

Three-Time 161

Chapter 161: 161. Duanmu Che Kidnapped

In the middle of the night.

Su Liang suddenly woke up from her sleep, lifted the bed curtain, and found two more people in the room.

One was Ning Jing; the other was wearing a mask, and judging by their figure, it was Yan Shiba.

When the two people who had been quietly confronting each other saw the curtain move, they both turned their eyes to Su Liang.

Ning Jing quickly turned his head away, breaking eye contact.

Yan Shiba angrily removed his mask and threw it on the table. He pointed at Ning Jing with an accusatory finger, "Liang-sister, this pretty-boy sneaked into your room in the middle of the night with indecent intentions! If I hadn't come here to see you, who knows what perverted things he might have done!"

Su Liang was only wearing her inner clothes, and her hair was a bit messy. At first, she didn't notice, but when Ning Jing turned his head, she became aware and hurriedly used both hands to pull the bed curtain over herself, leaving only her head exposed. A light blush spread over her fair cheeks.

"Don't talk nonsense. He thought you were an assassin, so he came to save me." Su Liang saw the truth at a glance, "Ning Jing, you go back to sleep."

Without turning his head, Ning Jing replied with a simple, "Mm," before walking out of the room without even sparing Yan Shiba a glance.

Watching his retreating figure, Su Liang noticed that Ning Jing was also wearing only thin inner clothes, feeling that things were fairer now.

Yan Shiba, clearly dissatisfied, walked over, pulled open the bed curtain, and sat on the edge of the bed. He poked Su Liang on her forehead, "Little girl, what's wrong with you? Isn't Gu Ling supposed to be the one who holds your heart? Why are you letting that pretty boy have his way?"

"He hasn't done anything to me; he just wanted to kill you." Su Liang laid down and grinned.

Blinking, Yan Shiba said, "Little sister Liang, you're so beautiful! Only Gu Ling is a suitable match for you! That pretty boy is far from enough!"

"It's like you know Gu Ling," Su Liang sarcastically remarked.

Yan Shiba nodded, "I wouldn't say I know him, but I did see him once. He is unparalleled in elegance, astonishingly beautiful! Little sister Liang, you really have good taste!"

Su Liang:...Looking forward to the day when a certain 'great god' reveals his true face.

With one foot on the ground and the other hanging off the side of the bed, he didn't bother taking off his shoes. "I searched day and night, I even went into the heavily guarded Imperial Palace Library, but there's not a trace of Nian Jincheng, not even the slightest clue! I excel in killing people, not finding them! With all this time, I might as well be flirting with little Yunyun!" Su Liang coughed lightly, "You can't go back on the promise you made to me." Every time she met Yan Shiba, Su Liang felt more worried about Cheng Yun.

Yan Shiba snorted, "Who said they were going to marry Ning Jing, letting me not look for Gu Ling?"

"That wasn't my true intention." Su Liang said with a sincere face.

Yan Shiba pinched her slightly upturned nose, "Regardless of whether you were sincere or not, you said you wanted Gu Ling; you can only be married to him!

Nobody else will do!"

"You need to find him first," Su Liang said.

Yan Shiba scratched his head, "The only one who might know where Gu Ling is would be Nian Jincheng! But I can't just kidnap the emperor and force him to tell me where he's hiding Nian Jincheng, can I?"

Su Liang's eyes brightened slightly, "So there are things that even you don't dare to do?"

"Liang... sister..." Yan Shiba spoke with a ghostly tone, "You're actually using reverse psychology on me?"

"You've caught on, Yan Shiba, you're so smart." Su Liang laughed lightly, "But kidnapping the emperor is too risky; he must have a strong protector by his side. We can choose someone else."

Yan Shiba squinted his eyes, turned Su Liang's shoulder towards him, looked into her eyes, and snorted coldly, "It seems that my Liang-sister has found a suitable candidate? Why do I feel like you've dug a hole for me to jump into?"

Su Liang's eyes were clear, "You're more cautious than before, which is a good thing. I do have a candidate, someone who has been repeatedly annoying me." "Who dares annoy you? They're looking for death!" Yan Shiba coldly snorted.

"Fifth Prince, Duanmu Che." Su Liang said, "Actually, he saved my life back then, otherwise I would have died early. But after returning to the capital this time, he first caused me troubles several times, then inexplicably took a fancy to me, and wanted me to marry him. He must be out of his mind. He was seriously ill, and I treated him, so we are square for the saving lives part, owing nothing to each other. The main reason I chose him is that he is the emperor's favorite son."

After hearing Su Liang's words, Yan Shiba's face darkened, "Little Sister Liang is so lovely, it's natural for someone to like her, but whoever dares to trouble you, I'll teach them a lesson! Duanmu Che, right? You wait, I'll catch him and cut off his root!"

Su Liang shook her head, "Not necessary. Anyway, he did save my life, disgusting as it may be, he can't do anything to me."

"It's your call!" Yan Shiba thought for a moment, catching Duanmu Che to exchange for Nian Jincheng was indeed feasible, and the difficulty was not too high, and it was the most direct and efficient method at the moment.

But he couldn't go too far. Even though she would hide her identity, it was hard to guarantee that she wouldn't be discovered. Yanyun Building didn't fear offending the court, but couldn't offend them too harshly, otherwise, it would be difficult to do business in the future. "Be careful." Su Liang patted Yan Shiba's shoulder. Yan Shiba smiled, "Let me hear you call me sis."

Su Liang lay down and closed her eyes, "Take care."

"You little brat! Wait until I find Miss Gu, let's see if you don't beg me!" Yan Shiba's words fell, a gust of wind blew, the bed curtain fluttered, and the room was left with only Su Liang.

Su Liang closed her eyes again and suddenly thought of something, so she asked Ning Jing through the wall, "Are you asleep yet?" "No."

"If he doesn't escape, there's no chance for him to clear his name either. Now, all he can do is seek to survive." Ning Jing said.

Su Liang thought about it as well. First, the Nian Family cheated in the

Imperial examination, committing the crime of deceiving the emperor, and Nian Jincheng's suspicion of colluding with Gu Ling due to the relationship with her "only friend" was not a recent development, it's just that there is now a "witness" to confirm it.

For this kind of thing, it's usually better to kill wrongly than to let go, just a little bit of suspicion, without evidence, still results in a dead end.

Early the next morning, Qi Jun paid a visit.

"The master asked me to be a coachman for the two of you for the day." Qi Jun said with a smile.

A top scholar and a martial arts champion going out together, neither was suitable to drive the carriage. Although "The Martial Arts Champion's Doting Husband" sounded interesting, Xing Yusheng still felt that at this time, they needed someone to dispatch.

Otherwise, once the two entered the palace, who would watch the carriage outside?

"That's very kind of you." Su Liang readily agreed.

Having an outsider here, the only inconvenience was that Su Liang and Ning Jing couldn't mention any "sensitive topics" when Qi Jun could hear them.

But it was only temporary and didn't have much impact.

"Will the crown prince Xing also enter the palace today?" Su Liang asked.

Qi Jun nodded, "Yes, when I left, the crown prince was preparing."

As he spoke, Qi Jun brought up another matter, "The news of the emperor selecting concubines for the fourth and fifth princes was announced this morning. Upon hearing it, the Madam wanted the third Miss to participate, but the Marquis scolded her."

Third Miss Xing Yan, was Xing Yusheng's half-sister from the same father but different mothers.

Qi Jun mentioned the private affairs of the Marquis Mansion, which should not be shared with outsiders, to Su Liang. First, it was because Su Liang was not an outsider, and second, it was because she had informed the Lin and Duke Qin's Mansions about the selection of concubines for the two princes yesterday, allowing Lin Bojun and Qin Yujin to get engaged before the selection was officially announced.

At that time, Old Madam Xing was worried that this move would upset the emperor, thinking that someone had leaked the news, and that Duke Qin's Mansion was deliberately avoiding the selection by hastily arranging the engagement.

Xing Ji, however, thought that Old Madam Xing was overthinking it. Because Lin Bojun rescuing Qin Yujin from Duanmu Ao was not something that the emperor might not know about.

Later, the Lin Family and Duke Qin's Mansion had a close relationship. Moreover, considering the marriage between Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing, the Qin and Lin families could be considered relatives.

After Lin Bojun returned to the capital, he had contact with Qin Yujin, although not alone. Old Master Qin and Lin Shuzhi had met several times before, so it could be said that the marriage of their children had already been decided. They were just waiting for Lin Bojun to return to formally propose.

From any perspective, it all made sense.

Besides, with Nian Jincheng gone, Lin Bojun would objectively be more valued.

Duanmu Yi was not a foolish emperor. He had allowed Xing Jiming to take part in the abduction before, so why not this time?

But Xing Yusheng's stepmother Miao really couldn't see the situation clearly. She once wanted Nian Ruxue as her son's wife, and now she wanted to send her daughter to the marriage selection. She was really confused.

Grandma Xing mentioned that although Miao was not a bad person, she still competed with Qin Xiang even after her death. She came from too humble a background to be comparable and pinned all her hopes on her children, hoping they could succeed.

In fact, because of Grandma Xing's presence, Xing Yusheng was always the top priority among the sons and daughters of the Xing family, making Miao's children almost nonexistent. They didn't even have the opportunity to attend the nobles' banquets and show their faces after they arrived in the capital for several days.

Xing Ji's original intention was to protect his children, as the Xing Family was now in a special situation and they didn't need to achieve anything. Stability is most important.

But Miao's heart was naturally filled with dissatisfaction.

Qi Jun sighed and added, “Madam blames the Marquis for only caring about the crown prince and never considering her own children. Grandma is troubled by family matters and says she wants to ask Miss Su your opinion when she sees you again. You are the smartest and perhaps have a solution.”

Su Liang held her forehead. No wonder Qi Jun said so much; it turned out that Grandma Xing wanted her to give advice? A clear official finds it difficult to judge family matters, and she doesn’t know most of the Xing family members. How could she interfere in their family affairs?

However, upon further thought, Su Liang realized that Grandma Xing’s intention to let Qi Jun say these things was not for her to help with the idea of reconciling the family conflict, but rather to persuade Xing Yusheng to reconcile with the other family members?

After all, Grandma Xing believed that the conflicts between Xing Yusheng and his family were mostly due to misunderstandings, but he refused to listen to any explanation for all these years.

This must also be the reason why Grandma Xing had specifically talked to Su Liang about the emotional entanglements between Xing Ji, Qin Xiang, and Miao.

Unfortunately, Su Liang didn’t understand the deeper meaning and didn’t talk to Xing Yusheng about it.

After some thought, Su Liang still felt that she shouldn’t interfere in other people’s family affairs. She fully understood Grandma Xing’s desire for a harmonious family, but if Xing Ji couldn’t handle it, outsiders would be even less likely to help.

As they arrived at the palace gate, Ning Jing and Su Liang got off the carriage, instantly attracting the attention of everyone around.

One scholar and one warrior, both talented and beautiful, a match made in heaven... These were the praises they received in the rumors these days.

“Sister Liang!” Seeing Su Liang, Qin Yujin ran over.

Old Master Qin, supported by his two grandsons, stood not far away, smiling at Su Liang.

“Congratulations, congratulations,” Su Liang saluted.

Qin Yujin’s face turned red, “I have no thank you gift for you as a matchmaker!”

“No problem, Second Brother Lin will definitely give me a big red envelope,” Su Liang said with a smile.

Qin Yujin blurted out, “I won’t let him give it!”

Su Liang raised an eyebrow, “Well, I really can’t do anything about it. Second Brother Lin will definitely listen to you.”

Qin Yujin gently hammered Su Liang, “Stop teasing me!”

Su Liang sighed, the once dignified and graceful Miss Duke Qin’s Mansion was now so shy after her engagement. She was so adorable that it was indeed a match made in heaven.

She and Ning Jing were undoubtedly like real brothers.

Qin Yujin held Su Liang's arm as they walked ahead, with Ning Jing following behind.

After entering the palace, Qin Yujin looked back and suddenly smiled, teasing

Su Liang, "I bet Ning Jing is cursing me in his heart for stealing you away."

Su Liang shook her head, "Don't slander him, he never swears at anyone." Qin Yujin's eyes lit up, "Sister Liang, you still won't admit it, you just like him!"

"Yes, I like him," Su Liang said calmly. This was true, but not in the sense of romantic love. Anyway, they were about to play the role of a fake husband and wife soon, so acting was necessary.

Qin Yujin then kept asking Su Liang when she fell in love with Ning Jing.

"Well, I'm not saying I can't tell you, but if you ask me, you first have to tell me when you fell in love with Second Brother Lin?" Su Liang asked.

Qin Yujin blushed and said, "Probably the day he saved me."

"Hero saving the beauty, truly classic," Su Liang smiled and said, "I promise to let Second Brother Lin know today that he liked you that day, and you also saw him that day. What a wonderful fate."

Qin Yujin felt sweetness in her heart and insisted that Su Liang confess her feelings for Ning Jing.

Su Liang thought for a while and said, "Maybe it was the moment I saw his face."

Now, she hadn't seen it yet. She would wait until she saw someone's true face. Qin Yujin let out a small exclamation, "Love at first sight? That's so nice."

Su Liang: ...Actually, I haven't seen it yet. Let's talk about it when I see it.

The Enrong Banquet was held in the Imperial Palace Garden.

Among the imperial scholars this time, except for Ning Jing, there were three other students from Qianshan Academy. One of them was Ning Jing's fellow student from Bei'an County.

Before the banquet started, they came together to greet Ning Jing. Although Ning Jing was not talkative, they could still chat.

Su Liang saw Gao Jiabao. His right arm was wrapped in white cloth, and when he saw Su Liang looking at him, he pulled out a pale smile.

Su Liang was taken by Qin Yujin to meet several of the ladies from the big families she had a good relationship with. They only knew her by name, and they all admired Su Liang greatly.

The banquet was about to start, so Su Liang sat in her designated seat. Ning Jing was directly facing her, and Gao Jiabao was next to her.

"How is your injury?" Su Liang asked.

Gao Jiabao sighed slightly, "Grandfather says it needs two or three months to recover."

"As long as it can recover," Su Liang said.

"I had originally wanted to join the army after the Military Exam, but I don't know when that will be now," Gao Jiabao said.

Su Liang was surprised at the ambitions of a grandson of a physician, but admired him, "It will recover faster when it gets warmer. You are a talented scholar, and the emperor will surely allow you to join the army if you wish."

"But my family is strongly against it," Gao Jiabao said with a bitter smile, "Let's not talk about it. Congratulations, you are getting married."

"Thank you," Su Liang nodded.

When the time came for the banquet to begin, there was still no sign of Duanmu Yi.

All the princes and princesses had arrived, but there was no sign of Duanmu Che, who was said to be recovering from his illness recently.

Su Liang had a premonition that Yan Shiba had made his move.

As expected, news soon came that the fifth prince had been kidnapped.. The kidnappers demanded Nian Jincheng in exchange, or they would chop up the fifth prince!

Chapter 162: 162. Here

On this day of the Enrong Banquet, the Lin family, which had three top scholars, was also in the guest list.

But they arrived very late.

As soon as Qin Yujin learned that the fifth prince was kidnapped, she saw Lin Shuzhi bring Lin Boyan and Lin Xueqing. Lin Bojun was nowhere to be seen.

A sinking feeling crawled over Qin Yujin's heart and her elder brother beside her commented, "Bo Jun must have been sent by His Majesty to rescue the fifth prince."

With a calm expression on his face, Lin Shuzhi greeted Su Liang and Ning Jing with a nod, as well as his students from Qianshan Academy, before taking his seat.

However, Lin Xueqing's expression was noticeably uneasy, and she almost spilled her tea cup when she sat down.

Su Liang speculated Lin Bojun's whereabouts and she felt somewhat worried. Yan Shiba was a head assassin and his attacks were severe. She hoped he had not injured anyone.

Nian Jincheng had claimed he was wronged. Indeed, he was not being entirely wronged as he was still in contact with Gu Ling privately and knew clearly where Gu Ling was.

Though Gu Ling had not rebelled, the idea of rebellion had formed amongst his family, which was a fact undeniable.

According to the laws of Qian Country, treason could lead to the execution of nine generations of a person's family.

Seeing Nian Jincheng's predicament from the viewpoint of the royal family also seemed reasonable. Everyone has their own standpoints.

Su Liang wanted to save people without harming the innocents, but she warned Yan Shiba only about not making things difficult for Nian Jincheng last night.

This thought made Su Liang feel uneasy.

Because of the kidnapping of Duanmu Che, the atmosphere of the today's Enrong Banquet was far from cheerful and harmonious. No one dared to smile, especially the princes. Whether pretentious or genuine, they all looked worried.

The eunuch on Duanmu Yi's side appeared and delivered the Emperor's verbal message, "The Crown Prince will preside over the Enrong Banquet as usual." This command was immediately accepted by Duanmu Cheng.

The next second, the eunuch continued, "The Emperor has summoned the Fourth Prince and the Martial Arts Champion Su Liang."

The expressions on everyone's faces varied at these words.

They could all guess why Duanmu Yi summoned Su Liang at this time: he needed a master's help to rescue the fifth prince.

But Duanmu Yi's request for Duanmu Chen to come had clearly indicated his favour and desire to discuss the rescue mission of Duanmu Che with him.

Compared with leading the Enrong Banquet, rescuing the fifth prince was obviously more concerning to Duanmu Yi.

Hearing this made Duanmu Cheng's face fall.

Su Liang and Duanmu Chen both stood up and followed the eunuch out of the room.

Lin Xueqing breathed a sigh of relief and said softly, "Now that Sister Su has gone, I feel better." She frowned immediately, "No, I am more worried now."

"Little sister, do not worry excessively. They want to exchange hostages. If our side remains cautious, there should be no issues," Lin Boyan sighed softly.

This was bound to be a gloomy feast.

Without saying a word, Su Liang and Duanmu Chen exchanged a glance as the eunuch lead them.

The pair was in a partnership, and they had considerable tacit understanding. No matter what happened next, they needed to "take care" of each other.

The eunuch stopped outside the Imperial Study, reported, and a voice emerged from inside with Duanmu Yi's command to let Duanmu Chen and Su Liang in.

Upon entering Su Liang spotted Lin Bojun, which was expected.

After paying respects, Su Liang was arranged to sit next to Lin Bojun.

“Father Emperor, what happened to the fifth royal brother?” Duanmu Chen asked with a grave expression.

Duanmu Yi, with a gloomy face, glanced at Lin Bojun.

Lin Bojun took the hint and explained, “The Fifth Prince was kidnapped while preparing to go to the palace.”

“Who dares to be so bold in daylight? Did the guards in the fifth prince’s mansion not notice anything?” Duanmu Chen frowned.

Lin Bojun sighed, “At the time, Huang, who served the fifth prince, was nearby but didn’t notice anyone moving about. He failed to see the fifth prince for roughly fifteen minutes and then he was gone. It must have been the work of an extraordinary master!”

“Did the people who kidnapped the fifth prince leave a letter?” Duanmu Chen asked. How else would they know the kidnapper wanted to exchange Nian Jincheng?

Lin Bojun nodded, “Blood-stained characters were left on the wall; we are not sure if the blood belongs to the fifth prince. The ransom note states that the fifth prince should be exchanged for Nian Jincheng on the top of Wangxiang Mountain at midnight.”

Duanmu Chen’s face hardened, “Could it be, Gu Ling?”

Lin Bojun did not respond to this remark.

Duanmu Yi said coldly, “I knew it: by not eradicating the sources of trouble thoroughly, it will cause disaster sooner or later!”

With this statement, it was clear that Duanmu Yi believed that Gu Ling was the one who seized Duanmu Che.

“Gu Ling was indeed living alone beforehand, which was quite mysterious. But what’s an odder fact is he did nothing when the Gu family was in trouble, he just disappeared.” Duanmu Chen said, his brows furrowed.

Before Gu family’s mishap, Gu Ling lived in Huguo Temple, estranging himself from the world, claiming that he had deep faith in Buddha and longed to be ordained as a monk.

However, since Gu family’s plot to rebel was confirmed, Gu Ling’s actions were given a different interpretation – he was conspiring in the dark.

Some even suspected that Gu Ling was the mastermind of the Gu family’s rebellion

This suspicion was something that could not be proven innocent.

And for this reason, the court would definitely not let him off.

Until midnight, there was still plenty of time. If they sent men to Wangxiang Mountain in advance, it would be hard to escape the kidnapper’s eyes. After all, the location of the exchange was chosen by the kidnapper, so he would surely have sent someone to monitor it.

The individuals in the Imperial Study, apart from Su Liang, all held this thought.

Though Su Liang, who knew all the information, didn't believe Yan Shiba would be in Wangxiang Mountain at the moment, it was still easy for her to send assassins from Yanyun Building to trap the kidnapper.

"Share your thoughts." Duanmu Yi demanded with a stern face.

Previously, during the civil examinations, Duanmu Chen's paper was excellent among the grown-up princes, and coupled with his breaking of the Iron Mine smuggling case, he recently won the heart of the emperor. Duanmu Yi now greatly trusts his abilities.

Duanmu Chen sighed first and then spoke, "Father, it might be Gu Ling, but we have no clear knowledge of his current strength and how many allies he has. For the safety of the fifth prince, I think we should focus on rescuing him instead of creating any unnecessary troubles."

Duanmu Yi's expression eased slightly, "Hmm. Su Liang, what do you think?"

Su Liang solemnly replied, "From your humble servant's point of view, I agree with the fourth prince. We should be prepared for the worst-case scenario. I offer to escort Nian Jincheng tonight. If anything happens to the fifth prince, I can provide immediate medical treatment."

Duanmu Chen immediately nodded, "That's even more secure."

It seemed that Su Liang, a newcomer without any official position, was eager to make a show.

When it came to martial arts, Su Liang was not irreplaceable.

However, among the available martial artists, she had the best medical skills, and among the available doctors, she had the strongest martial arts.

The opponent didn't say only one person was allowed to escort Nian Jincheng up the mountain, so masters could be arranged to hide in the dark.

The reason why Duanmu Yi called Su Liang was indeed because she knew medical skills. Duanmu Che's health was already poor, and if the opponent inflicted further harm, the delay in treatment could lead to adverse consequences.

"Alright, I agree," Duanmu Yi nodded, "If you can safely bring Che'er back this time, I will grant you a reward!"

"I will do my best," Su Liang responded respectfully.

She wasn't trying to win merit or save Duanmu Che, she was just worried that something might happen if Lin Bojun goes. Yan Shiba didn't know about Su Liang's relationship with the Lin family, and Su Liang didn't have a chance to communicate with her today either.

In a strict sense, Duanmu Che's predicament was indeed caused by Su Liang herself.

She personally wanted to negotiate the hostage exchange, hoping that there would be no surprises or unexpected troubles.

In the end, it was decided that Lin Bojun and Su Liang would be responsible for escorting Nian Jincheng.

In other words, they were in charge of the mission. If they rescued Duanmu Che, it would be a great feat, but if they failed, they would be in serious trouble.

As for how many masters Duanmu Yi would arrange in secret to keep an eye on them, it was not revealed.

And naturally, people from the royal family wouldn't risk their lives blatantly. Duanmu Chen was just there to give some advice.

The voice of the eunuch, Min, came again from outside the Imperial Study, "Your Majesty, Nian Jincheng has been brought in."

"Come in," said Duanmu Yi with a cold face.

Su Liang thought to herself, it seems that Nian Jincheng has indeed been confined somewhere in the palace in recent days, but even Yan Shiba couldn't find him, it must be a very secretive place.

The door opened, and two old men dragged in a person covered in blood.

As the wind blew in, a strong smell of blood hit them.

Duanmu Yi waved, and the two old men put Nian Jincheng on the ground, arranged him in a kneeling position, and then left.

Nian Jincheng was awake and kneeling there. From head to toe, there was no trace of the once privileged son of the Nian family.

Lin Bojun couldn't bear to look at him, so he shifted his gaze after a slight glance.

Su Liang kept a calm face as she listened to Duanmu Yi say coldly, "Gu Ling is coming to save you."

Nian Jincheng was hanging his head, his messy hair obscuring half of his face, and he muttered, "Really..."

"If you tell me where he is, I can give you another chance!" Duanmu Yi said coldly.

Nian Jincheng's hand was on his chest as he said softly, "In here."

Duanmu Chen shook his head and sighed deeply.

He had once sincerely tried to recruit Nian Jincheng but he didn't expect Nian Jincheng would end up in this state because of Gu Ling.

Seeing him now, Duanmu Chen felt even more that Nian Jincheng might indeed know where Gu Ling was hiding. He wouldn't confess, but that doesn't mean he's betraying them; it's just his personality.

When Nian Jincheng once thought of Nian Ruxue, that b*tch, as a treasure, let alone his true brother Gu Ling? If he betrayed a friend for his benefit, it wouldn't be him.

Seeing that Nian Jincheng was unmoved, Duanmu Yi said sharply, "Even if he escapes to the ends of the earth, I will not let him go! The same goes for you!"

Guards, take him and clean him up! Return him to where he originally was! " Nian Jincheng was dragged away again. He had already noticed Su Liang when he came in, and as he left the room, he suddenly chuckled softly.

Su Liang sighed slightly in her heart, hoping that Nian Jincheng would live a peaceful life after this calamity.

After the matter was settled, Su Liang and Lin Bojun returned to the Enrong Banquet.

Duanmu Chen stayed behind as he still had matters to discuss with Duanmu Yi.

“Xiaoliang, you shouldn’t have volunteered. It’s going to be dangerous,” Lin Bojun frowned and spoke softly.

Su Liang chuckled lightly, “During our last combat, I didn’t lose to Second Brother Lin. If it’s dangerous, why should it be you who goes?”

“Because you called me Second Brother!” Lin Bojun sighed.

Su Liang smiled, “Yu Jin said that the day Second Brother Lin saved her, she fell for you.”

Lin Bojun was taken aback for a moment and then smiled, “Really?” “Of course, it’s true.” Su Liang nodded.

Meanwhile, the two of them returned to the Enrong Banquet.

Seeing that Duanmu Chen hadn’t come back with them, Duanmu Cheng’s eyes darkened.

Though everything seemed normal, some impromptu programs were cancelled due to the atmosphere.

After the hasty conclusion of the Enrong Banquet, Su Liang saw Qin Yujin walking towards Lin Bojun. She withdrew her gaze and left with Ning Jing, giving him a simple rundown of what happened.

“Your brother was badly beaten,” whispered Su Liang, “Ultimately, it’s your fault.”

Ning Jing’s expression remained indifferent, “Once he’s rescued, you can persuade him to stop being my brother”

Su Liang had an inexplicable expression, “I suddenly feel that I’m also in danger. What if you’re discovered...”

Ning Jing gave Su Liang a cool look, “You were the one who insisted on being engaged to me, now it’s too late to distance yourself..”

Chapter 163: 163. Settle the accounts first

After leaving the palace, Qi Jun drove the two of them home before taking his leave.

It had just passed noon.

As soon as Qi Jun left, Chang’an arrived on the scene.

This time, he came openly, carrying out Duanmu Chen’s orders to inform Su Liang that he was to enter the palace at the third quarter of the evening.

“Master asked me to inquire, how confident is Miss Su?” Chang’an asked. After careful consideration, Su Liang gave his answer, “I’ll know after tonight.”

Chang'an: ...What a great sense of humor, haha.

After Chang'an left, Su Liang took a nap to recharge his energy.

After waking up, he began preparing the "equipment" needed for tonight: weapons, poison, healing medicine, and so on.

He hoped they wouldn't be needed, but he had to bring everything just in case.

Dinner was sour soup dumplings. Ning Jing, who was skilled at making dumplings, designed a new shape – a four-pointed star...

Su Liang sincerely praised, "These are really well made. Next time, do you want to learn to cook other dishes? I can teach you?"

Ning Jing shook her head, "No."

After thinking about it, according to their division of labor, if Su Liang were to teach Ning Jing how to cook, he would have to wash dishes and clean up, which seemed like more work and not worthwhile.

Forget about it, then.

"Are you going tonight?" Su Liang asked.

Ning Jing shook his head again, "No."

"That's right, you don't really have to go," Su Liang said. "After the successful hostage exchange, the emperor will surely arrange for a master to apprehend Gu Ling."

When Su Liang was about to return to his room after dinner, he heard Ning Jing say, "Don't let Nian Jincheng die."

Su Liang nodded, "I'll do my best."

Though it seemed everything was under control, and he could even be considered the "mastermind" behind the scenes, Su Liang was not clear about Yan Shiba's plan, nor Duanmu Yi's covert arrangements.

In order to avoid unexpected situations from arising, he needed to be extremely cautious in his response.

Carrying a medicine box would be inconvenient, so Su Liang wore a crossbody bag, but there was nothing important inside. The truly important items were hidden throughout his body.

The moon was bright, and the stars were sparse.

Su Liang rode out alone in the direction of the Imperial Palace.

When he arrived at the palace gate, he heard the sound of horse hooves and saw Lin Bojun riding towards him when he turned around.

"Xiaoliang!" Lin Bojun dismounted, looked at Su Liang's outfit, and said, "Let's

The two entered the palace without seeing Duanmu Yi, and were arranged to wait in the Side Palace of the Imperial Study. Minister Gong served them tea.

About a quarter of an hour later, Duanmu Chen arrived.

“There’s no need to be overly courteous, you two,” Duanmu Chen waved his hand. “The empress dowager is unwell, so the emperor entrusted me with full responsibility for rescuing the fifth prince. If you have any ideas, you can still bring them up now.”

Lin Bojun and Su Liang exchanged glances, both shaking their heads.

There were, indeed, questions, but some things were useless to ask.

“Tonight’s matter is up to you two. You must ensure the safe return of the fifth prince!” Duanmu Chen’s expression was solemn.

Su Liang actually doubted whether Duanmu Chen truly hoped for Duanmu Che to return alive, but, helpless as he was, if Duanmu Che encountered any problems, he might be punished by Duanmu Yi.

“Has Nian Ruxue, who cheated in the Military Exam, been caught yet?” Su Liang suddenly asked.

Duanmu Chen shook his head, “A warrant has been issued to all the states and counties.”

“I still don’t understand. Why did Nian Ruting testify against Nian Jincheng? This seems to have no benefit for her,” Su Liang said.

This topic was worth discussing since many people were puzzled by it.

“It’s not a problem to tell the two of you. Nian Ruting is a lunatic. After her plan was exposed, she claimed that she should have been Gu Ling’s fiancée. The betrothal between the Nian and Gu families was due to a misunderstanding by Lady Gu who thought Nian Ruxue saved her, but it was actually Nian Ruting who saved her,” Duanmu Chen explained.

This was the first time Su Liang had heard of this. Because someone never mentioned anything about the Gu family and always spoke ill of Nian Ruxue.

“Nian Ruting confessed two things. First, that Nian Jincheng was still in collusion with Gu Ling, and second, that she should be Gu Ling’s fiancée,” Duanmu Chen snorted. “I originally thought she was insane, but after thinking about it, it seems this woman hopes both matters will be publicized. If Gu Ling comes to save Nian Jincheng, he might also save her. It’s clear she really wants to be with Gu Ling.”

Su Liang: ...I must say, after learning about Nian Ruting, I asked a certain someone if they knew her, and they shook their head, saying they didn’t know her...

Su Liang couldn’t understand how some unrequited love could be so persistent. Perhaps it was because of a certain Great God’s overwhelming charm?

It was obvious that if what Nian Ruting said was true, Nian Ruxue must have schemed to steal her marriage back then, and she still naively considered Nian Ruxue her confidant, doing everything for her.

How pitiful and hateful.

“Why wasn’t the matter made public?” Su Liang asked Duanmu Chen.

Duanmu Chen sighed lightly, “If she and Nian Jincheng are both useful to Gu Ling, it’s better to use them separately. Just like this time, if Nian Jincheng is rescued, the matter with Nian Ruting and Gu Ling can be publicized later to see if Gu Ling will come and save her as well.”

Su Liang wanted to say that Duanmu Yi and Duanmu Chen had beautiful fantasies and a certain degree of rationality. Unfortunately, that was destined not to happen.

The reason why Duanmu Chen would talk to Su Liang and Lin Bojun about something that was temporarily not public was that after tonight, it would no longer be a secret.

Recently, Su Liang had been in the spotlight and there were always suspicions that Duanmu Chen knew her from before, which is why Duanmu Chen did not share the matter with her in a timely manner. He felt it had nothing to do with her and did not need to make any unnecessary moves.

“I didn’t see General Man Ya today.” Su Liang said.

Duanmu Chen snorted lightly, “She said she was sick from the environmental change.”

“Why didn’t she ask me to treat her?” Su Liang casually said.

The departure time was approaching, but Nian Jincheng was still nowhere to be seen.

Duanmu Chen explained, “To play it safe and prevent the other party from ambushing along the way, someone will secretly bring Nian Jincheng over. When you both reach Wangxiang Mountain, you’ll be able to meet him.”

Su Liang and Lin Bojun left the Imperial Palace without encountering any trouble and smoothly reached the bottom of Wangxiang Mountain, where they met Nian Jincheng.

It was Huang Bo, a subordinate of Duanmu Che, who brought him there.

Nian Jincheng had cleaned himself up, his face was unharmed except for the sickly pallor. It was as if he had been put to sleep by sedatives.

Lin Bojun carried Nian Jincheng on his back.

Huang Bo sighed deeply, “Miss Su, too many things have happened recently. If my Master has done anything wrong, please don’t take it to heart. Considering our previous relationship, you must save him!”

Upon hearing this, Su Liang’s face turned cold, “I know you are eager to save your Master, but there is no need to say this. I will do my best to fulfill the Imperial mission.”

With those words, Su Liang and Lin Bojun took a shortcut up the mountain.

Huang Bo’s words seemed to imply suspicions that Su Liang would take advantage of the recent conflict with Duanmu Che and deliberately worsen the situation.

Although Su Liang didn't think Huang Bo had the heart to trip her up at this time.

But there must be other ears nearby listening, all reporting back to Duanmu Yi.

Wangxiang mountain was tall and steep; there was no path for carriages or horses. It was a long walk up the mountain, especially with Lin Bojun carrying a person.

Su Liang and Lin Bojun reached the top of the mountain with Nian Jincheng just a quarter of an hour before midnight.

The wind howled.

An ancient pine tree with twisted branches on the edge of the cliff was adorned with a red lantern gleaming blood-red in the dim night.

"Second Brother Lin, no matter what happens next, don't rush forward," Su Liang whispered.

Lin Bojun furrowed his brow, but now wasn't the time to argue, and he acknowledged Su Liang's intelligence and nodded to listen to her advice.

Midnight arrived.

Lin Bojun was still carrying Nian Jincheng when he suddenly felt a cold gust, followed by a woman's voice from not far away, "Hehe, did you bring the person I want?"

Lin Bojun's face tensed up!

But Su Liang's heart loosened. It was Yan Shiba; that was good. She was afraid that Yan Shiba would assign the task to an assassin who didn't know her, which would be troublesome.

"May I ask if the 5th Prince is well?" Su Liang asked loudly.

Yan Shiba, who was about to emerge from behind a large rock with her mask on, paused for a moment and then revealed half of her body. The silver ghost mask shone coldly under the moonlight as she chuckled, "He is fine! I want to verify the goods. Let me see Nian Jincheng." Lin Bojun took a step forward, "He's right here."

"I want to talk to him," Yan Shiba snorted.

"We want to hear the 5th Prince's voice too," Su Liang said coldly.

"Alright!" Yan Shiba vanished, and after a moment, a crisp slap echoed from behind the rock, "Speak! Your father sent someone to save you!" "Who?" Duanmu Che's voice was weak.

"Your Highness the 5th Prince, I'm Su Liang," Su Liang said.

Duanmu Che was overjoyed, "You came to save me?"

Yan Shiba raised her hand and slapped him twice more, "One sentence was enough, and you dared to chat! Shut up!"

Duanmu Che fell to the ground, his eyes burning with anger, desperate to tear Yan Shiba apart!

“Let Nian Jincheng speak!” Yan Shiba yelled, “You two better not make any rash moves and follow my instructions. Otherwise, I can’t guarantee that the 5th Prince you take back won’t be missing something.”

Su Liang fed Nian Jincheng a pill and as he slowly woke, Lin Bojun whispered the situation into his ear.

Nian Jincheng looked at Su Liang and was somewhat bewildered.

The ones who saved him could only be arranged by Ning Jing and Su Liang. Why was Su Liane here to save Duanmu Che?

Nian Jincheng’s mind was foggy, and he couldn’t figure it out for a moment. Seeing Su Liang’s presence, he decided to trust her, stopped thinking too much, and said, “I am Nian Jincheng.”

“Xiao Nian, did you get hit?” Yan Shiba asked.

Nian Jincheng looked confused, but then saw Su Liang give him a look, so he replied, “Yes.”

“Do you remember how many times you were hit and where you were hit?” Yan Shiba asked again.

Nian Jincheng replied, “I remember.”

Yan Shiba let out a cold jeer, “That’s good! You can slowly tell me, and I’ll return the favor on Duanmu Che’s body! Let’s clear the debts before discussing exchanging hostages ! ”

Su Liang quickly said, “No!”

“Little girl, you have two choices. First, let me vent my anger, and I won’t hit too much. I’ll just hit back what my Xiao Nian has suffered. Second, I’ll cut off Duanmu Che’s lineage directly.. Looking at his cowardly state, it shouldn’t make any difference!” As Yan Shiba spoke, she whipped Duanmu Che again, “I assume you choose the first option, but if you change your mind and want the second option, just let me know, haha!”

Chapter 164: 164. The Second Half of Xiao Nian’s Life

The sound of the whip, Duanmu Che’s screams of agony, Yan Shiba’s hysterical laughter, and the howling wind all intertwined.

“Xiaoliang, this can’t go on, the Fifth Prince has a frail body...” Lin Bojun’s face was filled with anxiety. He was tasked to save the prince and he couldn’t let

Duanmu Che be beaten to death.

Su Liang heaved a deep sigh, “That woman is not easy to deal with. General Nian, would you do us a favor? Please spare him a bit. We promise not to cause you any more trouble.”

Nian Jincheng, who was put down by Lin Bojun and was sitting against a rock, clearly saw Su Liang pleading with him earnestly, all while his hanging hand was discretely giving off signals.

Only Nian Jincheng could see it; Lin Bojun didn't notice a thing.

Understanding the signal, Nian Jincheng coldly remarked, "I've already reached a dead end. Why should I care if he lives or dies?"

Lin Bojun also sighed, "General Nian, you still have family in the Heavenly Prison. "

That statement was equivalent to adding fuel to the fire.

Nian Jincheng would never forget how when his entire household was thrown into the Heavenly Prison, thanks to the disaster Nian Ruxue and Nian Ruting caused, he was blamed for everything. His grandmother cursed him as a freak, his father scolded him as a disaster, and his brother, Nian Jinxing, despised him to the point of wanting to tear him limb from limb.

And he had done nothing wrong.

Nian Ruxue, who should take the blame, had escaped, while Nian Ruting demanded Nian Jincheng to reveal Gu Ling's location. When he ignored her, she betrayed him.

For a while, Nian Jincheng treasured his so-called relatives, especially after the calamity that befell the Gu Family and Gu Ling's departure.

But now, Gu Ling was back. As far as Nian Jincheng was concerned, he was the only relative he could trust.

Yan Shiba asked loudly, "Where were you branded?"

Nian Jincheng replied, "On my chest."

The next moment, a horrifying scream sounded. Yan Shiba laughed maniacally, "Since we don't have an iron here, I just cut off a small thing from the chest of the Fifth Prince. Is that enough?"

"It's enough." Nian Jincheng replied.

Lin Bojun's expression was terrible, and Huang Bo, who had been hiding in the shadows, couldn't help but reveal himself, "Miss Su, General Lin, we must think of a way quickly!"

In fact, Duanmu Che was only beaten a few times so far, but at this rate, it wouldn't take long for him to be beaten to death.

Su Liang's gaze was firm. She spoke to Nian Jincheng, "I don't know who saved you, but perhaps you might be interested in another person."

Nian Jincheng coldly asked, "Who?"

Su Liang replied, "Nian Ruting. I heard she was the one who betrayed you?"

"What do you intend?" Nian Jincheng snorted.

"It's simple, make her stop hurting the Fifth Prince. You and Nian Ruting, two for one. It's a good deal, isn't it?" Su Liang said.

Nian Jincheng nodded, "I agree, but I don't know who that woman is. She may not agree."

"Just make the proposal!" Su Liang said.

Nian Jincheng coughed a few times again. Huang Bo, anxious, urged him to speak quickly. Only then did Nian Jincheng speak out, "Stop!" No response. Nian Jincheng raised his voice, "Stop!"

Still no response.

Unable to bear it, Huang Bo shouted loudly, "Stop it immediately!"

From behind the huge stone, Yan Shiba's sly voice came, "Do you wish to switch to a second method? Sure!"

Huang Bo looked horrified, "No, no, no! It's not like that! It's just that General Nian has something to say to you!"

"Little Nian? If you have something to say, hurry up!" Yan Shiba peeked half of his body out.

Weakly, Nian Jincheng said, "Stop hitting. Let them bring Nian Ruting too. I want to take her away."

"Nian Ruting? The bitch who betrayed you? Sure, bring her here and chop her into pieces!" Yan Shiba agreed cheerfully and spoke to Su Liang, "Little girl, you heard it, bring that bitch from the Nian family over. You have half an hour. If I don't see her by then, I will castrate this waste!"

Before Yan Shiba finished speaking, Huang Bo had already disappeared.

However, moments later, Huang Bo returned and whispered to Su Liang and Lin Bojun that someone had gone to report to the Emperor.

"Miss Su, I'm really worried about the Master's health. Can you ask that woman to let you go treat him?" Huang Bo asked.

Lin Bojun frowned, "She won't agree, and it's too dangerous."

Yet, Su Liang asked Yan Shiba, "How is Prince Five? Can I go treat his injuries first?"

Yan Shiba scoffed, "Little girl, is this your brother or your lover? Aren't you afraid that once you come here, I'll keep you? Or are you planning to assassinate me?"

Su Liang sighed and helplessly shook her head at Huang Bo. She was willing to take the risk, but they didn't give her a chance, so there was nothing she could do.

During the time they were waiting for Nian Ruting to be brought, Yan Shiba sat cross-legged behind a boulder. One-half of his body was visible, while the unseen hand held a needle, regularly poking Duanmu Che again and again.

Duanmu Che had passed out from the pain, not making a sound.

Yan Shiba started a conversation with Su Liang, "Little girl, by the sound of your voice, you seem young. What's your name?"

After a moment of silence, Su Liang said, "I'm Su Liang. If you're interested in me, how about we take turns asking each other questions, and we'll stop when someone doesn't want to answer, okay?"

Yan Shiba laughed out loud, "Interesting, interesting! Come on! Su Liang? Now I know that you're the Martial Arts Champion of this year's exam! Did you take the military exam to become an official? Or to go to war?"

Su Liang responded, "I haven't thought about that yet. My turn. Are you sent by Gu Ling?"

Yan Shiba snorted lightly, "So you all think I'm Gu Ling's man? I'm not!"

Lin Bojun furrowed his eyebrows and Huang Bo's facial expression changed.

Then, Yan Shiba continued, "I heard your fiancé is Ning Jing, the head of the Ning family and the top scholar in this year's exam. Do you like his face or his wealth?"

Su Liang replied, "Only a kid would make a choice. He has both, and I want all." Lin Bojun and Huang Bo both twitched at the corners of their mouths.

Nian Jincheng closed his eyes and bowed his head, fearing he would burst into laughter if he didn't...

Yan Shiba laughed heartily again, "Ambitious!"

"Why did you save Nian Jincheng? Who sent you here?" Su Liang asked again. Yan Shiba chuckled, "Since you insist on asking, then it must be Gu Ling."

"But you just said it wasn't." Su Liang said.

"Did I? I was just joking." Yan Shiba said.

"Who really sent you? Aren't you brave enough to tell?" Su Liang snorted coldly.

"Little sister, don't rush, it's my turn to ask you." Yan Shiba grinned, "Have you and Ning Jing slept together yet?"

Su Liang shook her head, "Not yet. Why are you so interested in intimate affairs? If you weren't sent by Gu Ling, were you one of Nian Jincheng's admirers?"

Yan Shiba burst out laughing again, "Since my little sister, you sincerely asked, I really like you, so it doesn't hurt to tell you. I am indeed an admirer, but not of Nian Jincheng. I'm an admirer of another."

Su Liang furrowed her brows, "Are you referring to Gu Ling?"

"You asked an extra question, oh!" Yan Shiba laughed sweetly, "You guessed correctly! A fleeting glance in the past left me captivated and missing him. I wanted to find him, but he disappeared without a trace. I wanted to ask his only rumored friend, Nian Jincheng, but he had been captured just at this time! What bad luck! But since I'm already here, it can't be for nothing. I'll save Nian Jincheng, then if my dream lover is alive and hears about this, he will surely come to find me."

Su Liang looked bewildered, "If what you said is true, it's indeed possible to achieve your goal. But, how would Gu Ling know where to find you?"

“He could just come to my house, in...” Yan Shiba’s voice trailed off, she snorted softly, “Naughty little girl, trying to get words out of me. Nearly fell for your trick! Since you are willing to help me spread the word, then go to... a place known only to Gu Ling and Young Nian! I’ll let him decide after I’ve saved him.”

“Sister, you are indeed impressive in both power and courage. Why not reveal your name, so Gu Ling can find you later?” Su Liang said gently.

Yan Shiba scoffed, “Little sister, you asked two more questions. It’s my turn now. What would you do if Ning Jing falls in love with someone else?”

Su Liang casually responded, “I’ll let him leave with nothing. I may not need him, but all of the Ning family’s property is mine.”

“And what if you fall for another man?” Yan Shiba asked again.

Su Liang thought for a moment, “We’d part on good terms. He’d give me half of his properties.”

Lin Bojun:

Huang Bo: . . .

Nian Jincheng: ...I need to tell my brother about this.

Yan Shiba laughed joyously, anyone who didn’t know the situation would think she had a chance encounter with Su Liang while appreciating the moon in the mountain tonight and that they got along well at first sight.

Duanmu Yi, who was waiting in the palace, upon learning of the circumstances, immediately ordered Nian Ruting to be sent over, insisting that Duanmu Che must return alive.

After the person left, Duanmu Chen admitted his mistake, “I thought Nian Ruting’s matter would be public soon, so when I saw Su Liang and Lin Bojun tonight, I casually mentioned it during our conversation.”

“No harm done.” Duanmu Yi’s expression was grave, “That lowly woman doesn’t hold much value, it’s useless keeping her around. Thankfully, you told Su Liang, who thought on her feet and suggested using her as a bargaining chip. Otherwise, Che’er might have survived, but there’s no telling how bad his injuries would be! I have really misjudged Nian Jincheng!”

Duanmu Chen sighed, “He’s probably given up completely. What surprised me is, why would a woman appear? There aren’t many women with overwhelming power in this world. If she was sent by Gu Ling, was he originally in the vicinity of the capital? Otherwise, there’s no way she could have arrived so quickly.”

Duanmu Yi’s eyes slightly narrowed, “We’ll see if Su Liang and Lin Bojun can find out any information.”

“Is the Emperor considering promoting Su Liang?” Duanmu Chen asked.

Duanmu Yi huffed lightly, "She is indeed a smart little girl. She's powerful, but don't you think she's mysterious?"

Duanmu Chen nodded, "She grew up in the capital, but I have never heard of her before. I wonder if she was concealing her abilities or if she had an extraordinary experience after leaving the capital. But for her to be so amazing at such a young age is a rare genius indeed."

"Cheer suspected she was a spy." Duanmu Yi stated.

Duanmu Chen was stunned, "Didn't the Fifth Prince have a soft spot for Su Liang?"

"That was after the Military Exam." Duanmu Yi expressed, "Do you think Su Liang could be a spy? No evidence is needed, just tell me what you feel."

Duanmu Chen seemed lost in thought, "I feel, if someone is manipulating Su Liang, it's a waste to have someone of her talent serve as a spy. Her martial arts are secondary, her medical skills are superb. Wouldn't it be better to have such a person for our personal use?"

Duanmu Yi pondered, "That makes some sense."

"If you doubt someone, you don't use them. Father, if you think she's problematic, give her a token position and dismiss her." Duanmu Chen righteously suggested.

In reality, this was his subtle way of invoking reverse psychology, whilst distancing himself from Su Liang.

"Let's see how tonight unfolds." Duanmu Yi declared.

When Nian Ruting was thrown in front of Su Liang, Su Liang didn't recognize her at first glance. Her legs weren't treated in time and were now completely disabled. Her hair was messy, her face was deathly pale, and her eyes were staring straight at Su Liang.

"Dear sister, your person is here." Su Liang spoke up, very politely, "It's time to exchange."

"Nian Ruting?" Yan Shiba called out.

Nian Ruting responded to the call with a question, "Are you sent by Gu Ling?"

Yan Shiba snorted, "You small wench, are you fantasizing about my beloved? Wait and see how I deal with you!"

However, she never anticipated that it would be a woman pining for Gu Ling?!

"Little sister, throw that woman with the last name Nian off the cliff!" Yan Shiba commanded.

Nian Ruting froze instantly, "You dare? I am Gu Ling's fiancée!"

"Shut up! Or else, I will chop you in half and throw you down!" Yan Shiba roared, "My little brother is waiting below! Just under that tree with the lantern hanging on it!"

“Alright. I will throw her down, and you will bring the Fifth Prince out from behind the rock, agreed?” Su Liang negotiated with Yan Shiba.

“Deal!” Yan Shiba readily agreed.

Then, Su Liang dragged Nian Ruting by the arm to the edge of the cliff, looked at the ancient pine with a red lantern hanging on it and was about to throw her down. But she asked Yan Shiba, “In case your little brother is napping, do you want me to call out to him.”

Yan Shiba flung a stone down and a man’s groan echoed from the bottom of the cliff...

Su Liang guessed it was probably Yan Shiqi.

Feeling ill at ease, Nian Ruting clung to Su Liang’s leg, “I won’t go with her! Send me back to the Heavenly Prison!” If it truly were Gu Ling’s admirer, she certainly wouldn’t let her go easy.

Su Liang pulled Nian Ruting’s hand off and pushed her off the cliff.

Nian Ruting’s scream echoed through the mountains before coming to an abrupt halt.

Yan Shiba kept her promise, dragging one of Duanmu Che’s legs from behind the giant rock and then she let go of Duanmu Che, she then walked towards the location near the ancient pine, “Let the little one come here, I will take him away.”

There was an abrupt sound of fighting from behind the giant stone. Yan Shiba sneered, “Little sister, I like you, so I was talking to you nicely. Who would have thought someone would try to attack me from behind? They’re seeking death!”

Su Liang had no idea who had gone, it must have been a master appointed by Duanmu Yi, trying to rescue Duanmu Che from behind, and then attack Yan Shiba.

However, Yan Shiba definitely didn’t come alone; she was eager to fulfill her promise to Su Liang to find Gu Ling as soon as possible. Tonight she brought a lot of her brothers, each of whom was a ruthless assassin.

The sound of the fight was still ongoing. Seeing Yan Shiba wanting to return to Duanmu Che’s side, Su Liang quickly spoke, “Let them do their fighting, should we continue our trade?” As she spoke, she pulled Nian Jincheng over.

Yan Shiba snorted coldly, “I’ll give you another chance! Hurry and bring Xiaonian over!”

Lin Bojun followed behind, his hand on his sword hilt, ready for any eventuality.

As Su Liang released Nian Jincheng, Yan Shiba grabbed him and tossed him off the cliff!

On seeing this, Su Liang took a step and arrived at Duanmu Che’s side.

But Yan Shiba did not leave immediately. She laughed coldly, drew her sword, and charged at Su Liang, “Let me have a taste of the superior skills of Qian Country’s Martial Arts Champion!”

Su Liang met Yan Shiba’s attack head-on, providing an opportunity for Huang Bo to carry Duanmu Che away.

The experts arranged by Duanmu Yi had all emerged, and the assassins on Yan Shiba's side had all revealed themselves. The fight between the two sides was on the verge of blowing up.

"I'm tired! No more playing!" Yan Shiba fainted and leapt off the cliff.

Her companions followed suit, all disappearing over the edge like dumplings in a pot.

Su Liang saw the people sent by Duanmu Yi giving chase. She wanted to remind them not to, but if they did not chase, the blame would again fall on her, and since she was not in charge of those people, she let them be.

"Miss Su! Quick, come and see our master!" Huang Bo was calling for Su Liang.

Su Liang glanced once more at the red lantern fluttering in the wind, then sheathed her weapon and began to walk back.

Lin Bojun let out a sigh of relief. As long as Duanmu Che was alive, their mission was completed. And furthermore, Su Liang had proposed handing over an extra Nian Ruting, saving Duanmu Che's life.

Su Liang was stunned upon seeing Duanmu Che. His face was covered with fine blood vessels. On closer inspection, there were tiny red dots all over his face, all punctured by a needle....

The dozen or so lashes Yan Shiba had given him also left two bloody streaks on Duanmu Che's face. It was a ghastly sight.

There was a large pool of blood on Duanmu Che's right chest. Yan Shiba had indeed cut off something from his chest.

Huang Bo was livid, "That vicious woman! I hope I never find her!"

Su Liang took Duanmu Che's pulse. The situation was bad, but his life was not in danger.

She administered medication to Duanmu Che and bandaged his wounds to stop the bleeding before instructing Huang Bo to return him to the palace.

Huang Bo, carrying the unconscious Duanmu Che, left. Su Liang, without paying attention to those chasing after Yan Shiba, descended the mountain with Lin Bojun.

By the time Su Liang and Lin Bojun entered the palace again, the men who had gone after Yan Shiba had also returned.

All of them were alive, a few were injured, but none fatally.

"Those people seemed like the work of assassins, but they didn't seem interested in killing tonight," the elder at the head said.

Duanmu Chen frowned, "Are they really Gu Ling's admirers, or assassins hired by Gu Ling? From Yanyun Building?"

Duanmu Yi's face was grim, "We'll discuss this later. Su Liang, you've made a significant contribution this time, you can tell me what reward you want. The most important task I'm entrusting you with now is to help Che'er recover."

Su Liang furrowed her eyebrows slightly, "Your Majesty, could you assign someone else to treat the fifth prince?"

Duanmu Yi's face turned cold, "Why? You're not willing?"

Su Liang shook her head, "At the beginning, I was very willing to treat the fifth prince, even though he didn't like me at all, which Huang Bo knows. Now it seems that the fifth prince has taken a liking to me, but I am already engaged. I'm afraid more interactions would only lead to more troubles."

Duanmu Yi's face softened slightly, "That's true. It would not be proper for Che'er to persist in wanting to marry you. Very well, you can teach the method of acupuncture and medication for Che'er to Imperial Physician Gao."

Su Liang immediately nodded, "Alright, thank you, your Majesty, for your understanding."

When Su Liang returned home, it was almost dawn.

Ning Jing came out of the room, "How did it go?"

Su Liang smiled, "It went smoothly. Your brother is now in Yan Shiba's hands. We need to think about how to help him."

Ning Jing nodded, "Thank you."

"The rest of Xiaonian's life depends on you, how do you plan to settle him down?" Su Liang asked.

Ning Jing thought for a moment and said, "Let him sell tea. Or give him to Yang

Yu, the cloth seller would work just fine.."

Chapter 165: 165. Deep bond between brothers

Su Liang slept soundly until the sun was shining brightly, and when she got up to make breakfast, guests arrived.

It was the elderly doctor Gao Jiabao and his grandson Gao Jiabao.

Having received an imperial decree from the Emperor this morning, Doctor Gao took the initiative to visit Su Liang, hoping that she could also help take a look at Gao Jiabao's injury.

Ning Jing hosted the grandfather and grandson in the small hall, making tea for them.

"We apologize for the intrusion," the old doctor began.

Ning Jing shook his head slightly, "The matter of treating the Fifth Prince cannot be delayed."

"Yes, indeed!" The old doctor laughed heartily.

Gao Jiabao asked, "It was Su Liang who saved the Fifth Prince last night?"

Ning Jing nodded, "It wasn't only her."

As they spoke, the tea was ready, its aroma inviting and refreshing.

Dr. Gao took a sip and was astonished, “Is this...?”

Ning Jing replied calmly, “Da Hong Pao.”

As a doctor who frequently served the nobles in the palace, the old doctor recognized the scent of Da Hong Pao tea, which was often drunk by the Empress Dowager.

Gao Jiabao took a couple of sips and nodded, “Truly extraordinary!”

As the head of the Ning family in Xunyang, a renowned tea merchant, it was not surprising that Ning Jing had Da Hong Pao tea on hand.

However, having it was one thing, but choosing to serve the best Da Hong Pao tea to their unexpected guests was surprising to them.

After all, they were not close.

As guests, feeling respected and valued, their hearts naturally warmed.

Ning Jing gave them a sense of sincerity, even though he was not overly enthusiastic in his words and smiles.

Su Liang brought over breakfast she had prepared, and without any communication, Ning Jing went to set the table, getting four sets of utensils.

“Don’t bother, we’ve already eaten,” Gao Jiabao said, a bit embarrassed.

Su Liang smiled, “It’s my fault for getting up late today. Please try some simple home-cooked dishes, and after we finish, we’ll discuss the main issue.”

Seeing that in their brief conversation, Ning Jing had already prepared four bowls of porridge, the grandfather and grandson stopped declining.

Gao Jiabao thought, even if it wasn’t tasty, he mustn’t show his disappointment.

Unexpectedly, after one bite of the porridge, he was conquered by its deliciously sweet and smooth taste.

Dr. Gao happily commented, “I didn’t expect Miss Su to be such a good cook.”

The pair was surprised that Su Liang cooked the meal herself since there were no servants at her residence. She and Ning Jing clearly didn’t lack money.

After breakfast, seeing Ning Jing getting up to clean up the dishes, the grandfather and grandson were even more astonished.

As Ning Jing went to the kitchen, Gao Jiabao couldn’t help but ask Su Liang, “Do you always do things like this?”

Both of them were top scholars in civil and military fields and extremely wealthy, but they did everything themselves? The Gao family was not nobility, and even Gao Jiabao, a young master, had two young servants and two maids to attend to him.

Su Liang nodded, “We’re used to it.”

Firstly, both Su Liang and Ning Jing had secrets to keep. Living with a third person wouldn’t be as carefree as they were now, able to say and do as they pleased without worry.

Secondly, as a transmigrator, Su Liang's education in her previous life made it difficult for her to accept enslaving others.

There was a great difference between paying someone to help with work and buying a servant as property, owning them and having full control over their fate.

However, she respected the rules of this time and didn't see her friends' ownership of servants as wrong.

When Xing Yusheng had previously sent Qi Jun to be their coachman for a day, Su Liang hadn't refused his well-intentioned gesture.

Just like the matter of being vegetarian. Whether one is a vegetarian due to personal reasons, what they eat, and whether they eat or not, it is their own business. But if they point fingers and criticize others' dietary choices, thinking that eating meat is wrong and persuading others to become vegetarian, that would be too meddlesome.

"You guys really..." Gao Jiabao thought for a moment but didn't know how to describe it, then said, "Are very special."

Su Liang talked to the old Imperial Physician Gao about treating Duanmu Che, and Gao Jiabao sat nearby, finding it very fascinating.

His grandfather had always been quite stubborn when it came to medical skills, yet he was surprised that when discussing it with Su Liang, there was no trace of the elder's pride. After Duanmu Che's matter was done, he even took the initiative to consult Su Liang about some problems he had failed to solve for a long time.

What was even more amazing was that Su Liang could answer most of the questions his grandfather asked.

The old man's eyes sparkled even more, and he exclaimed three times, "That's right, it should be like this! How come I didn't think of it!"

Gao Jiabao had a feeling that his grandfather's medical skills were really not as good as this young girl's.

As a result, it was almost noon, and the old Imperial Physician showed no sign of stopping, completely forgetting about the time.

But he had to go to Five Princes Mansion in the afternoon.

Gao Jiabao couldn't help but remind him, "Grandfather, it's getting late."

Upon hearing this, the old Imperial Physician looked out and saw the sun shining brightly, with the day halfway gone. He hurriedly got up to leave, "Sorry, I won't have time today. When does Miss Su have time? I'll bring Jiabao over, and you can have a look at his injury."

Gao Jiabao: ...Before, it was agreed that after discussing Duanmu Che's matter, Su Liang would help examine his injury, or else he wouldn't come. As a result, his grandfather was about to leave, and only remembered him now.

Even Gao Jiabao felt that the old Imperial Physician just wanted to find an excuse to visit Su Liang again and discuss medical skills, using him as an excuse...

Su Liang smiled, "Whenever I am at home, I can do it. I also have many questions to ask the old Imperial Physician Gao."

The old Imperial Physician immediately nodded, "No problem."

Su Liang escorted them out of the courtyard and met Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing.

After exchanging simple greetings, the Gao family left, and Su Liang welcomed Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing inside.

"Sister Su, yesterday the emperor asked my second brother to save the fifth prince. I was so worried; I couldn't sleep until my second brother returned," Lin Xueqing's bloodshot eyes showed that she indeed hadn't slept well last night. However, she laughed, "I knew it, with Sister Su there, nothing could have

gone wrong! My second brother said that it was all thanks to Sister Su that the fifth prince was saved, and he didn't even do anything!"

Su Liang shook her head, "It wasn't just my credit."

"I don't care about credit, I just worry about your safety!" Lin Xueqing laughed.

When Xing Yusheng went to the Lin Family to pick up Lin Xueqing, he already knew what had happened, but he still had some questions to ask Su Liang, "Do you believe that the woman who kidnapped the fifth prince said she is just an admirer of Gu Ling?"

Su Liang nodded, "Without any evidence to prove otherwise, let's believe her for now."

"How incredibly beautiful is Gu Ling to have such a crazy admirer?" Lin Xueqing was very curious.

Su Liang indicated that she was curious too.

Xing Yusheng actually wanted to find Gu Ling as well. Not for any other reason, but just because Gu Ling had saved his mother years ago, and he wanted to confirm that Gu Ling was still alive.

When Ning Jing entered, Lin Xueqing laughed and said, "I think Senior Brother Ning is the most beautiful, wealthy, and talented with a boundless future. What do you think, Sister Su?"

Su Liang shook her head, "No, I am the most beautiful, wealthy, and talented with a boundless future."

Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing both nodded repeatedly, unable to stop laughing.

After learning that Lian Shun had left the capital and headed south, Xing Yusheng was somewhat surprised. Men's intuition told him that Lian Shun had feelings for Su Liang. He didn't expect Lian Shun to give up after learning that Su Liang had set her marriage, which showed he had a good character.

"Both my second brother and I are about to get married, but my eldest brother's lifelong matter hasn't been settled yet. It's really worrying." Lin Xueqing sighed lightly.

This was not a world where marriage was free, and the order of the elder and younger was strict. Especially in marriages, they're often arranged according to the order of age, and it was rare for a younger brother to marry before his elder brother.

Xing Yusheng smiled, "My father-in-law said we don't have to worry about my eldest brother for now. We have to wait for him to find a girl he likes before discussing it. We can't delay the marriage between my second brother and Xueqing. Let outsiders say whatever they want. "

As long as Lin Boyan didn't mind his younger siblings getting married first, there wouldn't be any problems.

After chatting for a while, Lin Xueqing and Su Liang cooked together, while Xing Yusheng saw Ning Jing working on a wood carving. There were already many placed on the bookshelf, of various sizes and shapes, all very delicate. He jokingly asked if Ning Jing could give him one.

Ning Jing shook his head, "No."

Xing Yusheng: ...He knew this would be the outcome.

The young couple came to visit and left in the afternoon because Lin Xueqing said she wanted to take a look at Wangxiang Mountain, so Xing Yusheng took her out of town.

Just as they left, Duanmu Chen's confidant Chang'an secretly came over and brought Su Liang another piece of news.

"His Majesty said this morning that he not only wants to choose consorts for

Master and the Fifth Prince, but also for the Sixth Princess." Chang'an said, "His Majesty specially mentioned Vice Minister of Rites Lin, and has a high regard for him."

Su Liang was stunned for a moment, and then realized that Chang'an was talking about Lin Boyan. At a young age, Lin Boyan had already become the Vice Minister of Rites, and was once praised by Duanmu Yi for having the style of his father.

Before Lin Shuzhi retired, the former emperor once said that Lin Shuzhi had the talent to be a prime minister.

Without any surprises, Lin Boyan would have a bright future in the officialdom.

It was common in history for top scholars to marry princesses, but Ning Jing, the top scholar in literature, and Su Liang, the martial arts champion, had directly become a family, leaving no opportunity for others to exploit their marriage.

Otherwise, it might be possible that Su Liang would marry Duanmu Che, and Ning Jing would marry Duanmu Qianqian, which would be terrifying.

Duanmu Yi apparently had no intention to let his favorite daughter marry into a powerful family, but instead considered her happiness, choosing a person whose family status was not high but had a promising future and a clean family style. Who would dare not treat Duanmu Qianqian well by marrying down?

Su Liang sighed faintly, "His Majesty has a good eye."

Chang'an laughed, "Master ordered me to inform Miss Su about this, but he hopes that Miss Su won't interfere this time. Although there were coincidences in Miss Lin and General Lin's marriage,

His Majesty has also fulfilled it. If Lin Boyan was chosen as the son-in-law this time, it would be a bit hard to explain if a fiancée suddenly appeared.”

Su Liang covered her forehead, “I understand. Thank you for the kindness of the Fourth Prince.”

Su Liang didn’t expect that similar things would happen again and again.

Upon calming down and thinking, Su Liang found that she was getting closer and closer to the center of power, and some things were bound to happen.

Originally, Duanmu Qianqian had shown fondness for Nian Jincheng, and Duanmu Yi might have intended to let Nian Jincheng become his son-in-law, but he had not yet granted the marriage. Nian Jincheng was accused of rebellion and was directly disqualified.

However, Duanmu Qianqian had reached the age when she had to get married, so they could only choose another person. The two sons of Lin family were all outstanding young talents highly regarded by Duanmu Yi. Lin Bojun already had a partner, and apart from his low birth, Lin Boyan was suitable in all other aspects.

He was also a top scholar, although not from this session.

Not long ago, Lin Xueqing was still worried that her elder brother couldn’t find a wife, but here she comes.

After Chang’an left, Su Liang went to talk to Ning Jing about it, “Duanmu Chen only wants to curry favor, and he figured out that as long as I know it, I will definitely find a way to break off this possible marriage. There is no benefit for Duanmu Chen in having Lin’s elder brother become the son-in-law because Duanmu Qianqian is not his sister from the same mother but was born to the empress. Nowadays, the Lin Family is married to Xing Family and Qin Family, and the interests in this relationship are not concealed.”

The marriage relationships among the aristocrats in the capital city were intricate, and many interest combinations were through marriage, especially the royal family.

Duanmu Yi might be considering his daughter’s lifelong happiness. But the Empress and the Crown Prince’s faction might not be trying to use Duanmu Qianqian’s marriage to expand their power.

It is difficult to tell who first associated Lin Boyan with Duanmu Qianqian. Although it seems to be proposed by Duanmu Yi, it might be the whisperings of the empress.

Su Liang continued, “Duanmu Chen sent someone to tell me about this, and said not to interfere, and not to be discovered by His Majesty. I think he wants me to interfere, but not to leave any traces, and not to involve him. I think we can manage or not manage. What do you think?”

Ning Jing said indifferently, “Don’t interfere for now, and we’ll see how it goes.”

Su Liang nodded, “Well. There’s no need to act rashly since nothing has been settled yet. You should thank me.”

Ning Jing looked up, “Thank for what?”

Su Liang smiled, “I have reason to suspect that if I hadn’t said we were engaged, you would be the most popular candidate to be the son-in-law of the Sixth Princess. It’s quite a classic scenario for a top scholar to be a son-in-law.” “Thanks.” Ning Jing said halfheartedly.

Su Liang negotiated with him, "Then the condition you asked me to promise because of the marriage should be written off, right?" Ning Jing shook his head, "No, I already thanked you."

Su Liang:... Alright then.

At the Residence of the Fifth Prince.

When Elder Imperial Physician Gao came, Duanmu Che had drunk the medicine and was sleeping. It took half an hour before Duanmu Che woke up, and Huang Bo let Elder Imperial Physician Gao go in.

In just a few days, Elder Imperial Physician Gao felt that Duanmu Che had become much gloomier. He carefully paid respects, saying that he had learned the acupuncture technique that Su Liang used for Duanmu Che in the future and he would be responsible for treating Duanmu Che.

Duanmu Che spoke coldly, "Except for Su Liang, I won't accept any other doctors! Elder Imperial Physician Gao, please leave!"

Elder Imperial Physician Gao didn't expect this situation.

Huang Bo persuaded Duanmu Che that his health was the most important thing.

However, Duanmu Che became angry, "If you really think my health is important, find that woman and bring her to me! I have something to say to her!"

Fearing to anger Duanmu Che further, Huang Bo could only ask the Imperial Physician Gao to leave first and then seek the Emperor's decision.

Upon learning of Duanmu Che's tantrum, Duanmu Yi did not indulge him and directly ordered someone to bring Duanmu Che to live in the palace, to get better before leaving. He then had Imperial Physician Gao treat Duanmu Che.

The next day, Imperial Physician Gao visited again, still accompanied by his grandson.

Su Liang asked if the treatment for Duanmu Che went smoothly yesterday, and Imperial Physician Gao told the truth, saying that it did not go well.

Su Liang was speechless. Duanmu Yi really loved Duanmu Che, so much that Duanmu Che could be quite a handful! At this rate, he would eventually cause his own death!

To avoid being forgotten again, Gao Jiabao asked Su Liang to help check his injuries first.

"The recovery is not bad." After examining him, Su Liang asked what medicine the Imperial Physician Gao used, and the two of them discussed for a while before making some adjustments to the prescription.

Then, the old and the young started discussing medical skills. They exchanged knowledge, but Gao Jiabao was not interested in medical skills. After getting Su Liang's permission, he went for a walk in the garden.

At the moment, Su Liang's biggest concern was where Yan Shiba took Nian Jincheng.

That night, Yan Shiba appeared again at three in the morning, and the same scene happened as last time. Su Liang's room suddenly had two more people...

“Ning Jing, you should go back to sleep.” Su Liang only peeked her head out very naturally.

After Ning Jing left, Yan Shiba got into Su Liang’s bed again, “Liang sister, wasn’t our collaboration seamless the other night?”

Su Liang nodded, “Not bad.”

“What do you mean ‘not bad’?” Yan Shiba coughed lightly, “That was perfect!

We were in perfect harmony!”

“What about Nian Jincheng? Did you ask him about Gu Ling’s whereabouts?” Su Liang asked.

Yan Shiba shook her head, “Nian Jincheng wouldn’t say a word. I didn’t hit him, as you suggested, but I threatened him. If he doesn’t confess tonight, I’ll find some girls at Zuixiang Building to take care of him. He was really scared, haha!”

Su Liang: ...

“Don’t worry, Liang sister. I can definitely pry Nian’s mouth open!” Yan Shiba was quite confident, “What about Nian Ruting, who’s still alive? How are you going to deal with her?”

“Let Nian Jincheng decide.” Su Liang said, “I was worried that you might accidentally kill Duanmu Che in the heat of the moment, and I wouldn’t be able to explain it. Why don’t you hand Nian Jincheng over to me, and I’ll ask him?”

“No way! We agreed that I’d bring Gu Ling to you! You can’t find him yourself!” Yan Shiba said.

“Then be careful that Gu Ling finds you and kidnaps Nian Jincheng back.” Su Liang said.

Yan Shiba laughed slyly, “I hope he comes! I’m afraid he won’t!”

After chatting for a while, Su Liang didn’t ask where Nian Jincheng was hidden, and Yan Shiba hurriedly left.

Su Liang called for Ning Jing through the wall but received no response. She understood what was going on.

When it was almost dawn, Yan Shiba reappeared, furious. “Damn it! Last night, Gu Ling really stole Nian Jincheng away! I didn’t catch him!”

Su Liang frowned, “So soon?”

“Maybe Gu Ling had his eyes on me the night before!” Yan Shiba clenched her fist and slammed the bed, “I’m so angry! Our efforts were in vain, and the trail is now broken!”

Su Liang patted Yan Shiba’s back, “Why not just let it go?”

Yan Shiba leaped up, "Let it go? No way! Even if I have to search the ends of the earth, I'll catch Gu Ling and make him warm your bed!"

With that, Yan Shiba disappeared again.

Su Liang hesitated for a moment, wondering whether she should tell Yan Shiba the truth, but changed her mind. Although Yan Shiba sometimes seemed to treat Su Liang well, her character couldn't be relied upon. In matters of great importance, she mustn't speak out.

When Su Liang got up, she knocked on Ning Jing's door and was told to come in. Pushing open the door and walking past the screen, she saw Nian Jincheng lying weakly on the bed, and Ning Jing standing by the bedside, wringing a wet towel.

This scene of brotherly love touched Su Liang.

The next moment, Ning Jing threw the wrung towel onto Nian Jincheng's face and said, "Wash your face, you're filthy.."

Chapter 166: Stick it out to the end

Nian Jincheng wiped his face and saw Su Liang appear beside Ning Jing, looking at him with a smile, "Congratulations, General Nian, on regaining your freedom."

"Thank you." Nian Jincheng managed a pale smile, handed the towel to Ning

Jing, and sighed softly, "Freedom... I can never see the light of day again."

He was alive, but he was labeled a rebel, becoming the biggest wanted criminal in Qian Country together with Gu Ling. In the future, he could only hide his identity and live in hiding.

There was no future in sight.

Su Liang bumped Ning Jing with her elbow, "Look at how you've made him suffer."

Nian Jincheng was startled upon hearing this and quickly shook his head, "I didn't mean it like that... Don't overthink it, Su Liang. It has nothing to do with him."

"I know, he's your best brother, I can't blame him." Su Liang smiled lightly, "You're feeling lost now?"

Nian Jincheng sighed deeply, "Yeah, suddenly I have nothing left. I don't know where I can go or what I can do in the future."

Su Liang's lips curled up slightly, "Your brother suggested you sell tea leaves." Nian Jincheng frowned, "Sell tea leaves? Run a business? I don't understand..."

"Not understanding isn't a problem. As long as you're interested, you can learn." Su Liang said, "You just need to think about whether you want to." Nian Jincheng shook his head, "To be honest, I don't."

Ning Jing's expression was indifferent, "If you don't like selling tea leaves, how about running a fabric store?" Su Liang held her forehead.

Nian Jincheng: .

“Selling fabric suits you.” Ning Jing said, “Don’t believe me? Give it a try.”

Ning Jing went out with the basin of water following his words. Seeing Nian Jincheng bewildered, Su Liang didn’t leave immediately.

“Su Liang, what’s wrong with him? Why does he insist on me selling fabric? Where to? What kind of fabric?” Nian Jincheng found it inexplicable. He could understand selling tea leaves since Ning Jing did sell them...

Su Liang coughed lightly, “I have a friend who is a silk merchant from the Yang Family, named Yang Yu. Ning Jing wants to send you to her.”

Nian Jincheng frowned, “Send me to her... What does he think of me?”

“Right now, it’s very dangerous for you to stay in the capital city, and we are being watched by many people, so we can’t suddenly have an extra person by our side.” Su Liang explained, “Ning Jing just wants to arrange a safe place for you. Once you’ve recovered, you can decide where to go and what to do.”

“I see.” Nian Jincheng nodded his head, “But it seems like he really wants me to sell fabric. Actually, I can stay and be a secret guard for you. I’d be happy to.”

Su Liang said something that hurt Nian Jincheng’s feelings, “Our martial arts skills are fine, we probably don’t need you to suffer like that.”

Nian Jincheng: ... I feel like I’m useless...

“Take it easy, take your time to heal, and think about it later.” Su Liang checked Nian Jincheng’s pulse. Apart from the lack of blood and energy due to his injury, there were no major problems.

Ning Jing came back. Su Liang told him the prescription and asked him to prepare and cook the medicine for Nian Jincheng, “Take care of your brother.”

Ning Jing nodded, “Does he need acupuncture?”

Su Liang thought about it, “It can be done, but it’s not necessary.”

“Then let’s do it.” Ning Jing said.

Nian Jincheng didn’t realize what they were talking about for a moment. When Su Liang left, Ning Jing lifted the blanket, peeled off his top, took out a needle pack and placed it on the bedside, and pulled out a thin, long gold needle.

“What are you doing?” Nian Jincheng’s eyes widened.

“Shut up and don’t move.” As soon as Ning Jing finished speaking, he inserted the needle and slapped Nian Jincheng on the forehead, “Relax.” Nian Jincheng’s expression was odd, “Aling, have I offended you?”

“What did you call me?” Ning Jing asked.

Nian Jincheng immediately changed his tune, “ANing.” “Don’t worry, he won’t die,” Ning Jing said.

Nian Jincheng fell silent. Oh well, he was tired, let it be.

When it was time for dinner, Nian Jincheng slowly got up and moved to sit at the table, sighing in relief, “Feeling so weak is unbearable.”

“You brought it on yourself,” Ning Jing said.

Nian Jincheng’s face stiffened.

When the Gu Family had met with disaster, Gu Ling had proposed to take Nian Jincheng with him, not for companionship, but for fear of Nian Jincheng being implicated.

Nian Jincheng had hesitated but ultimately stayed behind, fearing that the Nian Family would be harmed if he disappeared.

Gu Ling had said that Nian Jincheng would eventually be suspected by the royal family because of him, and even if he made great contributions, it would be useless.

Nian Jincheng naively believed that as long as he faithfully served the royal family with loyalty and dedication, such things wouldn’t happen as Gu Ling said.

In the end, it turned out that Nian Jincheng was wrong.

Gu Ling had also said that the Nian Family was not worth Nian Jincheng’s sincere efforts, but Nian Jincheng simply didn’t believe it. The affection and caring that he couldn’t get made him yearn for it even more.

In this matter, he was utterly wrong.

“By the way, how is Nian Ruting doing?” Su Liang changed the subject.

Nian Jincheng shook his head, “I don’t know, I haven’t seen her. The woman who saved me is the sister you knew from Su Village, right? Who is she? She was doing everything she could to find out Gu Ling’s whereabouts, weren’t you two in cahoots?”

“That’s Yan Shiba, the owner of Yanyun Building. She owes me a life-saving favor and wants to give Gu Ling as a gift for me to warm the bed,” Su Liang calmly said.

Nian Jincheng looked at Su Liang, then at Ning Jing, his face strange, “Isn’t it possible now?”

Su Liang smiled, “The point is not that. Although she saved you this time, we are not on the same side.”

“I understand.” Nian Jincheng nodded. “It’s just a transaction.”

Half-jokingly, Su Liang asked Nian Jincheng, “Won’t you really blame Ning Jing for your current situation? After all, he is the one who caused your trouble.”

Nian Jincheng became serious and shook his head, “No, I won’t. It’s not his fault. If it weren’t for him saving me, I would have died long ago. He secretly taught me martial arts. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have achieved anything growing up in the Nian Family. I wanted to become a military commander, originally hoping that my family would take notice of me and value me, but now it

seems ridiculous and foolish. Besides, I didn't know how to do anything else, so I wanted to join the army."

"I see," Su Liang nodded. "Then you can try doing other things in the future, maybe you are more suitable for that."

Nian Jincheng twitched the corner of his mouth, "Actually, I'm not very smart. He taught me martial arts, and I learned very slowly."

Ning Jing nodded, "Self-awareness."

Su Liang laughed lightly, "No wonder, I thought Ning Jing was hiding his true skills. It turns out it's a talent issue that you are so far behind him in martial arts."

Nian Jincheng felt a sting in his heart, "Yes."

"But you're not only far behind him, I'm also far behind him. He's not human, he's a monster," Su Liang said. "You're a martial arts champion, much better than most martial artists in the world."

Ning Jing looked at Su Liang, "Are you praising yourself?"

Su Liang raised his eyebrows, "Is there a problem?" Nian Jincheng laughed, "I think it's fine."

His confusion was only temporary. At this moment, sitting and eating with Ning Jing and Su Liang, and listening to their conversation, he felt comfortable, relaxed, and at ease.

After the meal, Ning Jing concocted medicine for Nian Jincheng. After drinking it, he fell into a deep sleep.

Su Liang asked Ning Jing how he was going to sleep since Nian Jincheng had taken his bed.

"That one." Ning Jing pointed to the large soft couch in Su Liang's room. It was custom-made for Su Liang by Wan Hui and was very comfortable. Su Liang would occasionally take a nap on it when he was tired from reading.

"Let's move that one out," Su Liang agreed without hesitation. "But it's also fine for you two brothers to sleep in the same bed."

Ning Jing glanced at Su Liang coldly, "No matter what you're thinking, stop it."

Duanmu Che was ordered by Duanmu Yi to move into the Imperial Palace to live, and the old Imperial Physician Gao would come in to treat him daily.

When the old Imperial Physician Gao met Su Liang again, he mentioned

Duanmu Che, saying that he had become much quieter and had not mentioned Su Liang again.

The new message sent by Duanmu Chen is about Yin Country's female general

Man Ya, who started discussing ceasefire agreements with the Qian Country's Royal Family after resting for three days in the post house due to acclimatization.

No one from the Yin Country's Royal Family came, and although Man Ya was a prospective crown princess, she was not yet the crown princess, so she was not qualified to talk directly with Duanmu Yi. Duanmu Cheng and Duanmu Chen were responsible for this matter.

Man Ya proposed that Yin Country wanted to form a matrimonial alliance with Qian Country.

But there is no definite plan for the marriage alliance.

The arrangement of official positions for the scholars who passed the Imperial examination had not been decided yet.

In fact, the purpose of Ning Jing taking the Imperial examination had been fulfilled at the moment when he became the Top Scholar. He was just satisfying the unfulfilled wish of the real Ning Jing.

And Su Liang's goal was to have the opportunity to investigate the true cause of the death of the Su Family members and bring justice for them.

Originally, she wanted to start from Duanmu Che to obtain clues, but she never expected the situation to turn so ugly in the end, so she no longer planned to deal with Duanmu Che.

How to investigate the Su Family matter is now an urgent problem for Su Liang.

But to her surprise, trouble came before she even had any clues...

On an ordinary day, Su Liang was practicing martial arts, Ning Jing was reading, and Nian Jincheng was disguising himself as a corpse. Suddenly, some government soldiers came to the door, bearing a fierce attitude, saying they wanted to see Su Liang.

The leader was Vice-minister of the Ministry of Justice named Gou Yu.

Su Liang was confused as she heard Gou Yu ask, "Miss Su, where were you last night, and can anyone testify?"

Su Liang answered, "I was at home last night, and I didn't go out. My sworn brother Ning Jing can testify."

"Is it that you are already sleeping together even though you haven't married yet?" Gou Yu asked.

Su Liang sensed that the visitor was up to no good and shook her head in denial, "No."

"Then how can he testify for you?" Gou Yu sneered.

Su Liang remained calm, "Well, let's just say there is no witness. May I ask why are you looking for me?"

Gou Yu looked at Su Liang coldly, "A murder case occurred in the capital city last night, and all the evidence points to Miss Su as the murderer!"

Su Liang's expression turned inexplicable, "Who died?"

Gou Yu answered, "The second young master of the Xiao Family, Xiao Muyun!"

Miss Su should not be unfamiliar with this person, right? Arrest her!"

Su Liang was astonished, as she had almost forgotten about Xiao Muyun. Ever since Duanmu Chen did something, Xiao Muyun had stopped pestering Su Liang, and she thought there would be no more entanglements in the future.

Unexpectedly, Xiao Muyun suddenly died?

Su Liang remained calm, and as two government soldiers walked towards her, she said, "I'm not a criminal until I'm proven guilty. I will cooperate with the investigation. Let's go."

Seeing that Su Liang's attitude was acceptable and considering her accomplishments, Gou Yu ordered the government soldiers to retreat, "In that case, please come with us to the Xiao Family Mansion for a visit, Miss Su!" Su Liang nodded, "Alright. Please wait for a moment, I'll change my clothes."

After changing her clothes, Su Liang, still carrying her medicine box, went into Ning Jing's room first.

"I don't know who killed Xiao Muyun, I'll go take a look." Su Liang said.

Nian Jincheng whispered, "Ning Jing, you should go with Su Liang. Someone must have deliberately framed her,"

Ning Jing shook his head, "I'm not going."

"I didn't ask you." Su Liang snorted lightly and turned around to leave.

When it quieted down outside, Nian Jincheng frowned at Ning Jing, "What's the matter with you? She might be in big trouble, and you're not going to help

Ning Jing's expression was indifferent, "You're the one in big trouble if someone finds out."

Nian Jincheng paused, "Is it because I'm here that you didn't go with Su Liang? Do you think I'm more important than her?"

Ning Jing frowned at Nian Jincheng, "What are you talking about?"

Nian Jincheng realized that his previous question was inappropriate and he shook his head awkwardly, "Nothing."

It was not about which person was more important, but which matter was more serious.

Ning Jing believed that Su Liang could handle the trouble she was facing, so he chose to stay home, considering that the consequences of Nian Jincheng being discovered were worse.

Su Liang rode a horse and followed a group of government soldiers to the Prime Minister Mansion of Xiao Family.

The passers-by she met on the road, seeing Su Liang, were all whispering and pointing, talking about something.

Su Liang listened carefully and found that Xiao Muyun's death had already been widely spread in a short time.

"I really didn't expect that Su Liang, the Martial Arts Champion, had secretly engaged in a relationship with the second young master of the Xiao Family before her adulthood!"

"I heard that she also gave the second young master Xiao a lot of tokens as a sign of their love!"

"Second young master Xiao thought she was dead and never remarried out of grief. When she came back, she turned her back on him!"

"Now she has soared high and found a better man, of course, she would look down on the second young master Xiao who is a widower!"

"I heard that the second young master Xiao met her privately at the Wan Family Restaurant a few days ago."

"Yes, my brother's wife's cousin works as a waiter in the Wan Family Restaurant, and he saw it with his own eyes!"

"I heard that she had already done that with the second young master Xiao... She feared that second young master Xiao would persist and let people know, affecting her future and marriage, so she killed second young master Xiao and silenced him!"

"My goodness! I really didn't expect that this woman would be so cruel!"

The more Su Liang listened, the colder her heart became.

This was a premeditated frame-up targeting her.

Although Su Liang didn't like Xiao Muyun, he was the lover that the Original Master had been thinking about until her death. Therefore, she didn't take back the items that the Original Master had given Xiao Muyun, nor did she do anything to him.

In the end, she was still targeted and her actions were exaggerated.

In Su Liang's mind, a few faces emerged, the first being Duanmu Ao, the second being the missing Nian Ruxue, and the third being Duanmu Che, who knew very well the relationship between the Original Master and Xiao Muyun.

Duanmu Che was last on the list because, even though they had a falling out by now, Su Liang did not see him as an enemy.

But for now, she couldn't rule out Duanmu Che's suspicion in this matter.

When they arrived at the gate of the Prime Minister Mansion of the Xiao Family, they saw a carriage coming and Chang'an was driving it.

Chang'an saw Su Liang getting off the horse and whispered something to the person in the carriage.

Duanmu Chen got out of the carriage, just as Su Liang got off her horse.

Gou Yu hurriedly bowed to Duanmu Chen.

With a cold face, Duanmu Chen said, “We must find out the real murderer, no matter who the person is, and punish them severely!”

Su Liang sensed that Duanmu Chen’s words were actually hinting that the person framing her was not a small figure.

Suddenly, Su Liang felt that this incident might have the same mastermind behind the death of the Su Family members.

Since the other party has taken the initiative to make a move, she would definitely play along with them!

Chapter 167: I killed the 167th person.

Regarding Xiao Muyun’s death, Su Liang harbored anger and a bit of guilt in her heart.

Xiao Muyun was not necessarily a good person, but he was Original Master’s favorite man, and there has been no evidence proving that he did anything to hurt the Original Master.

The fact is, if Su Liang had not returned to the capital city, perhaps Xiao Muyun would not have died.

With this in mind, Su Liang was determined to find out the real murderer and not let them off the hook!

Ahead, the sound of a woman crying came from a distance. Su Liang focused and followed Gou Yu around a stone screen, seeing the memorial hall set up by the Xiao family for Xiao Muyun’s death.

The coffin was placed in the center.

A few maids and old women were kneeling inside, crying.

Prime Minister Xiao Qi was surrounded by his children and grandchildren, appearing outside the memorial hall.

“Grandfather.” Duanmu Chen approached.

Xiao Qi sighed deeply, “The fourth prince has arrived.”

“What happened?” Duanmu Chen frowned and asked.

Xiao Qi’s gaze passed over Duanmu Chen and fell on Su Liang, who was standing behind Gou Yu. With a cold face, he said, “Your second cousin was murdered.”

Duanmu Chen also glanced at Su Liang, then turned his gaze back to Xiao Qi and said in a low voice, “She has brought glory to Qian Country in the Martial Arts Exam and saved the fifth prince a few days ago. Our emperor highly values her. It’s best to let the Ministry of Justice handle this case and not have the Xiao family involved too much.”

Xiao Qi frowned.

Although Xiao Muyun was of humble birth and not very favored, the fact that the prime minister’s grandson was murdered at home must be thoroughly investigated, and the real murderer must be made to pay the price. Where would the Xiao family’s face be?

But the Xiao family and Duanmu Chen share common interests, and Duanmu Chen, whose power is growing, holds the decision-making power.

When he speaks, the Xiao family must listen.

Xiao Qi suddenly remembered that ever since Su Liang made a name for herself in the Martial Arts Exam, there had been rumors that she had known Duanmu Chen in Bei'an County and that she was actually Duanmu Chen's person.

On this matter, Xiao Qi had asked Duanmu Chen for verification, and Duanmu Chen had denied it.

At this moment, Xiao Qi couldn't help but wonder whether Duanmu Chen was trying to protect Su Liang. Was there really no relationship between them?

Duanmu Chen looked deep in thought, "Grandfather, at any time and in any matter, the premise is not to upset our emperor."

Xiao Qi's eyes narrowed!

Indeed, as Qian Country's first female Martial Arts Champion who defeated the female general from Yin Country, Su Liang holds a unique and extraordinary status.

If her scandal spread at this time, it would damage Qian Country's reputation.

From the Xiao family's standpoint, handling the matter fairly would cause no harm.

If it is initially determined that Xiao Muyun was killed by Su Liang, but the final conclusion is contradictory, it would not benefit the Xiao family in any way.

After all, Xiao Muyun was already dead.

It was necessary for the Xiao family to find the real culprit to preserve their reputation, rather than simply insisting that Su Liang was the murderer.

Upon realizing this, Xiao Qi let out a long sigh, "You are right. Let the Ministry of Justice investigate. If Su Liang is indeed guilty, what should be done?"

Duanmu Chen's face remained calm, "Grandfather, no matter who the real murderer is, they must pay the price."

"Some things, you'll know when you see them." Xiao Qi shook his head.

Duanmu Chen frowned, "What?"

Xiao Qi had someone hand a stack of papers to Duanmu Chen, "This was found in Muyun's study room."

Duanmu Chen took it and, standing beside Xiao Muyun's coffin, read the contents of the papers before returning them to Xiao family members.

"Is there anything else?" Duanmu Chen's face was still calm.

Xiao Qi waved his hand, and a servant brought up a brocade box containing a blue fan pendant, silk handkerchief, and a purse.

At first glance, Duanmu Chen could tell what they were. He nodded his head without saying anything.

Gou Yu saw Duanmu Chen talking to Xiao Qi, so he waited outside with Su Liang and didn't approach.

Not until Duanmu Chen looked over and gave Gou Yu a signal did he enter the memorial hall, asking Su Liang to wait outside.

Su Liang noticed the look that Duanmu Chen gave her, sensing that the situation was not good.

Xiao Qi asked someone to hand over the evidence to Gou Yu and allowed the coroner arranged by Gou Yu to examine the body.

Su Liang waited outside the whole time.

Half an hour later, Gou Yu walked over and said, 'Miss Su, please take out your weapon.'

Although he used the word "please," his tone was very assertive, as if he had already determined that Su Liang was the murderer for seven to eight parts.

It was widely known that Su Liang carried concealed weapons during the Military Exam. She realized that the killer might have made a similar-shaped weapon to kill Xiao Muyun and frame her.

In that case, it would be very tricky.

Still, Su Liang cooperated by bending down to draw out both sharp knives and handed them to Gou Yu.

Her forthrightness made Gou Yu hesitate for a moment. If Su Liang said she didn't have it or had lost it, Gou Yu actually wouldn't dare to search her body forcibly.

Gou Yu took Su Liang's knives and went back into the memorial hall.

After the coroner made a comparison, he said with certainty that the fatal wound on Xiao Muyun's body could match Su Liang's knife completely.

Adding to that the words written by Xiao Muyun, besides the most suspicious Su Liang, there was no other possible suspect to be found.

The Xiao family said that Xiao Muyun was humble and gentle, and had no enemies.

"Your Highness the Fourth Prince, can I take the suspect Su Liang to the Ministry of Justice for trial?" Gou Yu asked respectfully.

Duanmu Chen sneered, "However you want to conduct your case, why ask me?"

Gou Yu was embarrassed, "After all, Miss Su is the Martial Arts Champion of this exam."

"Knowing that her status is special, you should be clear that if there is any inside story in this case, and she is being framed, what consequences would it bring for you to take her to the Ministry of Justice and torture her?" Duanmu Chen asked indifferently.

Gou Yu's complexion changed.

According to Qian Country's laws, with the current evidence, taking Su Liang in for interrogation would be no problem, and even convicting her would be possible.

However, those who can survive in the capital city as officials need to be resourceful. Some people are untouchable to them.

If Su Liang really was the murderer, capturing her wouldn't be a big issue.

But if it wasn't her and they took her to the Ministry of Justice, even if the real murderer was eventually found, Gou Yu couldn't bear the responsibility of apprehending the wrong person.

"I said those things without any other intentions. Please investigate this matter thoroughly, Gou Daren, but kindly remind you that Su Liang's weapon, although very rare, has been seen by most people in the capital. If someone deliberately framed her and copied a similar weapon, could the same wound appear?" Duanmu Chen asked.

Gou Yu nodded, "Your Highness the Fourth Prince's speculation is very reasonable."

"I just think that the Martial Arts Champion praised by Father for being extraordinarily intelligent, if she really wanted to kill, she wouldn't use her well-known weapon, would she? That would be too stupid." Duanmu Chen said.

Upon hearing this, Xiao Qi also felt that there was something fishy about the situation.

"Prime Minister, are those documents left by the Second Young Master Xiao real?" Gou Yu asked Xiao Qi.

Xiao Qi told the truth, "I didn't see any signs of forgery. Daren Gou can take some of MUYUN's previous writings back for further verification."

Gou Yu instructed someone to collect the evidence and record the testimony of the Xiao family members before coming out.

"Miss Su's weapon, please return it to its original owner," Gou Yu was three times more polite than when he asked for the weapon, "May I ask if Miss Su has any enemies?"

Su Liang nodded, "Yes, the Crown Prince, the Second Prince, and the Fifth

Prince have all proposed to marry me, but I said that I was already engaged. They might think I'm ungrateful and disrespectful."

Gou Yu's mouth twitched, "Miss Su really knows how to joke. In this murder case, Miss Su is the prime suspect, but there are still doubts at present. I hope Miss Su will cooperate with the Ministry of Justice's investigation in the future and not go out at other times."

"You're not going to arrest me?" Su Liang was somewhat surprised.

Gou Yu shook his head, "Not for now. I will go back and report to the Secretary first."

"Can I go now?" Su Liang asked.

Gou Yu nodded.

Su Liang turned to leave but then turned back, "Can I take a look at those pieces of evidence?"

Gou Yu refused, "Please don't make it difficult for me, Miss Su."

Su Liang waved her hand and left.

Actually, she also wanted to take a look at Xiao Muyun's corpse, but there was no opportunity.

On her way home from Xiao Mansion, Su Liang found that more people were talking about her.

It hadn't been long since she got the news, and it spread all over the city. It was impossible for no one to be fueling the flames.

Su Liang felt that she owed Duanmu Chen another favor. He must have said something for her, otherwise she would have been on her way to the Ministry of Justice's prison by now.

Su Liang did not pay attention to the rumors. When she returned home, she found that her friends had come.

Lin Shuzhi was sitting in the courtyard, with his son and son-in-law beside him.

Wan Hui, Lin Xueqing, and Qin Yujin had all been invited into Su Liang's room by Ning Jing.

Seeing Su Liang return, Lin Shuzhi let out a huge sigh of relief and stood up,

"Miss Liang, are you all right?"

Su Liang shook her head, "There's a problem. The weapon that killed the second young master of Xiao family matches my knife perfectly, and he also wrote something that pointed to me."

Xing Yusheng frowned, "Could it be the second prince?"

Everyone thought that the most likely person to frame Su Liang would be Duanmu Ao.

Su Liang felt the same.

"Even if Su sister wanted to kill someone, she wouldn't use a knife that everyone knows, right? This is a frame-up!" Lin Xueqing was very angry.

Lin Boyan sighed, "But it's hard to say that someone won't accuse Xiaoliang of using such means on purpose, just to create the appearance of being framed, when in fact, it was her doing."

Hearing this, Su Liang laughed, "What Brother Lin said is not impossible." Qin Yujin sighed, "Sister Liang, how can you still laugh at this time?" Su Liang was very calm, "Otherwise, do you want to see me cry? At this time,

you should all go back first, don't worry, I haven't done anything wrong, no one can do anything to me."

"Where is senior brother Ning?" Lin Xueqing noticed that Ning Jing was missing.

Ning Jing's voice came from inside the room, "Looking for me?"

Lin Xueqing frowned, "Senior brother Ning, what's wrong with you? Su sister has run into such big trouble, and you aren't by her side?"

"She didn't let me go." Ning Jing said.

Nian Jincheng: ...No wonder Ning Jing hasn't been able to warm Su Liang's bed until now. It's good that she doesn't hit him!

Su Liang smiled, "Yes, I didn't let him go. Today, for some reason, I find it very annoying to see him."

Lin Xueqing held her forehead, "You are annoyed already before you get married? It's so worrying."

"Okay, okay, you all go home first. If I need help, I won't be shy to ask." Su Liang smiled and said.

Xing Yusheng sighed, "You said it. If there's any trouble, just find my dad, he likes you a lot."

Su Liang: ...What's with the "you can trick my dad all you want" look?

After a lot of effort, Su Liang managed to send her friends away. She entered Ning Jing's room and saw him sitting inside reading, while Nian Jincheng was still lying down.

"Actually, it's quite simple. Since you two are getting married and don't care about other people's opinions, you might as well say that you have already slept together, and then Ning can testify that Su Liang was at home all last night." Nian Jincheng suggested seriously.

"No." Ning Jing shook his head. "I'm not that kind of person."

Nian Jincheng: .

Su Liang pondered, "I'm just curious, what exactly did Xiao Muyun write, and did he really write it?" She would have to secretly go and ask Duanmu Chen about it tonight, as he had seen it.

Little did Su Liang know that just as she returned to her room to drink a cup of water, government soldiers came to her door again.

It was still Gou Yu leading the team.

"By order of the high official, I am here to arrest the suspect Su Liang for the murder of Xiao Muyun from the Prime Minister Mansion!" Gou Yu said coldly, "Miss Su, please cooperate!"

Upon hearing this, Su Liang realized that it was the officials above Gou Yu who wanted to arrest her.

This was indeed a bit troublesome. If she resisted or ran away, it would only confirm her guilt. But if she was shackled and taken away, she would have limited freedom of movement and would not be able to fight back even if someone wanted to kill her.

"Hold on." Ning Jing walked out of the room.

"Young Master Ning, do you have anything to say?" Gou Yu asked.

"She was at home all night and never gone out. I can testify." Ning Jing's face was calm.

"But Miss Su has already said that you did not sleep together." Gou Yu scoffed.

Ning Jing nodded, "Indeed. But we didn't sleep last night."

Gou Yu frowned, "Didn't sleep? What were you doing then?"

Ning Jing replied, "Fishing."

Gou Yu's face darkened, clearly not believing him.

Ning Jing explained, "There have been howls heard in the mansion at midnight recently. We suspected someone was secretly causing trouble, so we stayed awake last night, trying to find out what was going on."

Gou Yu looked at Su Liang with an inexplicable expression, "Is what Young Master Ning said true?"

Su Liang sighed deeply, "Having a ghost in the house, after all, is not an auspicious thing, so I didn't want to bring it up."

"Please follow me to the Ministry of Justice, Miss Su!" Gou Yu became more polite.

"We can cooperate with the investigation, but if you treat her as a criminal before we find out the truth, you can't afford the consequences!" Ning Jing warned coldly.

Gou Yu saw the cold light in Ning Jing's eyes, and subconsciously nodded, "Young Master Ning, rest assured, we will find out the truth and not wrong good people."

"Ministry of Justice, I'll go with you. I know everything about her." Ning Jing said.

Gou Yu frowned, "Young Master Ning, this is against the rules. I can't explain it to Minister Mei when I go back."

Mei... Su Liang recalled that the second prince's wife's last name was Mei.

"If it is because she had some relationship with Xiao Muyun, I would be the more likely suspect in the crime of passion, right? As for the weapon, I gave Su Liang the Twin Blades." Ning Jing's face was calm.

Gou Yu hesitated for a moment, "Then... if it was Young Master Ning who did it, why use Miss Su's weapon?"

"If it was her who did it, why would she use her own weapon?" Ning Jing countered.

Gou Yu's face stiffened, and he said awkwardly, "That's a point of doubt that needs to be cleared up."

"Then please clear it up before arresting someone," Ning Jing said coldly, "If today Gou Yu must take someone back to report, I surrender, I killed the person."

Gou Yu's face became ugly, "Young Master Ning, don't joke like that. Miss Su is a martial arts expert, and you are the Top Scholar. How could you sneak into Xiao Mansion and kill someone at night?"

"Money can make the devil turn the millstone." Ning Jing's face was indifferent, "I think hiring a master would be a piece of cake."

Gou Yu's face darkened, "Young Master Ning, I ask you one more time, are you sure you want to turn yourself in?"

Ning Jing nodded, "Yes."

Gou Yu looked at Su Liang, "Miss Su, do you have anything to say?"

Su Liang's face was calm, "We fished together until dawn last night. Catching me or him makes no difference. Since he wants to visit the Ministry of Justice, Gou Yu, please take good care of him."

Ning Jing was taken away by Gou Yu.

Su Liang watched them leave, her face sinking before she turned and entered Ning Jing's room.

Nian Jincheng, who had heard everything outside, immediately said to Su Liang when he saw her, "Aling obviously cares about you, but he won't admit it."

Su Liang was stunned, "What did you say?"

Nian Jincheng sighed softly, "What are you thinking about?"

Su Liang pondered, "The other party is targeting me, and that Minister Mei is connected to the Second Prince..."

"The Minister of Justice is the Second Prince's father-in-law now." Nian Jincheng said.

Su Liang's eyes turned cold, "That's right. If I were to enter the Ministry of Justice's prison, I might not survive the night, and they could easily frame it as suicide out of guilt. Ning Jing's surrender completely disrupts their plan." "But you have to rescue him as soon as possible." Nian Jincheng said.

Su Liang nodded, "Of course."

As she left, Nian Jincheng asked what she was going to do.

Without turning back, Su Liang replied, "Cooking, to bring food to my falsely accused fiancé.."

Chapter 168: 168. He originally wanted to harm me.

The news that Su Liang, a suspect caught by the Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Justice, Gou Yu, was replaced by Ning Jing's self-surrender and taken to the ministry quickly spread throughout the capital city.

The truth about Xiao Muyun's death became mysterious and confusing.

Initially, the most common rumor was "The Martial Arts Champion shifted his affection and killed to silence", but due to Ning Jing's "strong intervention", it turned into "The Top Scholar killed for love".

Su Liang changed from a ruthless person to a seductive temptress.

The reputation of the dual champions quickly plummeted today.

Su Liang did not try to find help or attempt to see the emperor to clear his name. Instead, he was cooking for Ning Jing at home.

After preparing two of Ning Jing's favorite dishes, the person Su Liang was waiting for arrived.

It was Duanmu Chen's trusted follower, Chang'an.

"This is what my master asked me to give to Miss Su." Chang'an handed a few papers to Su Liang.

It was exactly what Su Liang needed right now. She took it and asked, "Thank you, Fourth Prince. Is this really Xiao Muyun's handwriting?"

Chang'an nodded, "My master said it was written by Xiao Muyun himself, and judging by the ink, it wasn't written all at once."

Su Liang's expression was indescribable. Could they tell it was written at different times? This reduced the possibility of forgery even more.

"Where is the follower who was always with Xiao Muyun?" Su Liang thought of the young servant she had met at the restaurant.

Chang'an sighed, "He drowned in the lake in the back garden of the Xiao Mansion last night."

Su Liang frowned, "What kind of fatal wound did Xiao Muyun suffer from?"

"A stab wound that went straight through the chest," Chang'an said. "My master initially asked me to tell Miss Su to never get caught and sent to the Ministry of Justice. It would be troublesome. On my way here, I learned that

Young Master Ning had turned himself in."

Su Liang nodded, "Please tell your master that I am grateful for his kindness."

Chang'an said seriously, "Miss Su, please be extra careful these days. My master said that the emperor might suspect you have secrets and try to test your reaction during this incident."

Su Liang hesitated for a moment.

Did Duanmu Yi suspect her? It wasn't surprising. After being away from the capital for over a year, a weak girl suddenly became so strong. It would be normal if Duanmu Yi suspected her of being a spy for an enemy country.

Duanmu Chen told Su Liang about this through Chang'an, informing her that the Royal Family would not protect her because of her achievements or her service to the country. She would have to solve all her problems herself.

In short, if Su Liang couldn't prove her innocence, she would have to pay for the murder with her own life.

Su Liang thought it was reasonable. She never expected any special privileges from the Royal Family anyway.

After Chang'an left, Su Liang opened the papers. They were written by Duanmu Chen, who had copied down what he saw written by Xiao Muyun at the Xiao Family's Memorial Hall and then rewrote it for Su Liang.

Although it was Duanmu Chen's writing, the content was in Xiao Muyun's tone.

The first paper described Xiao Muyun's experiences from meeting to falling in love with the original master.

Between the lines, there were deep memories filled with affection.

However, the original master had died, and the authenticity could no longer be verified. Su Liang frowned as she read about Xiao Muyun's private meetings, hand-holding, and hugging with the original master.

From Su Liang's perspective, when Xiao Muyun met the original master, she was still an unmarried girl, while Xiao Muyun was already a widower.

The original master was raised in seclusion and had a simple heart, but she had a gentle disposition and possessed extreme beauty.

It was hard for Su Liang not to suspect that Xiao Muyun was moved by lust. If she were to judge the matter with her own values, it was like an old man seducing an underage girl.

It was true that the original master liked Xiao Muyun and gave him tokens like a fan pendant, but hand-holding and hugging still made Su Liang doubt.

Could it be that bold?

Even if the original master was of low birth and didn't understand the rules, didn't Xiao Muyun, as a scholarly son from the Prime Minister Mansion, know that such behavior was inappropriate? Didn't he know that if found out, he would be fine, but the original master would be ruined for life?

Reading between the lines, Su Liang saw no sense of basic morality or responsibility.

After only reading the first page, she started to feel uncomfortable.

On the second page, Xiao Muyun wrote that after believing the original master had died, he had been living like a walking corpse until he met Su Liang. He suffered whenever he was awake and missed her in his dreams. He could not accept any marriage arranged by his family and tried every way to decline them.

Su Liang frowned. On the day of their "first meeting" at the restaurant, the encounter was accidental. Xiao Muyun went out for a drink alone when he was free. He was dressed very elegantly and looked quite well.

Did he misunderstand the term "living dead"?

Up until now, Su Liang thought that Xiao Muyun still couldn't let go of the original master and was resentful when he saw her, so his writing was exaggerated with self-indulgence.

However, in the second half of the second page, Xiao Muyun wrote about how he poured his heart out that day, how Su Liang coldly rejected him, and even lied about losing her memory to avoid and deny everything that had happened between them.

If an outsider who didn't know the truth read these words, they would think that Xiao Muyun was the most infatuated person in the world and Su Liang was a top-notch scummy woman...

Su Liang looked at the third page.

Xiao Muyun wrote about his pain, how he and the original master were already intimate, and how he had decided that she was his woman, but now he had to watch Su Liang marry someone else.

He wanted to tell the world about their relationship, but he didn't want to ruin Su Liang's current marriage and bright future.

"You've changed, you've gone far, far away, but I've been waiting for you foolishly in the same place, waiting for you to come back, but I can't wait for you to turn back."

"I really want to go find you right now and tell you everything I want to say.

Even if you kill me, I won't have any regrets."

"When I wake up from my dreams in the middle of the night, I have an impulse to let go and not care about anything or anyone." "Without you, what's the point of living?

As Su Liang read to the end, a chill spread in her eyes.

However, the deep emotions and pain expressed in the words of these papers did not match the Xiao Muyun she knew!

Xiao Muyun did indeed try to rekindle their relationship several times after seeing Su Liang return to the capital, but all Su Liang felt was a man's possessiveness towards a beautiful woman.

Su Liang didn't see any of the "infatuated waiting" Xiao Muyun wrote on the paper.

He grew up in a large family and was a shrewd and worldly man as a bastard.

If he was truly so infatuated and unrepentant, why didn't he investigate the cause of Su Family's death? He didn't even dare to look at the original master's body!

If he was as miserable as he wrote, shouldn't he have been pining away?

During the time he thought the original master was dead, Xiao Muyun seemed to be living very well. Because of his noble background, he could still live a carefree life even without much talent, ambition, or aspiration.

Discovering that Su Liang was alive, but not wanting to be with him, he suddenly couldn't bear living?

How did he live for the year and more when he previously thought the original master was dead?

Was his so-called infatuation just, "It doesn't matter if you're dead, but if you're alive and not with me, I might as well die?"

To this, Su Liang only felt a deep sense of contradiction and inconsistency, incredibly bizarre.

If Xiao Muyun appeared in front of Su Liang right now, she would definitely ask him, "Are you mentally ill?!"

However, people who don't know Su Liang, don't know Xiao Muyun, and don't know what really happened between them are more likely to believe what Xiao Muyun wrote before his death than what Su Liang says.

Therefore, although these few pages cannot prove that Su Liang killed Xiao Muyun, they are filled with Su Liang's "motive" for killing Xiao Muyun— removing the disgraceful past from her life.

With Xiao Muyun's death, it's hard to disprove what he wrote.

Su Liang re-read the four pages of paper and felt that the whole thing was strange from beginning to end.

If Xiao Muyun really wrote this while he was sober, what did he want to do? Did he really want to jump out and slander Su Liang for having an affair with him? Or did he want to end his life?

Su Liang believed the latter was impossible.

If it was the former, then how did he die?

Did someone discover in secret that Xiao Muyun wanted to harm Su Liang and got rid of the obstacle for her?

Even more impossible. If so, why use a weapon similar to hers?

If they used a different weapon, no one would dare associate this murder case with Su Liang!

It's because of Su Liang's weapon, combined with Xiao Muyun's handwritten words, that Su Liang has become the prime suspect.

There is no doubt that the true culprit wanted to frame Su Liang.

Those pieces of paper could not possibly be something Xiao Muyun wrote to touch himself when he was in a bad mood. It's not strange for someone to exaggerate their emotions and imagine things in matters of feelings, but what he wrote was too fake, and the bias between the lines was too obvious.

"I must find you, even if you want to kill me. I want the world to know you are my woman." This kind of words are equivalent to saying, "If I die, it's Su Liang who killed me."

At this moment, Su Liang even felt as if the real culprit and Xiao Muyun had teamed up to frame her!

But Xiao Muyun would not sacrifice his life to harm her.

Their relationship was far from the point of deep hatred and life-and-death struggles. Su Liang's impression of Xiao Muyun was that he was greedy for comfort and afraid of trouble.

A mass of contradictions.

The more bizarre it was, the more Su Liang felt that the truth could not be inferred by common sense.

Assuming her idea was true, Xiao Muyun was angered by her rejection and set her up. He first wrote the blatantly accusatory words "Su Liang might kill him" by hand, and when something happened to him, Su Liang would be the prime suspect. In this case, he would only be seriously injured.

But he died.

Was it an accident, a heavy hand? Or were the people who conspired with Xiao Muyun deceiving him? They were supposed to injure him, but instead killed him with a single blow, achieving their goal as well as silencing him.

In any case, though the truth was elusive, but because of the false accusation written by Xiao Muyun “accidentally,” Su Liang couldn’t help but suspect that his death was not innocent, and he might even be involved.

Su Liang shoved those pieces of paper into the stove, and they were quickly reduced to ashes.

The dishes she had prepared for Ning Jing on the side no longer had any warmth.

Su Liang handed them to Nian Jincheng, “It’s getting cold. You eat it. I’ll make him another batch.”

Nian Jincheng felt it was good enough for him to eat and didn’t pick at it. Instead, he asked Su Liang if she had any ideas on how to save Ning Jing. Su Liang shook her head, “Don’t worry, let’s see if any little ghosts jump out.” “Will he be tortured?” Nian Jincheng frowned.

“He’s already confessed to killing someone. Why would they torture him? They should execute him directly,” Su Liang said.

Nian Jincheng: ... Why did he detect Su Liang’s anticipation? It must be his illusion.

The next moment, Su Liang said, “It’s quite interesting to hijack the execution ground. I’ll hijack him and we’ll disappear together, hiding in the dark. It’s actually more convenient to act.”

Nian Jincheng: ... It turns out it wasn’t an illusion. Su Liang is really looking forward to Ning Jing being beheaded, drunk ...

“Just kidding. Who wouldn’t want to live a normal life, not hiding and avoiding the light? You must know the feeling,” Su Liang said.

Nian Jincheng was once again stabbed in the heart.

“All right, eat quickly. I’m going out later. If someone comes, hide under the bed and don’t be discovered,” Su Liang said, and left.

Seeing that Su Liang was not panicking, Nian Jincheng stopped worrying too much. In the worst-case scenario, they would just hijack the execution ground. It’s not like they couldn’t do it.

Su Liang made two more dishes for Ning Jing, packed them in a lunchbox, and rode out the door.

People on the road pointed at her, and she didn’t need to pay attention to hear what they were saying.

And these same people, up until yesterday, were praising her for her extraordinary talents and beauty.

Su Liang’s mood was very calm. Fame and honor were illusions, not what she sought, and she didn’t care.

When Su Liang saw Ning Jing, he had already been locked in the Ministry of Justice’s prison cell.

A single room, still relatively clean. He didn’t change into prison clothes and was sitting cross-legged on the ground with his eyes closed, like an immortal going through trials.

Su Liang suspected that the reason she was allowed in so easily was that someone wanted to hear what she would say to Ning Jing.

The prison door opened, and Ning Jing opened his eyes, seeing Su Liang entering with a lunchbox.

“Thank you,” Su Liang smiled at the prison officer. “Can we talk for a while?”

Call me when I want to leave.”

The prison officer nodded, locked the door from the outside, and left.

Su Liang sat down next to Ning Jing, took out the food from the lunchbox and placed it on the floor, “It should still be warm.”

Ning Jing picked up a chopstick and felt it was a bit too difficult, so he ordered

Su Liang, “You hold it, I’ll eat this first.”

Su Liang silently picked up the plate Ning Jing pointed to and placed it in the most convenient spot for her to eat. After all, Ning Jing had ended up in prison because of her, so doing this much was a small thing.

With this movement, Su Liang hid her other hand behind her back, writing a few sentences on Ning Jing’s back about the papers that Duanmu Chen sent, her guess, and the plan for the next steps.

After Ning Jing finished eating the food Su Liang brought, Su Liang put the bowl and chopsticks back into the lunch box, and the two began to talk.

“Do you know Xiao Muyun?” Ning Jing asked Su Liang.

Understanding Ning Jing’s hint, Su Liang shook her head and replied, “I don’t know him. Once, at a restaurant, his servant told me he had something to discuss with me. I had lost my memories from an injury at the time, and thinking he was someone I knew, I went to meet him. He claimed that after seeing me once at Huguo Temple, he fell in love and couldn’t stop thinking about me. He originally planned to propose when I came of age, but then my family encountered trouble. He was heartbroken for a long time, so when he saw that I was alive, he was overjoyed and hoped I could marry him as his second wife. He even took out a fan pendant, saying it was the ‘relic’ of mine that he obtained after the Su Family incident as a keepsake. Other than the pendant, there were also things I had made by hand.”

“How come you never mentioned it?” Ning Jing frowned.

Su Liang sighed, “At the time, I only thought he was delusional and that his words were ridiculous. He said he had people watching me near my house, and as soon as I left, he would quickly be informed and follow me, secretly watching my every movement. He claimed it was all because he liked me so much and wanted to see more of me. He also talked about many things he imagined doing with me. Honestly, I found him to be quite scary and disgusting. I was afraid you would misunderstand, so I didn’t bring it up after returning.”

“Did you only meet that one time?” Ning Jing asked.

Su Liang shook her head, “After that, he started stalking me again. There was a time when I went to give acupuncture to the Old Master of the Duke Qin Mansion daily. He would hide in the alley next to the mansion, and when I left the Qin Family residence, he would appear, pretending to run into me by chance.”

Ning Jing’s face darkened, “If that’s the case, the person I encountered was Xiao Muyun. ”

“He also approached you?” Su Liang looked surprised.

“Once, he suddenly appeared and asked me about my relationship with you. I didn’t know who he was, so I just thought he was a lunatic and ignored him and left,” said Ning Jing.

Su Liang sighed deeply, “Later, he never showed up again, and I thought he had finally given up. I hadn’t expected him to suddenly die, and all the evidence pointed to me. But it’s all too strange. Could it be that someone knew about his delusions about me, took them seriously, killed him, and framed me?”

After a moment of silence, Ning Jing said coldly, “Or maybe after you participated in the Military Exam and became the Top Scholar, he knew he could never have you. So, he went insane, forged your weapon to kill himself, making people think you two really had something going on, and framed you for silencing him. That way, you would have to pay with your life, and in the minds of the people, you two would be a couple, eventually reuniting in the Underworld. ”

“That’s... ” Su Liang looked strangely, “too twisted, isn’t it?”

“If he had already imagined you to be his, then saying anything or doing anything is possible. Never underestimate a person who cannot have you, nor the extent to which their hearts can go crazy,” Ning Jing said coldly.

Frowning, Su Liang said, “He’s dead now. What should we do? He had my pendant and a few other things in his hand. There were also a few papers that the Xiao Family presented as evidence, and I don’t know what they were. Could it be his dying words, claiming that if he died, it would be my doing? This is just too bizarre!”

Ning Jing snorted coldly, “This whole affair is quite bizarre.”

Su Liang sighed, “You didn’t want me to get in trouble, so you turned yourself in voluntarily. However, we can’t even be considered to know Xiao Muyun, and we have no idea what has happened. It’s my fault. I should have taken those things back from him when I initially thought he was sick. At that time, all I wanted was to stay away from him and not be entangled.”

“Someone you offended recently is trying to take advantage of this situation to harm you,” Ning Jing said. “Don’t worry. There are many doubtful points in this case. Your weapon is the biggest doubt. Regardless of you or me, none of us would likely use that knife to kill.”

Su Liang sighed again, “Yeah, the Ning Family has endless wealth. If you wanted to kill an enemy, how could you possibly leave such a huge flaw? It’s truly an undeserved disaster. I saved Old Master Qin, so I had no choice but to ask Duke Qin for a lifesaving golden plaque for you. The capital city is too dangerous. Once we get through this, let’s go back to Xunyang City and sell tea leaves.”

Ning Jing nodded, “Alright. Wherever you want to go, I’ll accompany you. Go back first, and don’t act impulsively.”

Su Liang called the prison officer to open the door. Looking back in three steps, she left the prison cell.

Not long after Su Liang left, someone left the Ministry of Justice and headed towards the Imperial Palace.

When Su Liang returned home, she went to the storage room and found a knife that resembled her twin blades but was different. It was one of the auxiliary weapons of an assassin from Yanyun Building that she had once confiscated in the Su Family village.

With the weapon in hand, Su Liang entered Ning Jing's room. Nian Jincheng hurriedly asked if she saw Ning Jing in the Ministry of Justice.

"I saw him, your brother is fine; there's no need to worry," Su Liang said as she wiped the knife clean.

"What are you going to do?" Nian Jincheng asked.

With a soft expression, Su Liang replied, "This is the murder weapon. When it gets dark, I will throw it into the lake in the Prime Minister's Mansion. Tomorrow, it will be fished out." Nian Jincheng paused, "Then, the murderer is..." "Xiao Muyun himself," Su Liang said.

Nian Jincheng was dumbstruck, "How is that possible?"

With an icy gaze, Su Liang said, "I originally thought Xiao Muyun died because of my involvement, but the things he wrote proved that he wanted to harm me from the beginning. He has already been silenced, so it's difficult to find evidence of who he was secretly working with. As long as I admit that any word written in those things he left behind is true, I can never wash off the filthy water. In that case, might as well deny everything, claim no past relationship, and say it's all his romantic delusions. Ning Jing and I are innocent and know nothing."

Nian Jincheng furrowed his brows, "Will anyone believe that?"

"Is it because I'm not pretty enough? Or am I not outstanding enough?" Su Liang shot back.

Nian Jincheng's mouth twitched, "You're a beauty who can topple nations and unparalleled in talent."

Chapter 169: 169. I want five

Nian Jincheng nodded, "This move is like removing the firewood from under the pot, clearing the air. As long as you can dissociate yourself from Xiao Muyun, his death will have no counter-evidence, and the mastermind behind him will have no means to retaliate."

Brilliant. Nian Jincheng admitted that if he were put in this situation, he wouldn't have thought of this way of dealing with it.

"However, your relationship with Xiao Muyun..." Nian Jincheng frowned, "I don't mean anything by it, I just feel that you couldn't possibly be attracted to someone like him, right?"

Nian Jincheng didn't know the original Su Liang, but he believed that even if someone lost their memory, their character wouldn't change drastically.

"Very well." Su Liang nodded, "If you think so, then when it's time for me to clear my name, there will naturally be others who share your opinion."

"Yes." Nian Jincheng agreed.

The sky was getting darker.

Lu Yu secretly came to check on the situation. Wan Hui was very worried upon learning that Ning Jing had been taken away.

"Zhengzheng insisted on coming to see you both, but we barely managed to persuade him to not go. We told him to come another day." Lu Yu furrowed his brow, "What do we do now?"

Su Liang smiled, "Don't worry, Ning Jing and I will handle it. In fact, I was just about to go see Zhengzheng. I made him something delicious, so you can take it with you. There's something I need your help with, as well as Wan Jiejie's." Lu Yu shook his head, "Don't be so polite. Just tell us what we can do to help."

Seeing that Su Liang still had the leisure to make food for Zhengzheng, Lu Yu believed she must have a plan, and his heart relaxed slightly.

"Help me spread some news." Su Liang said.

Wan Family owned a restaurant and had a lot of people at their disposal in the capital city.

After listening to what Su Liang had said, Lu Yu's expression was shocked, "So that's what happened! Second Young Master Xiao is simply a madman, deserving of death!"

In fact, Su Liang's story was mostly fabricated with few real details. However, it sounded so bizarre at first that the more one thought about it, the more likely it seemed, and it completely matched the current events.

Compared to the claim that Su Liang privately accepted Xiao Muyun's affection when she was thirteen and then used her own weapon to kill people to cover it up, the possibility that Xiao Muyun, an unloved bastard widower, was insanely infatuated with the impressively talented Martial Arts Champion and wanted to destroy her because he couldn't have her was much greater.

After all, not many people in the capital city knew what the original master was like, and almost everyone who knew Su Liang had met her since the Military Exam. Their impression of her had been positive until today.

Reversing public opinion in a timely manner wasn't difficult.

At this point, Su Liang believed that even if the Su Family hadn't experienced any trouble in the past, there couldn't have been a good outcome between the original master and Xiao Muyun.

Xiao Muyun coveted the original master's beauty, but Miss Su Liang would not have been eligible to enter the Prime Minister's Mansion even if she were to become Xiao Muyun's wife. It was highly

likely that after being deceived and losing her innocence, she would have no choice but to become his concubine.

Because he was an immoral, irresponsible scum who only sought pleasure.

Lu Yu brought the food Su Liang made for Zhengzheng back home, and after discussing with Wan Hui, the two of them started taking action.

That night, new rumors began to spread rapidly throughout the capital city.

Compared to the earlier negative rumors about Su Liang, the later ones were even more shocking.

With the two opposing public opinions colliding, was it that Su Liang and Xiao Muyun had an affair, even giving herself to Xiao Muyun before her adulthood, or was it that Xiao Muyun had been obsessed with the Martial Arts Champion for years, and went mad with jealousy and eventually wanting to bring her down with him in death?

Which one to believe?

Although the latter seemed far-fetched, the more one thought about it, the more plausible it seemed.

As for the former, there were already many flaws in the story. How could Su Liang, who was talented in both appearance and ability, fall for an unworthy bastard like Xiao Muyun from the Xiao Family? And how could Su Liang possibly use her own well-known weapon to kill Xiao Muyun? These were all very obvious doubts.

It's just that because all the evidence pointed to Su Liang, and there seemed to be no other possibilities, it led to Su Liang being considered the only possible murderer. In the eyes of others, Ning Jing and her were inseparable.

Now, "other possibilities" had not only appeared, but the story was more complete, without obvious flaws.

In this case, for the capital city residents who had witnessed Su Liang win the Military Exam and defeat the enemy's female general, they would rather believe that the Martial Arts Champion they once praised was a good person.

Qin Duke Mansion, Marquis Zhong Xin Mansion, and Lin Mansion, which had been closely following the progress of the case, soon received the news that public opinion had reversed and breathed a sigh of relief.

Duanmu Chen had just returned to Prince Four Mansion from the Imperial Palace when he received the report from Chang'an and learned the new rumor circulating outside. He slowly smiled, "Father Emperor knew it early."

Chang'an was stunned for a moment, then Duanmu Chen said, "When Su Liang was talking with Ning Jing in the Ministry of Justice prison, someone close to Father Emperor was listening nearby."

Chang'an was surprised, "Didn't Master say that the Emperor would not protect

Miss Su?"

Duanmu Chen shook his head, "It's a different matter. Father Emperor was far from happy that the civil and military champions he recently appointed both had murder suspicions within a day. Father

Emperor knew it couldn't be Su Liang, someone wanted to frame her, but whether she could clear her name and solve the problem with Ning Jing was what Father Emperor was concerned."

Chang'an suddenly realized, "So that's how it is."

Duanmu Chen's lips curled slightly, "Father Emperor values talent. But he couldn't protect them publicly; it would be criticized. I also thought this trouble was very tricky, and no matter what Su Liang said, it would be hard to clear her name. The key was that besides her, there were no other suspects, and Xiao Muyun was really dead. Even if she was cleared, she would still be doubted."

Chang'an nodded, "Indeed so. But I never expected that Miss Su could think of such a clever way. There were no other suspects, so she made it look like Xiao Muyun had gone mad and committed suicide to drag her down with him. All the evidence, when used to support Miss Su's statement, was even more reasonable!"

"Isn't it?" Duanmu Chen said, halt-laughing and halt-serious, "Those crazy words Xiao Muyun wrote before he died were nonsense. He didn't know who he was conspiring with, but he harbored the intention to harm Su Liang and ended up getting himself killed in the process. Serves him right." Chang'an frowned, "If Xiao Muyun hadn't died, what was his purpose?"

"If he had been seriously injured and confessed in person, along with the 'evidence' prepared in advance, and framed Su Liang as the murderer, according to the law, Su Liang would have been at least exiled, or even sentenced to death. Even if she were pardoned due to her achievements, her reputation would be ruined and her future bleak," Duanmu Chen said with a cold snort.

Chang'an was puzzled, "He, a bastard of the Xiao Family, was always well-behaved. Why would he take such a risk to harm Miss Su?"

Duanmu Chen's eyes narrowed slightly, "Of course, it could not be Xiao Muyun's idea alone. Someone instigated him in the background, promising him great benefits to conspire against Su Liang. He was a bastard, pretending to be gentle and non-contentious because he had no ability; he was not really content with his status quo."

"Could it be... Prince Two?" Chang'an asked.

Duanmu Chen nodded, "Both Duanmu Sheng and Duanmu Ao are possible, even Duanmu Che. Su Liang is very smart, clearing herself first before investigating other matters, otherwise, she would be smeared. One misstep and it would be hard to save oneself."

"Yes!" Chang'an sighed, "Such a sinister scheme is hard to guard against. If it were someone else, they would be ruined. Ning Jing's self-surrender was also brilliant, making some people in the Ministry of Justice temporarily unable to act against Miss Su."

Duanmu Chen chuckled, "Now I feel that Su Liang is sent by heaven to help me. As long as I don't offend her, seize the opportunity to give her benefits, at critical moments, she'll definitely stand by my side."

Chang'an agreed wholeheartedly, 'Master is wise.'

Late at night, Su Liang secretly sneaked into the Prime Minister Xiao Mansion and threw the prepared knife into the lake in the rear garden before quickly leaving.

Instead of going directly home afterward, she went to the Ministry of Justice.

There were guards guarding the Ministry, Su Liang did not go in, but found a high place nearby to hide and kept a close watch on the surroundings.

She felt that someone might try to kill Ning Jing tonight.

As for her home, just in case, she had already made changes to Nian Jincheng's appearance before leaving and moved him to an empty and remote courtyard where no one had lived before.

During the day, Su Liang had warned Ning Jing not to eat the food in the prison, fearing someone might poison it. Maybe the person who wanted to kill him was already inside. She knew Ning Jing had great abilities, and even if there was trouble, he could cope with it. But she still decided to keep guard outside the prison during the night.

After staying up all night, Su Liang left when the sky began to lighten up, without noticing any abnormalities around the Ministry the previous night.

Su Liang washed, changed clothes, made breakfast, sent a portion to Nian Jincheng first, and then rode to the Ministry of Justice to see Ning Jing.

When people saw Su Liang again today, they still talked a lot, but the words were quite different from last night. Many believed that she was targeted by a madman for being too outstanding, suffering an unwarranted disaster.

Su Liang still managed to enter the prison of the Ministry of Justice smoothly. When she met Ning Jing, he looked exactly the same as yesterday, as if he hadn't moved since Su Liang had left.

Su Liang set warm food out and naturally offered it to Ning Jing, "Did you sleep last night?"

Ning Jing shook his head, "There were fleas, I couldn't sleep."

Su Liang sensed Ning Jing's hint that someone indeed tried to harm him last night, but they obviously didn't succeed.

Su Liang didn't inquire further, and left after Ning Jing finished eating.

When Ning Jing was interrogated, he mentioned Xiao Muyun's harassment of Su Liang and his suspicion that Xiao Muyun committed suicide to frame Su Liang.

Minister Mei sneered, "If it was suicide, why was there no weapon found?"

Ning Jing thought for a moment, "Xiao Muyun's attendant drowned, have you searched the lake for any weapons?"

Minister Mei looked at Gou Yu, who frowned, "We only found one corpse in the lake yesterday. Nothing else."

For unknown reasons, Minister Mei's attitude was different than yesterday, not as tough. He ordered Gou Yu to go to Prime Minister Xiao's mansion again to find the murder weapon, focusing on the lake in the back garden.

Thus, Gou Yu went to the Xiao Family again.

The Xiao Family also knew about last night's reversal of public opinion. The story had changed, with Xiao Muyun going from a victim to a paranoid madman and his death being described as a suicide.

Of course, the Xiao Family knew that Su Liang was the one behind the rumors, and they were displeased as it had damaged their reputation.

However, they were not privy to the nature of the relationship between Xiao

Muyun and Su Liang. The only one who might have known was the now-dead attendant. Besides, yesterday, Duanmu Chen warned them not to avenge Xiao Muyun and to leave the investigation to the Ministry of Justice.

Gou Yu encountered no obstacles, and with a considerable amount of manpower, spent half a day fishing out a knife from the lake.

The knife was similar to the Twin Blades known to be used by Su Liang, but it was not the same. Moreover, yesterday Gou Yu had demanded Su Liang hand over her Twin Blades for investigation in front of the Xiao family members. As such, the knife was determined to be the murder weapon used to kill Xiao

Muyun.

This time, the suspicion on Su Liang was cleared.

It was unlikely she would use a knife similar to her own weapon to kill someone, then throw it into the lake without taking it away. It's too far-fetched.

From Ning Jing's testimony, evidence found at the Xiao Family, and the crime scene, Gou Yu deduced the facts:

As Su Liang said, Xiao Muyun's infatuation with her had turned into obsession. When she rejected him and advanced in her career, he knew getting her was impossible, so he went mad and wanted to die with her. He first wrote some delusional ramblings, found a knife similar to Su Liang's weapon, and, by some means, forced his attendant to kill him and take away the murder weapon, then commit suicide by jumping into the lake.

The attendant's death went unnoticed, and once his corpse was discovered, no one thought of searching the lake for the weapon.

In this way, all suspicion would fall on Su Liang. If she could not prove her innocence, she could be convicted based on the weapon and the writings left by Xiao Muyun.

After Gou Yu brought the murder weapon back to the Ministry of Justice, the news spread quickly.

A new witness appeared soon after.

He was the old housekeeper of the Ministry of Industry's residence, the neighbor of Duke Qin's mansion.

He testified that, on two consecutive days last month, he saw a carriage bearing the emblem of Prime Minister Xiao's mansion parked in the alley for a long time. On one occasion, he saw Su

Liang riding a horse out of Duke Qin's mansion and the Xiao's carriage leaving the alley, with Xiao Muyun coming out to speak with Su Liang, who ignored him and walked away.

The testimony of this witness directly corroborated the fact that "Xiao Muyun secretly followed and harassed Su Liang," which was extremely favorable to Su

Liang.

Before noon, the Ministry of Justice had swiftly closed this case, which had caused quite a stir throughout the capital city.

Su Liang and Ning Jing were found innocent. Xiao Muyun, unable to get Su Liang's love, had gone mad and committed suicide to frame her.

When Ning Jing left the main hall of the Ministry of Justice, it was as if he had merely gone in for a visit—calm and composed, his clothes in order. Su Liang was waiting by the carriage, and upon seeing him approach, smiled and waved.

Ning Jing got into the carriage, and Su Liang personally drove him home.

Hence, after experiencing a bizarre murder case, the tale of the "intellectual and martial arts champions in love" gained another striking chapter. Half of the people in the capital city were cursing Xiao Muyun as a toad trying to eat swan meat; he was a madman.

The other half were sighing at how Ning Jing, though a scholar, stood up for Su Liang when she was in trouble, a true man! And Su Liang remained calm under pressure, rescuing Ning Jing and clearing her suspicion—both brave and intelligent! They were truly a perfect match made by heaven.

"Young Master Ning and Miss Su are a naturally talented and beautiful couple, and Xiao Muyun was just a clown! Good riddance to him!"

That was the lasting impression of this incident.

After Su Liang and Ning Jing returned home, Ning Jing took a bath while Su Liang cooked some of his favorite dishes.

As soon as the dishes were ready, their friends arrived, casting off the gloom from yesterday as they were overjoyed.

Su Liang had just set the table and Xing Yusheng was about to sit down when Ning Jing spoke up, "These dishes are all mine."

Xing Yusheng: ...Do you have to be so petty?

Su Liang chuckled, "He's afraid of someone poisoning the food. Since he didn't eat last night, he must be hungry. Let him eat by himself."

Xing Yusheng held his forehead, "I just wanted to sit down, not fight over food with him."

"Can I eat?" Zhengzheng raised his small hand and smiled adorably, hinting that he deserved some good food too, right?

Ning Jing nodded, "Zhengzheng, come and eat with me."

There they were, a big and a small, enjoying the food while others watched.

Wan Hui laughed, "Let's go to a restaurant later. This time's narrow escape is worth celebrating."

"I'm tired. I won't go." Ning Jing shook his head.

Zhengzheng giggled, "I'm tired too, not going, not going!"

Su Liang yawned, "We didn't sleep last night, so I won't go either. You can go and celebrate, and consider it my treat."

Lin Xueqing asked with a mischievous smile, "Sister Su, why couldn't you sleep last night? Were you worrying about Brother Ning and couldn't sleep a wink?" Su Liang replied seriously, "Of course, it's only natural that I worry about him."

"Oh, Su, when can you learn to be shy for once? Really now." Lin Xueqing got the answer she wanted, but it still felt off.

The friends headed to the restaurant for a party, while the two main characters stayed at home with their adorable little companion.

Nian Jincheng, who had been forgotten in a remote courtyard, could only silently wait for someone to remember him.

Su Liang wasn't hungry and sat opposite Ning Jing, watching him and

Zhengzheng eat, lost in thought. "Someone must have conspired with Xiao Muyun. Who do you think it is?"

Ning Jing didn't answer, but instead asked Zhengzheng, "One, two, or five, choose a number."

Ning Jing nodded, looking at Su Liang, "Mmm, I think it's Duanmu Che too.."

Chapter 170: 170. Ensure that it's very enchanting to him

Su Liang touched her forehead, "Great God, aren't you making conclusions too hastily?"

Zhengzheng's eyes sparkled as she turned around to look at Ning Jing, "Who is the Great God?"

Ning Jing grabbed Zhengzheng's little hand, pointed at himself, "Me."

Zhengzheng's little face was curious, "Why?"

"Ask her." Ning Jing pointed at Su Liang again. Zhengzheng looked at Su Liang with a giggly smile, "Why?"

Su Liang replied seriously, "Because he's handsome."

Zhengzheng held her chubby little face with her little hands, "I'm also pretty!"

Su Liang chuckled, "You're a little sweetheart."

Zhengzheng extended her arms wide, gesturing, "Uncle Ning is a big, big sweetheart!"

The conversation had veered off-topic too radically, Su Liang brought it back,

“Let’s get back to discussing 125.”

Ning Jing’s expression was indifferent, “No one knew old Su Liang and Xiao Muyun better than Five. One and Two were in the same group, if Two knew about those matters, he would have publicised them long ago.”

Su Liang contemplated, “Actually, that’s what I thought too.”

The Crown Prince Duanmu Cheng and Second Prince Duanmu Ao were brothers from the same mother, at least for now it seemed like they shared the same interests.

If Duanmu Ao knew about the Original Master and Xiao Muyun, given his personality, he’d definitely not keep himself from slinging mud at Su Liang, but instead use such a sinister and venomous method.

And Duanmu Che was very clear about the past between the Original Master and Xiao Muyun, and had once despised Su Liang greatly for it.

The timing of Xiao Muyun’s premeditated plot to frame Su Liang was almost around when she publicly rejected Duanmu Che’s proposal at the palace banquet, claiming that she was already engaged to Ning Jing.

It was since that night, that Su Liang and Duanmu Che had officially cut ties with each other.

Duanmu Cheng was overly self-centered, with average talents, capabilities, and intelligence, not nearly as astute and capable as Duanmu Chen.

Duanmu Ao was lustful and impulsive.

Out of all the princes Su Liang knew, the one who gave her the most “dark” vibes was the Fifth Prince, Duanmu Che.

“Want to sleep?” Ning Jing asked Zhengzheng.

Zhengzheng nodded her little head, “Uncle and Auntie sleep with me!”

“You can sleep with your uncle.” Su Liang smiled and began clearing up the dishes to go out.

Considering that Ning Jing served prison time for her, she decided to wash the dishes this time. As she washed, she pondered, if Duanmu Che was indeed behind Xiao Muyun, how should she verify this?

At this point, Xiao Muyun and his trusted followers were all dead, and the linked to them.

Even if she suspected Duanmu Che, he wouldn’t confess to it. Without evidence, she couldn’t just fully assume it was him.

But to just let it go was absolutely unacceptable.

Unable to come up with a solution for the time being, Su Liang decided to take a rest first, regain energy, and think slowly later.

People from the Ministry of Justice came again, delivering a brocade box, claiming that it was evidence that was requested by Ning Jing to be returned to Su Liang. The murder case was closed, the items returned to the original owner.

Su Liang rewarded the government soldiers and waited for them to leave before opening the box. Upon seeing the fan pendant, sachet and handkerchief, she sighed deeply.

The Original Master met Xiao MUYUN at an innocent and naive age, she held him in her heart until her death, but it ended up being a grave mistake.

Now, if she has become a spirit in heaven, she would find peace upon seeing everything that's happening now, right?

There were still many valuable items and clothes left by the Original Master in Su Liang's possession, all stored in a separate box. There was a purple jade pendant that Su Liang always wore.

There's a grave on Wangxiang Mountain outside the capital that belonged to Su Liang. Su Liang treats that as the Original Master's tomb to pay her respects.

She originally planned to bury all the things the Original Master left behind, including those she once gifted to Xiao MUYUN, into that grave.

But then she changed her mind. Su Liang didn't know anything about the identity and background of the original master's mother. She suspected that there might still be relatives of her maternal family alive in the world. Those exquisitely unique embroideries were all filled with the original master's hard work. Su Liang always thought they should be given to someone who truly cares about the original master as a keepsake.

After a night's sleep, Su Liang called out for Ning Jing and Zhengzheng only to find no response.

In the garden at the back, they were seen fishing, one big and one small.

"Auntie!" Zhengzheng turned around, so excited that he tipped over and sat on the ground. He then got up laughing cheerfully.

Su Liang went over and seeing the wooden bucket empty asked, "How long have you been fishing?"

Zhengzheng chuckled, "Uncle Ning caught three fish, but said they weren't right and let them go!"

Su Liang held her forehead, guessing that Ning Jing was probably trying to catch the poor little fish that he once "marked" as the one that would turn into a squirrel fish when it grows up.

Ning Jing took a glance at Su Liang, "If we hook up a little squirrel fish, we'll eat squirrel fish."

Okay, he even named the fish... Su Liang was indeed speechless.

"I want to go to the cemetery. You guys continue playing," Su Liang said. Ning Jing put down his fishing rod, "I'll take Zhengzheng to watch the sunset."

So, the two of them rode horses out, with Zhengzheng sitting in front of Ning Jing, and on the way, Su Liang bought many incense candles and joss paper.

They reached the foot of Wangxiang Mountain outside the city, tied up their horses and with Zhengzheng on Ning Jing's back and Su Liang carrying a basket, they began climbing the mountain.

When they got near the Su Family's cemetery, they went their separate ways.

Ning Jing kept climbing the mountain with Zhengzheng, and Su Liang said she would find them later.

First, Su Liang burned some joss paper for Su Yuanzhou, then in front of the "tomb of Su Liang", she took out a few things the original master had given to Xiao Muyun, put them in the pile of joss paper and lit a fire.

"If your spirit is in heaven, you won't blame me, will you?" Su Liang sized softly, "You had enough hardship in this life. I hope in your next life, you'll be safe, joyful, happy and fulfilled. I will do everything I can to avenge the Su family."

She watched as these things turned to ashes, and after making sure all the sparks were out, she got up and left.

When she entered the capital city, it was wintertime. By now, it was a season when everything was starting to recover.

While walking, Su Liang gathered medicinal herbs out of habit. By the time they reached the top of the mountain, her basket was filled again.

She didn't spot Ning Jing and Zhengzheng at first glance. Then she went around a huge stone, where Yan Shiba had hidden that night, but they were not there.

Just as she was finding it strange, she heard Zhengzheng's laughter from not too far away.

Looking towards the sound, she saw a big and a small figure sitting on an old tree on the mountain top with its rugged branches and trunk.

Ning Jing was gazing into the distance, his robes fluttering in the wind, black hair waving gently, as if ready to take off with the wind.

Zhengzheng was held in Ning Jing's arms. His legs were shaking rhythmically. He waved towards Su Liang with a brilliant smile, "We are up here! Auntie, come up!!"

Su Liang put the basket under the tree, ran up and climbed the tree. After arriving, she sat beside Zhengzheng.

Zhengzheng leaned against Su Liang and said with a giggle, "Uncle flew up here."

Su Liang nodded, "Of course, immortals are different. I can't fly like that."

There was still some time before sunset. Zhengzheng was excited about being so high up for the first time. He was held by Ning Jing one moment and by Su Liang the next. His courage grew, and he began to climb nearby branches. Every time he was about to fall, he was promptly caught and pulled back by either Ning Jing or Su Liang.

"Take off your outer robe," Su Liang suddenly told Ning Jing.

Ning Jing frowned, "Why?"

“For Zhengzheng to play with,” Su Liang replied.

Ning Jing took off his outer robe and handed it to Su Liang.

Su Liang tied the sleeves and hems to the tree trunk to make a little hammock. Zhengzheng lay in it, swinging with the wind. His tiny body was safely enclosed inside, so he wasn’t afraid of falling. He shouted, “So fun!” while wriggling about inside.

Listening to Zhengzheng’s happy laughter, Su Liang brought up the important matter, “So how can we find evidence to prove it was Duanmu Wu?”

Ning Jing shook his head, “We can’t.”

Su Liang frowned, “We cannot just let this go.”

“Whoever it is, they didn’t succeed this time, there must be a next one.” Ning Jing said.

Su Liang deeply agreed.

Although she didn’t like being defensively reactive, she couldn’t waste time and energy on things where evidence couldn’t possibly be found.

“Having obtained the title of Top Scholar, the next step is to thoroughly investigate the cause of the Su family’s death.” Su Liang said seriously. This was her primary purpose for coming to the capital city and participating in the Military Exam.

Ning Jing asked, “If His Majesty appoints you to guard the border post, will you

“I’d love to take that experience, but I don’t want to leave the capital city for now.” Su Liang said with a slight smile, “Your other brother originally wanted to defend the border, but unfortunately...”

Speaking about Nian Jincheng, Su Liang’s voice paused, “Oops! I forgot about him!”

Last night when Su Liang left home for the Ministry of Justice, she had Nian Jincheng disguised and moved, instructing him not to leave the courtyard, waiting for her to come over.

Almost a day and night passed, Ning Jing returned home long ago, but Su Liang completely forgot about Nian Jincheng, didn’t send him food for two meals, and didn’t even boil medicine...

“He won’t die, just let him rest quietly.” Ning Jing said calmly.

Su Liang raised her hand to her forehead, “You really are his good brother. Forget about watching the sunset, let’s go home.”

“Since we are already here, there’s no harm in waiting a little more.” Ning Jing said.

Su Liang shrugged, “He’s your brother. As long as you don’t mind, it’s fine.” The setting sun shone in the west, and the gorgeous sunset glow dyed half of the sky red.

Su Liang and Ning Jing sat side by side on the tree stump, with a child’s distance in between.

A child in a small hammock underneath, clutching the edge with his small hands, staring at the magnificent sunset with big round eyes, exclaimed, “Egg yolk! ”

Su Liang couldn't help but chuckle, it really did look like it.

After watching the sunset, the wind started to blow, Ning Jing didn't put his coat back on, instead he wrapped ZhengZeng in it and carried him down the hill.

"Auntie, I want to eat egg yolk pastry!" Zhengzheng expressed his most intuitive feeling after watching the sun set.

"Me too." Ning Jing echoed.

Su Liang nodded, "If you give me a smile, you can have some egg yolk pastry."

Ning Jing had a calm face, "Zhengzheng, give your auntie two smiles."

Zhengzheng had a toothy grin, "I'll give three smiles!"

Su Liang: ... Fine, she respects the Great God's right not to smile.

Upon returning to the city, Su Liang and Ning Jing first took Zhengzheng home, promising to make egg yolk pastry for him the next day.

By the time the two returned to the Su Mansion, it was completely dark.

When they saw Nian Jincheng, although he was starving, he thought that Su

Liang was busy trying to save Ning Jing from the prison and had ignored him.

Seeing Ning Jing come back, he was quite happy, "Has the matter been resolved?"

Su Liang told the truth, it was resolved early in the morning. Ning Jing went home, had lunch, had a nap, then went to the outskirts of the city to climb the mountain and watch the sunset.

Nian Jincheng's face turned dark instantly, "You... forgot about me?"

"Sorry," Su Liang admitted.

Ning Jing added, "I didn't forget."

Nian Jincheng: ... This is too exhausting; let's fall out.

That night, when Su Liang was about to go to bed, it was already late.

Yan Shiba came again.

Su Liang thought it was fortunate that she hadn't let Nian Jincheng move back to Ning Jing's room next door, otherwise if Yan Shiba found out, it would be bad.

"Damn it! Gu Ling escaped!" Yan Shiba scratched his head furiously, "I can't even find a trace! Damn girl, why do you have to choose such a person!"

Su Liang calmly said, "Good taste, it can't be helped."

"I heard you were in trouble, so I rushed over, but you're fine now!" Yan Shiba rolled up his sleeves, "Was it that Xiao frog who harmed you? It can't be that simple, right?"

Su Liang shook her head, "We suspect that Duanmu Che is involved behind the scenes. "

When Yan Shiba heard this, he became furious, "That useless man is still infatuated with you?"

“Don’t be impulsive, he’s living in the Imperial Palace now. After the incident of you kidnapping him last time, they must be on high alert.” Su Liang said.

“What about Ning Jing? Is he just going to watch someone harm you and do nothing?” Yan Shiba, saying this, rushed out to the neighboring room to find Ning Jing.

Su Liang didn’t stop her, but she quickly returned, “Why isn’t that Ning pretty boy at home late at night? Is he secretly meeting with other girls?” Su Liang shook her head, “Don’t you even have this much trust in me?”

“I don’t care, since you’re fine, I’ll be leaving!” Yan Shiba said, “I’ll keep an eye on finding Miss Gu, you take care of Yunyun (untranslated name), don’t let others bully him.”

“Where are you going?” Su Liang asked.

“I have a big business, I need to make a personal trip to Yin Country.” Yan Shiba said.

Su Liang nodded, “Take care.”

Yan Shiba ruffled Su Liang’s hair, “I originally wanted to give you a few people to serve, but you are not willing. If anything happens, remember to push Ning Jing in front of you, don’t rush forward yourself!”

Yan Shiba had proposed earlier to dispatch a few powerful assassins to serve Su Liang, but she refused. Only Yan Shiba and Yan Shiqi from Yanyun Building knew Su Liang and Ning Jing, all others who had seen them were dead.

The reason was still that Su Liang didn’t want their secret to be known by others.

With a hustle and bustle, Yan Shiba left, and Su Liang remembered that she had forgotten to ask about Nian Ruting again.

She had been reading for a while when Ning Jing came back from outside. He was dressed in night travel clothes, wearing a mask, and it was unknown where he had been.

“I went to the Imperial Palace and poisoned Duanmu Che’s late-night snack.” Ning Jing said.

Su Liang was surprised, “What poison?”

Ning Jing said, “Leisurely Pill.”

Su Liang’s secret poison, after taking it, can make people go mad and lose their minds, but the effect only lasts for about 24 hours, after which it will return to normal.

She had made a few, and they were all in Ning Jing’s hands.

Ning Jing stated that he couldn’t find evidence, and this was indeed true, but that didn’t mean he was just going to let things slide.

“So, you are certain it’s him?” Su Liang asked.

“I wasn’t sure at first.” Ning Jing said, “I heard him telling his subordinates to hide, and come out after they healed.”

Su Liang focused her gaze, “Injured subordinate? The one who tried to harm you in the prison last night?”

Ning Jing nodded.

This was hard evidence, but it couldn’t be made public. Because in the eyes of the world, Ning Jing was a scholar who didn’t know martial arts, and he didn’t want to expose his strength.

“Where is the wound?” Su Liang asked.

“On their face.” Ning Jing said.

When Su Liang heard this, she knew that it was deliberately done by Ning Jing.

“It really is him!” Su Liang’s face turned cold, “Thinking of the fact that he once saved ‘me’, I cancelled the past grievances, I didn’t expect him to be so ruthless! Since this is the case, there’s no need to be polite anymore!”

“Someone from the palace should be coming soon, to ask for you to heal Duanmu Che.” Ning Jing said.

Su Liang sneered, “Very good, I can use this opportunity to request the emperor to tell the truth about the Su family affair before I can heal Duanmu Che.. Once I cure his ‘madness’, you can continue to poison him, ensuring him having an ‘enchanted’ experience!”