time being! You must defeat her in the finals, or else she will soar to the sky, and will become a big trouble for you and me in the future!"

Nian Ruxue's face stiffened, "I haven't fought her yet, and I have no confidence. "

"I don't care! You must defeat her fair and square, so she never has a chance to rise! Do you hear me?" Duanmu Ao suddenly revealed his sinister side.

Nian Ruxue's wrist was squeezed in pain, and it took a great effort to break free, "Second Prince, I will do my best."

"It's not about doing your best, you must win! If you lose, I'll make you pay!" Duanmu Ao snorted coldly.

He couldn't deal with Su Liang himself, so he shifted the responsibility onto Nian Ruxue.

Nian Ruxue was furious but didn't dare to argue.

Finally, after sending Duanmu Ao away, Nian Ruxue opened her wardrobe and Nian Ruting walked out from inside.

"Did you hear everything?" Nian Ruxue's face was gloomy.

Nian Ruting nodded, "I really wanted to rush out and kill that lecherous

Duanmu Ao! So my fourth sister wouldn't be bullied and threatened by him!"

Nian Ruxue's face darkened, "He's a prince, not someone we can offend. If we kill him, our entire family will be buried with him."

"I don't care about others, I just don't want to see my fourth sister suffer so much."

Nian Ruting's eyes turned red.

The two sisters hugged each other, and there was no warmth in Nian Ruxue's eyes, "Fifth sister, my future and fate are now in your hands. Everyone only cares who becomes the Top Scholar; the difference between the first and second place seems to be just one step, but it's actually meaningless. The Royal Family is the same. Su Liang has come to restrain me. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't have been involved in this marriage."

Nian Ruting's expression was firm, "Fourth sister, don't worry, I will definitely defeat her!"

Nian Ruxue sighed, 'My second brother will be back in the capital in a few days.

He's been good to me. This time, he has made great contributions by killing the Nanping Prince, so he will surely plead for me in front of the emperor. By then, combined with the Top Scholar honors, there will be a chance for the emperor to revoke the decree."



“Didn’t fourth sister say that the second brother doesn’t care about anyone in the Nian family and is only concerned about his own future?” Nian Ruting looked confused.

Nian Ruxue nodded, “Yes, but I’ve been trying to please him for so many years. Even if his heart is made of stone, it would have been warmed up.” Nian Ruting nodded, “Second brother is Master Gu’s best friend, so he must have a good heart.”

“He’s not too bad to me. But when you were injured back then, I asked him to visit you, but he didn’t care at all.” Nian Ruxue smiled bitterly.

Nian Ruting’s eyes dimmed, “As long as he can help the fourth sister, I don’t care about the rest.”

When Qi Yan met Qi Jun, he was drinking with Lin Bojun.

“Brother? How did you come?” Qi Jun was delighted to see Qi Yan and quickly introduced Lin Bojun to him.

Qi Yan greeted him ceremonially, and Lin Bojun smiled, inviting him over to sit, “You’re not an outsider anymore. Why be so polite with each other?” The Qi brothers were very fond of their future brother-in-law.

Qi Yan told Lin Bojun about the time since Qi Jun left the capital city.

“Ha ha! Su Xiaoliang is a real hero!” Lin Bojun’s face was full of smiles.

Qi Yan particularly mentioned the incident when the recuperating Old Master Qin and Master Lin Shuzhi went fishing together a few days ago.

Lin Bojun cheered up and said, “I also like fishing.”

He found it hard not to suspect that Master Lin Shuzhi was planning the Marriage for him.

When he learned that Su Liang had a letter for Nian Jincheng, Lin Bojun was very surprised, and then let Qi Jun take him there.

Nian Jincheng was wiping his waist sword. He would set off tomorrow and arrive in the capital city by noon. However, the closer he got to the capital, the more he didn’t want to go back.

Hearing Qi Jun’s voice, Nian Jincheng put down his sword and let them in.

“This is a letter from Miss Su Liang, which she asked me to deliver to General Nian.” Qi Yan took out the letter.

Nian Jincheng was startled, took it, and thanked Qi Yan while also asking about the recent situation in the capital city.

“The final results of the Military Exam will be announced tomorrow. Miss Su Liang and Miss Nian both made it to the final round, which starts the day after tomorrow.” Qi Yan said.

“I see.” Nian Jincheng nodded.

When the Qi brothers took their leave, Nian Jincheng opened the letter Su Liang sent him.

Indeed, it was Su Liang's handwriting. Or rather, it was Ning Jing's handwriting. Su Liang had already learned it so well that no flaws could be seen.

In the letter, Su Liang briefly recounted the incident of her meeting Nian Ruxue at the Huguo Temple.

She only stated the facts, without any additional remarks.

After reading the letter, Nian Jincheng's face darkened, and his hand gripped the letter tightly.

Since he met Qi Jun and learned that Nian Ruxue was given in marriage to Duanmu Ao, Nian Jincheng knew that Nian Ruxue had lied to him, but he didn't know the purpose of this arranged marriage.

Now, Su Liang's letter cleared up Nian Jincheng's doubts.

It turned out that Nian Ruxue was the one who harmed others first, and in the end, she ended up suffering herself, entangled with Duanmu Ao!

"Is this your true face? Selfish and self-serving, unscrupulous in your pursuit of your goals..." Nian Jincheng's face was full of self-mockery, "What am I worth to you, only valuable because of my usefulness?"

As Ning Jing said, Nian Jincheng didn't believe him at first because he had no evidence, just said his own opinion, and Nian Jincheng thought he knew Nian Ruxue better.

But now, what Su Liang said was true. Although it was one-sided, Nian

Jincheng knew from his understanding of Su Liang that she couldn't lie.

Moreover, only this explanation could account for why Duanmu Ao was injured at Huguo Temple and why Nian Ruxue was given an arranged marriage.

It couldn't have been Nian Ruxue who injured Duanmu Ao because she wouldn't dare to do anything like that.

Nian Jincheng felt himself a fool, unable to discern whether Nian Ruxue's feelings for him were true or false. Even with the Nian family treating him that way, he still tried to find warmth in them, which was utterly ridiculous!

Qi Jun didn't usually speak much, but Qi Yan was different.

When Lin Bojun asked about how Su Liang came to write letters to Nian Jincheng, Qi Yan told them about their suspicions and bluntly said that Nian Ruxue had once framed Su Liang, and Su Liang was determined to tell Nian Jincheng about it.

Lin Bojun was furious when he learned this. Although he didn't have much contact with Su Liang, she was Ning Jing's righteous sister, and he was her Senior Brother. In a sense, he was also Su Liang's elder brother. Furthermore, during their time in Pingbei City, Su Liang had saved the Lin family and the Qianshan academy students over and over again, so Lin Bojun was genuinely grateful and admired her and treated her like a sister.

What made it worse was that Qi Yan added a few words, "At that time, Miss Qin and Miss Lin were both present. Fortunately, Miss Su Liang was able to avoid danger. If it was Miss Qin or Miss Lin, the consequences would have been unimaginable!"

Lin Bojun was enraged to the point where he wanted to tear Nian Ruxue apart!

When Lin Bojun first learned that Nian Ruxue was arranged to marry Duanmu

Ao as an Imperial Concubine, he felt sorry for her and mentioned it to Nian Jincheng several times, hoping to split the credit and let Nian Jincheng use the opportunity to intercede with the Emperor.

Now, Lin Bojun had completely abandoned that idea, feeling that Nian Ruxue and Duanmu Ao deserved each other!

Qi Jun sighed, "Although the second prince was at fault in this matter, Miss Nian was also caught up in this blamelessly. If she had asked Su Liang for help at that time, or if she had found someone to save her after leaving, she wouldn't have disappointed people so much."

Qi Yan snorted coldly, "That woman, knowing that Miss Su Liang was entangled by the second prince, and knowing very well that my master was in Huguo Temple, not only did she not find someone to help Miss Su Liang, but she even denied seeing her when Miss Qin and Miss Lin asked her about it!"

Lin Bojun's face was livid, "What a vicious heart!"

Nian Jincheng, who had been standing at the door for a while, left with a gloomy expression on his face.

On the day of the Military Exam result announcement, Nian Jincheng and Lin Bojun returned to the capital city, coinciding with the arrival of the Yin Country envoys.

Nian Ruxue had tried to reserve a private room with the best view of the street in the Wan Family Restaurant, but the manager had been instructed by Wan Hui to decline any reservations from the Nian family, claiming they were full.

Nian Ruxue knew that Su Liang had a close relationship with the Wan family and suspected Su Liang had sabotaged her efforts, but there was nothing she could do, so she went to a tea house instead.

However, the tea house was owned by the Ning family, and there was no place for her there either.

In the end, Nian Ruxue went to another restaurant and had her maid keep watch. As soon as Nian Jincheng entered the city, she would be informed.

Of course, the best private room in the Wan Family Restaurant was reserved for Su Liang. Qin Yujin and the others were also there.

The servant Xing Yusheng sent to see the results of the Hui test, and the crowds on the street were bustling, all discussing the results of the Hui test.

Su Liang also saw several scholars from the Qianshan Academy in Pingbei City. When they saw Su Liang, they all politely greeted her. After all, Su Liang had saved them.

"Master, Ning Jing scored top in the Hui test!" Xing Yusheng's subordinate brought back good news.

Zhengzheng, sitting on Ning Jing's lap, asked, "What is Hui Yuan? Can I eat it?" Everyone laughed.

Ning Jing calmly said, "It is a stewed small dumpling, delicious. I'll ask your aunt to make it."

Su Liang: ... Ning Da Shen always managed to come up with new ways to order dishes. Impressive, impressive.

Xing Yusheng laughed, "Congratulations, congratulations! You are on the same level as my father-in-law and brother-in-law."

Lin Xueqing blushed, "I haven't married you yet!"

"Soon, we'll just wait for my second uncle to return." Xing Yusheng laughed.

"Here they come! The female general from Yin Country is named Mu!" someone shouted from the street below.

Everyone stood up and walked to the window to look out.

The long procession slowly walked past, and the common people made way on both sides.

"Second Brother!"

At the same time, one was Lin Xueqing calling Lin Bojun, and the other was Nian Ruxue calling Nian Jincheng.

Lin Bojun, who was at the head of the procession, saw Lin Xueqing at a glance. He waved to her with a beaming smile while riding on his horse. "Little sister!"

Qin Yujin's gaze swept over Nian Jincheng's cold face and met Lin Bojun's eyes. His smile was contagious, and she also responded with a slight smile.

Lin Bojun felt great about this and waved his hand a few more times.

Meanwhile, Nian Jincheng heard Nian Ruxue calling him and saw her delighted expression, but he expressionlessly averted his gaze, looked at Su Liang and Ning Jing, and continued to walk forward.

"Miss has been waiting for a long time. Why didn't the Second Master respond?" The maid was puzzled.

Nian Ruxue's face was slightly dark. "He has always been reticent. Let's go home first. He needs to report to the palace, and I'll prepare some food for him."

The procession had passed. Su Liang hadn't seen the heroic figure of General Man Ya because she was sitting in the carriage and didn't show her face.

From the adjacent room, a familiar voice came: "Su Xiaoliang, what a coincidence!"

Lian Shun poked his head out and smiled at Su Liang.

Lin Xueqing and Qin Yujin pulled Su Liang back, one on each side, and closed the window.

Lian Shun: ... What's going on? Why did the two young ladies look at him like they were looking at an idler?

"That's the Fifth Prince's cousin. He's said to be a ne'er-do-well. Don't mind him." Qin Yujin said.

Lin Xueqing said seriously, "Su Sister, you can choose not to find a man, but if you want to find one, Ning Senior Brother should be the first choice. All other men should stand aside."

Su Liang: ... It seems that Lian Shun's reputation is really not that good. She didn't know if it was true or false. She would ask next time.

Ning Jing's achievement in scoring top marks in the Hui test was a big sensation in the capital city.

Su Liang remained calm and was not surprised at all.

Ning Jing was even more composed. His main concern was whether Su Liang would make "stewed dumplings" for him...

After Nian Jincheng and Lin Bojun reported to the palace, they returned home separately.

Lin Bojun couldn't wait to get home. He said goodbye to Nian Jincheng and hurried away on horseback.

For Nian Jincheng, home held no allure.

As soon as he entered the Nian Mansion, Nian Ruxue's maid came to greet him, saying that Nian Ruxue had made soup and some of his favorite dishes for him.

When Nian Jincheng returned to his residence, Nian Ruxue was waiting for him under the eaves, her smile gentle and tender, just as it always had been.

In the past, Nian Jincheng enjoyed seeing Nian Ruxue's smile, but now he found it fake. He couldn't feel any sincerity in it, as if it were a mask carved into her face.

"Second Brother, you're finally back!" Nian Ruxue said with a pouty tone. "The dishes I made are getting cold. Wash your face and come eat!"

After washing his face, Nian Jincheng entered the room, and Ruxue dismissed the servants so she could serve the soup herself.

"I heard that Second Brother killed the Nanping Prince. The Emperor must be very pleased, right?" Nian Ruxue asked with a smile.

Nian Jincheng shook his head. "It wasn't me who killed the Nanping Prince. It was Deputy General Lin. The credit is all his."

Nian Ruxue's face stiffened. "You are his superior, and he followed your orders. Of course, the greatest credit should be yours!"

"I don't want it." Nian Jincheng expressionlessly replied.. "Do you have any objections?"