

Three-Time 241

Chapter 241:241. Little Monk Leaves the Mountain (Part 2)

At first, when she saw Duanmu Qianqian suddenly pretending to be insane, hurting herself and trying to frame her, Su Liang simply thought it was a spectacle.

Until the painfully groaning Duanmu Qianqian, about to be approached by a group of people attracted by the noise, spoke again, resisting the pain, she said, “Bai Xiaohu ... is in our hands! If your performance displeases me, huh ...”

Su Liang’s eyes fiercely narrowed! She had even just envisaged how Duanmu Qianqian would slander her in front of Duanmu Yi, but she never expected, this woman had long been plotting and was prepared, not a rash act!

In the blink of an eye, Duanmu Qianqian was surrounded by a group of people.

Another group of imperial guards rushed over, brandishing weapons and surrounding Su Liang.

Although Su Liang was a favorite in front of Duanmu Yi, in terms of status, she simply could not compare with the princess of royal descent. The princess was attacked and Su Liang was the only one around, thus She was the first suspect.

But at the moment, Su Liang didn’t care about the imperial guards surrounding her, but just stared fixedly at Duanmu Qianqian. Seeing her face turned pale, but bearing it with gritted teeth as if to provoke, she glanced at Su Liang, and then continued to cry out in pain.

Su Liang realized that she had underestimated Duanmu Qianqian. This princess who grew up in the royal family possesses the ability that most royals have – resorting to any means to achieve her goal.

For a woman who could even stab herself, Su Liang would never underestimate her again. If there were any mishaps with Bai Xiaohu, she would personally ensure that Duanmu Qianqian would die a terrible death!

The reason why Su Liang didn’t think that Duanmu Qianqian was playing a trick was because if a princess of the inner palace hadn’t actually done something, there was no way that the three words “Bai Xiaohu” would come out of her mouth, let alone her firm belief that he is the one Su Liang cares about — a deduction only possible after a round of investigation. That being said, the faction of the Empress Dowager must have gone to the village of the Su family, and the possibility of someone going there and not taking Bai Xiaohu away was zero.

Su Liang had long left the village of the Su family, but she couldn’t stop someone from going there to find her “weakness”.

Before Duanmu Qianqian was taken away, she saw the sight of Su Liang surrendering, and had her wounds not been so painful, she would have laughed out loud.

The originally clear weather suddenly turned cloudy. Approaching noon, the skies above the palace seemed as dark as if some immortal was crossing a calamity.

When the elderly Imperial Physician Gao, who had been resting today, was urgently summoned to the palace, he already had a bad premonition, until he saw the bloodied Sixth Princess Duanmu Qianqian, and heard the Empress Wan's crying and angrily blaming Su Liang.

Imperial Physician Gao absolutely did not believe that the cautious Su Liang would seriously injure the Sixth Princess in the palace, but he didn't know the real situation, didn't have time to think about it, and hastily treated Duanmu Qianqian.

Empress Dowager Wan, who hadn't left her palace for some days, entered the Imperial Study with a somber face, supported by two eunuchs, her steps trembling. Also present in the room were Crown Prince Duanmu Chen and Fifth Prince Duanmu Che, the only two adult princes still alive, and some bewildered ministers, including the prime minister Xia, Duanmu Chen's maternal grandfather, Duke Qin Kang, and the Minister of Ministry of Justice, among others.

Su Liang hadn't been brought in yet, but the atmosphere was already tense.

As soon as Empress Dowager Wan entered and took her seat, she said angrily, "In broad daylight, in the palace, someone dared to assassinate my blood-related granddaughter. Is there still law in this world? Your Majesty, is this the kind of servant you favor?"

In the presence of his sons and ministers, Duanmu Yi appeared to be very filial and responded with a sigh, "Mother, please calm down and take care of your health. I will surely investigate this matter and give Qianqian justice!"

Duanmu Chen didn't believe that Su Liang could harm Duanmu Qianqian. He intuitively thought Duanmu Qianqian was framing Su Liang. The Empress Dowager's faction had always seen Su Liang as a thorn in their side and now, it seemed, they had finally found an opportunity.

However, Duanmu Chen was not worried at this moment. He knew that Duanmu Yi wouldn't truly listen to the Empress Dowager, and didn't care much about his daughter Duanmu Qianqian; otherwise, he wouldn't have chosen her to marry into Liang country. Also, was Su Liang someone easy to bully?

Qin Kang had a serious look on his face. Having not seen Su Liang yet, he didn't say anything, but he suddenly remembered something. Back when Su Liang saved Xing Yusheng and provided information that saved the entire Xing family, she mentioned that if one day she needed it, she could use the Qin family's token of immunity from death...

Qin Kang quietly inhaled, hoping that the situation would not be so serious.

Soon, Su Liang was brought in, her hands and feet had been shackled in heavy chains, she walked slowly forward, the sound of the chains seemed to hit everyone's hearts.

Duanmu Chen subtly furrowed his brow and hung his head low. Seeing Su Liang, he suddenly began to doubt his previous judgement. If she could clear herself, the situation wouldn't be like this, she could have directly told the truth.

As soon as Empress Dowager Wan saw Su Liang, she became agitated, pointed at her and scolded, "You poisonous woman, ever since you returned to the capital city, I have lost two grandsons consecutively and now you won't even let off my granddaughter! What is your motive?"

This was actually a distortion of the facts. Indeed, Duanmu Cheng and Duanmu Ao encountered problems after Su Liang returned to the capital city, but it couldn't be said that Su Liang was to blame.

However, Empress Dowager Wan had obviously prepared for this confrontation, and though she didn't explicitly accuse Su Liang, that's what it sounded like.

Su Liang didn't say a word. Actually, the imperial guards hadn't done anything to her, since she didn't resist. Earlier, when the chains were put on her, she was thinking, if she told the truth, that the Empress Dowager's faction had kidnapped a child from the village of the Su family, would anyone believe her?

Of course, he would. Duanmu Chen would certainly believe, even Duanmu Yi would believe.

But what would the outcome be? If the Empress Dowager's faction does not achieve their goal, they would surely kill Bai Xiaohu immediately, obliterate every trace of him. and then claim that she was Iving and slandering- Even if

White Tiger disappears, there probably would be no evidence to tie them to it.

Moreover, that's just the son of a commoner from a remote village, these important figures wouldn't care.

For the sake of his reputation, Duanmu Yi wouldn't truly do anything about his mother, wife and daughter.

But, if something happens to Bai Xiaohu, Su Liang would never forgive herself in this lifetime.

This time, the Empress Dowager's faction was well-prepared. If she opposed them, Bai Xiaohu would surely die. The Empress Dowager has many eyes and ears in the palace. Su Liang did not trust Duanmu Yi, and with Duanmu Chen's identity, what he could do in the palace was limited. If she were to compromise for the time being, allowing them to think that they could achieve their goal, let their guard down, this kid would have a chance to live .

Thinking about this, Su Liang did not refute the Empress Dowager's accusations.

Seeing this, Lady Wan seemed to have caught hold of Su Liang's weakness. She loudly said to Duanmu Yi, "Your Majesty, do you see this? There is solid evidence of her guilt, she even admits it herself! She has harmed the crown prince, she must be executed!"

Duanmu Yi frowned, "Su Liang, do you have anything to say?"

Su Liang lowered her head, her voice deep, "I, your humble servant, have nothing to say."

Duanmu Yi raised an eyebrow, as Lady Wan displayed a look of wanting to tear Su Liang apart immediately.

Duanmu Chen's eyes narrowed slightly in surprise, realizing that Su Liang should be under someone's control or something. Could it be, the Empress Dowager's faction has threatened her with someone? Otherwise, it wouldn't have been like this.

Duanmu Chen subconsciously glanced at Duanmu Che, only to see him sitting quietly, playing with a string of prayer beads in his hand, behaving as if nothing had to do with him, a stark contrast to his previous insistence on marrying Su Liang.

“Your Majesty, do not be deceived by this poison woman any longer!” Lady Wan was in deep anguish, “If anything happens to Qianqian, what happens to the marriage alliance with Liang Country? What’s the face of the royal family? This poison woman must be a spy sent by someone, an accursed person!”

Seeing Su Liang still not saying a word, Duanmu Yi said sternly, “The criminal, Su Liang, plotted to assassinate the princess. Arrest her and place her in the Heavenly Prison. The execution will take place at a decided date! Guards!”

Upon hearing this, Duanmu Chen’s heart skipped a beat before regaining calmness. Deciding a date? There’s still room for negotiation .

Old Master Qin almost stood up to use the life-saving gold medal, but he saw Su Liang’s hand, which was hanging by her side, trembling slightly, indicating him to refrain.

Old Master Qin had no choice but to sit back down, thinking that there was something fishy about today’s matter, there may be room for turnaround, and decided to wait some more.

The Forbidden Army came in, and Su Liang was taken away.

Lady Wan was not satisfied, “Why choose a date to execute her? Who knows if she has an accomplice among spies, to prevent things from happening during the night, concubine mother wants to grant her a cup of poison wine and let her go on her way tonight!”

“Mother, please go and see Qianqian.” Duanmu Yi said with a stern face, “As for this matter, I will handle it!”

Seeing the serious expression on Duanmu Yi’s face, Lady Wan did not say more and left with the help of her servants.

“Everyone, leave.” Duanmu Yi waved his hand and got up and left.

Duanmu Chen was taken aback for a moment, thinking that he, Duanmu Chen, would be called by Duanmu Yi to talk. But when he remembered that Duanmu Yi had more than once doubted Su Liang before, Duanmu Chen had a bad feeling. Could it be that Duanmu Yi, taking advantage of this opportunity, really wanted to send Su Liang on her way? Coupled with the fact that Duanmu Yi, who had previously wanted Su Liang to be the crown princess, suddenly changed his mind, Duanmu Chen thought more and more, it was troublesome.

But when Duanmu Yi left, Duanmu Chen did not dare to rashly go to him and ask anything, for he had to leave the Imperial Palace with Duanmu Che.

On the way, Duanmu Chen asked Duanmu Che why he didn’t speak up for Su Liang.

Duanmu Che scoffed, “I should be the one asking you. Based on your close relationship, why didn’t you speak up for her?”

Duanmu Chen remained silent, quickened his pace, and separated from Duanmu Che.

When the news spread outside the palace, the whole city was shocked. Martial Arts Champion Su Liang actually attempted to assassinate the princess in the palace? She had been put in the Heavenly Prison, and will be executed at a decided date?

Xing Yusheng was dumbfounded when he heard the news, “She must have been framed!”

Qi Jun was anxious, “More certainly, Sister Su was framed, but how could the Emperor not believe her? In that short half day since entering the palace, she’s already to be beheaded!”

Lin Xueqing was close to fainting, “What to do? What to do... Who can save Miss Su! She must be innocently accused! ”

“Uncle! Uncle must know, I will go find him! Grandpa said that Qin family’s death-exempting golden ticket is reserved for Su Liang!” Xing Yusheng thought of Qin Kang and immediately ran out.

The whole capital city was discussing Su Liang.

Consequently, numerous conspiracy theories emerged.

Some people thought, since the Sixth Princess is about to become allies by marriage with the Liang Country, Su Liang’s assassination attempt on the Sixth Princess is to sabotage the alliance between Liang Country and Qian Country. She must be a spy sent by the Yan Country!

This kind of reasoning was far-fetched, but it quickly spread.

Lin Shuzhi requested an audience with the emperor, but was not allowed. The same went for the Lin family brothers.

Qin Kang told them not to panic just yet. If there were no turn of events on the day of the execution, the Qin family still had the death-exempting golden ticket to save Su Liang.

But the words Xing Yusheng hastily blurted out sank everyone’s hearts, “The Empress Dowager is going to poison Su Liang, it’s hard to say whether she wouldn’t poison her food! She might even have someone kill her in the Heavenly Prison! We can’t wait!”

While Su Liang’s friends were worried about her, she met an unexpected person in the Heavenly Prison.

The prison Su Liang was in indeed entered from the main gate of the Heavenly Prison, but it was not connected to where other prisoners were held; rather, it resembled a secret chamber within the Heavenly Prison. She suspected it was meant for the interrogation of special prisoners, given the many torture tools hanging on the wall.

Su Liang was not worried that those things would be used on her, she was just thinking about what to do next.

Under the current circumstances, she needs someone’s help, or at least, she needs to send a message out, asking people to rescue Bai Xiaohu first. That’s the most important thing.

Given their long-standing friendly cooperation, Su Liang was certain that Duanmu Chen would definitely try to contact her. Because he was not yet on the throne, he should understand that if the Wan family succeeds, it would not be in his favor. He needs Su Liang’s help.

Therefore, once she entered the secret chamber in the Heavenly Prison, Su Liang had been waiting for some movement from Duanmu Chen’s side.

What she waited for was Duanmu Chen’s father...

Seeing Duanmu Yi in his ordinary attire, walking in alone, Su Liang, who was sitting cross-legged on the ground, was stunned and quickly stood up. She wanted to salute but was stopped by Duanmu Yi, "No need. I know you didn't stab Qianqian, but I do not understand why you pleaded guilty. I want to hear the truth."

Su Liang sighed and honestly told him the situation at the time and the reasons why she did not defend herself.

When Duanmu Yi learned that Su Liang compromised for a child from Su Village, he frowned, "So that's how it is!"

Because of the previous letter sent to the Wan family, Duanmu Yi believed that Duanmu Cheng was still alive, hiding somewhere and waiting to come back to seize the throne. And the instructions Duanmu Cheng gave to the Wan family were to get rid of Su Liang and to get rid of Duanmu Yi and Duanmu Chen.

In Duanmu Yi's view, today's incident is a means for the Wan family to get rid of Su Liang. He did not expect that Duanmu Qianqian, who was recently accepted for marriage and behaved docilely, would also participate in it.

"What do you want to do?" Duanmu Yi asked coldly.

"I just want to save that child," Su Liang said.

"Alright, I'll let you out. Whether you can save him or not, it's up to you." As soon as Duanmu Yi finished speaking, he clapped his hands. A girl with a similar figure to Su Liang walked in from outside, carrying a bundle in her hand and handed it to Su Liang.

"Finish packing and leave here. I've arranged everything, no one will stop you." Duanmu Yi walked to the door and turned back, looking deeply at Su Liang, "As for the people of the Wan family, you can deal with them as you wish.

Emperors and princesses can not be touched, do you understand?"

Su Liang closed and opened her eyes, "Understood." She'll first save Little Tiger, then she'll settle accounts with those people!

The bundle the girl brought contained a set of men's clothes and a set of prison officer uniforms. She unlocked the iron chains binding Su Liang's hands and feet.

Su Liang first changed into the men's clothes, then put the prison officer's clothes on top. The girl stayed behind in the secret chamber wearing her clothes.

"What's your name?" Su Liang asked.

Stunned at her statement, the young girl respectfully replied, "In response to Miss, this slave servant is called Silver Flower."

"Thank you." Without further questions, Su Liang, her head lowered, walked out of the secret chamber. The prison officers along the way all seemed to have gone blind,

all craning their necks 45 degrees upward as if looking at the sky, not a single one stared at her face, letting her freely follow two “off-duty” prison officers out of the Heavenly Prison.

Turning into a dark alley, Su Liang took off the prison officer’s uniform and threw it into a hidden water channel, then returned home after making several turns.

Qi Jun was not around, and Su Liang quickly found her Disguise Medicine and applied a disguise to herself.

She quickly decided where to find Bai Xiaohu—the Wan family.

Pitter-patter heavy rain started outside, Su Liang put on Gu Ling’s bamboo hat and rushed into the rain.

Instead of going directly to the Wan family, she went to find help first. Since it concerned Bai Xiaohu’s safety, she couldn’t act rashly. As Gu Ling was not there, she needed a Martial Arts expert to ensure that nothing happens to Bai Xiaohu. The only person that came to her mind was the Little Monk, Cheng Yun, from the Huguo Temple.

Gu Ling once mentioned that Cheng Yun’s skills were not to be underestimated. Along the way, Su Liang found a horse and rode towards Huguo Temple at full

The weather was bad, and there were hardly any people on the roads.

Cheng Yun was chanting scriptures in the Buddha hall. When he heard that someone was looking for him, he hurried over, guessing that it was either Su Liang or the Wan family.

When Su Liang took off the bamboo hat, Cheng Yun was still puzzled, “This benefactor...”

“Cheng Yun, it’s me.” Su Liang spoke.

Cheng Yun was taken aback, “Benefactor Su, how did you...”

“You’re skilled in Martial Arts, help me with something.” Su Liang said. Cheng Yun frowned, “This... as a monk, I cannot...”

Su Liang interrupted him, “It’s about rescuing a child. Come with me immediately, no more words!”

During the time Cheng Yun was stunned, Su Liang had already left with her bamboo hat on. He hastily followed her.

Su Liang threw a cloth to Cheng Yun, asking him to cover his head, and handed him a set of Gu Ling’s night-wear to change into.

Seeing Su Liang’s serious expression, Cheng Yun dared not ask more questions. Gu Ling’s clothes were somewhat long on him.

The two descended the mountain, and without riding the horse again, Su Liang led him to the vicinity of the Wan family.

The night was dark, and no one was around.

Seeing that Su Liang found a position, intending to enter, Cheng Yun subconsciously reached out to hold her back, hastily pulling his hand back, he blurted out, "Amit..."

"Stop chanting for now, don't you want to go?" Su Liang frowned.

Cheng Yun shook his head, "This little monk will enter to save someone,

Benefactor Su should stay outside to facilitate the escape."

Su Liang was slightly taken aback, "You?"

"Actually, I know little tiger as well. The previous time when I escorted

Benefactor Yan to Su family's village, Little Tiger gave this little monk two Steamed Buns, they were really delicious." Cheng Yun explained with a serious expression.

Su Liang held her forehead, "Stop talking nonsense. It's fine if you go. You have excellent lightness skills, don't tip anyone off, after entering, first find the person, always remember your purpose and don't get distracted! If you are discovered, say that the Eldest Prince sent you to find Wan Shan! If you can't find Little Tiger, go find Wan Shan! Once you see Wan Shan, immediately capture him and force them to give up Little Tiger! Understand?" Cheng Yun listened in a daze, "This plan is very comprehensive, but..."

"There are no 'buts'!" Su Liang placed the bamboo hat on Cheng Yun, followed by Gu Ling's mask, gave him a push, "Go! After the task is accomplished, I will treat you to steamed buns!"

"Oh." By the time Cheng Yun reacted, he was already inside the Wan family's residence. He took a deep breath, recalled Su Liang's instructions, silently mumbled to himself, "Saving Little Tiger is the most important," then disappeared from the spot..

Chapter 242: 242. Rescue

Heavy rain poured down.

Duanmu Chen stood solemnly by the window, allowing the rain to blow in and sweep across his face.

The incident happened suddenly, and although he had some conjectures, they were not yet confirmed. One thing was certain: he could not afford to lose Su Liang, an irreplaceable partner.

The sound of footsteps echoed as Chang'an hurried to the corridor, stomping his feet to shake off the rainwater. He stood at the door and spoke to Duanmu Chen without entering, "Master, the Heavenly Prison is heavily guarded, we cannot enter!"

Duanmu Chen's eyes narrowed slightly, "Heavily guarded? Could Father Emperor truly intend to use this opportunity to get rid of Su Liang... No, if that were the case, he could have executed her immediately, rather than sending her to the Heavenly Prison and allowing for unexpected complications." Chang'an furrowed his brows and dared not speak.

“Have someone keep an eye on the area near the Heavenly Prison and pay attention to anyone entering or leaving,” Duanmu Chen said, “You, go to Su Liang’s house.”

Chang’an hesitated for a moment, “Miss Su’s house? Isn’t it empty at this time?”

“What if it isn’t?” Duanmu Chen seemed lost in thought, “Go quickly!” Chang’an obeyed and quickly left.

It wasn’t long before he returned, informing Duanmu Chen that Su Mansion was empty.

“She surrendered willingly, but surely she must have left herself a way out...”

Duanmu Chen furrowed his brows, “Could it be that she expects me to save

Chang’an immediately nodded, “This subordinate thinks so. With such a big matter at hand, no one else can do anything.”

“But I cannot break into the Heavenly Prison either; that would only backfire,”

Duanmu Chen said, slightly troubled, “Most importantly, we have no way of knowing what Father Emperor’s intentions toward Su Liang truly are.”

Chang’an sighed, “This subordinate merely feels that Miss Su is in great danger while in the Heavenly Prison.” If someone wanted to harm her in secret, now would be the perfect opportunity.

Duanmu Chen thought of the Empress Dowager’s threat to give Su Liang a cup of poisoned wine that night, and his headache worsened.

After a moment, Duanmu Chen took a deep breath, as if making a decision,

“Prepare the carriage, I must enter the palace to request an audience with Father Emperor!”

Chang’an hurriedly went to prepare the carriage.

Soon, Duanmu Chen’s carriage drove out of the prince’s residence in the pouring rain, heading for the Imperial Palace.

What Duanmu Chen didn’t know was that at this moment, Su Liang was not in the Heavenly Prison. Instead, she was hiding not far from the Wan Family residence, watching the wall where Cheng Yun entered.

Her clothes were soaked through, and a cold wind blew past, causing her to shiver. On one hand, she was worried about Bai Xiaohu and Cheng Yun, and on the other hand, she recalled a time in Bei’an County when she and Gu Ling had braved a heavy rainstorm to save someone.

Unfortunately, Gu Ling was not here, otherwise Bai Xiaohu would have been rescued already... Su Liang shook her head and dismissed the thought. By her calculations, Gu Ling should be on her way back at most, and wouldn’t be able to make it today. If Gu Ling had to wait for Yang Yu and Nian Jincheng to settle their marriage before returning to the capital with Nian Jincheng, then there was no telling when she would arrive.

Su Liang always felt that aside from her medical skills, she was not particularly impressive when with Gu Ling. Even though she was the Martial Arts Champion, her martial arts couldn't compare to Gu Ling's.

The current situation was a consequence of her earlier decision to avenge the original master and her family. To this point, Su Liang had no regrets about what she had done before. Both Duanmu Cheng and Duanmu Ao deserved their punishments and more.

However, the last thing Su Liang wanted was for her own affairs to involve innocent people. That was the case right now.

Cheng Yun still hadn't emerged after a long time, and Su Liang was restless.

Silently, she prayed, invoking a phrase often uttered by Cheng Yun, "Amitabha," hoping that Heaven would bless them and that Cheng Yun and Bai Xiaohu would be safe.

It was unclear how much time had passed when the sky grew darker.

Finally, Su Liang saw someone leaping over the wall of the Wan residence. She immediately rushed out, but her legs, having become somewhat numb from hiding for so long, almost buckled beneath her.

The heavy rain blurred her vision, but Su Liang knew it had to be Cheng Yun; no one else would leave from this location.

Soon, Cheng Yun also saw Su Liang and rushed towards her.

As they got closer, Su Liang saw that Cheng Yun was carrying something on his back and her heart slightly relaxed, "Is it Little Tiger?"

Seeing Cheng Yun nod affirmatively, Su Liang's eyes brightened and she immediately went to check, "Is he... alright?"

"He's unconscious, but he should be fine," Cheng Yun said.

"Great, let's go quickly! To my house!" Su Liang looked in the direction of the Wan Family Mansion and saw no one chasing them out. She hurriedly led Cheng Yun away in the rain.

Upon entering the Su Mansion, Su Liang took Cheng Yun straight to Yuanming Pavilion.

Qi Jun heard the commotion and came out from inside. Seeing Su Liang, his expression changed, "Who are you?"

"It's me," Su Liang replied. It was normal for Qi Jun not to recognize her since she had disguised herself.

Qi Jun's eyes widened, "Miss Su? You escaped from prison?"

Su Liang shook her head, "It's a long story. Hurry up and boil some water!"

"Oh!" Qi Jun's expression brightened, and he was delighted to see Su Liang safely return. Although he didn't know what had happened, everyone thought that Su Liang was in the heavily guarded Heavenly Prison at the moment. Old Master Qin and Qin

Kang had decided to watch the situation quietly and instructed them not to act rashly. They didn't expect Su Liang to actually escape.

Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing were still at Duke Qin's Mansion discussing countermeasures and hadn't returned yet. Qi Jun didn't immediately inform them and, following Su Liang's instructions, went to the kitchen to boil water.

Su Liang took Cheng Yun into Yuanming Pavilion. On the first floor, there was a soft couch. She asked him to put Bai Xiaohu on it.

Initially, Bai Xiaohu's head was hanging down, and Su Liang didn't get a clear look. Now that he was lying down face up, she saw his emaciated and bruised face and dry, cracked lips, which angered her.

"Amitabha, if the little monk came one step later, Little Tiger would have been in danger," Cheng Yun sighed. He had not yet told Su Liang about the rescue of Bai Xiaohu, which was really very dangerous.

Su Liang first took Bai Xiaohu's pulse, his hand cold. According to the pulse, he was just weak, as if he hadn't eaten for a long time. Other than that, he was fine. The reason he didn't wake up was that he had been drugged with sedatives.

"Is Little Tiger okay?" Cheng Yun asked.

Su Liang shook her head, "No serious harm."

Cheng Yun breathed a sigh of relief, "That's good. You look after him, the little monk should go back to the temple. This happened suddenly, and I didn't even tell my master when I came down the mountain. I'll come to see Little Tiger another day."

"Wait," Su Liang stopped Cheng Yun, "How did you find Little Tiger?"

Cheng Yun sighed deeply, "He was thrown into the dry well in that garden."

Su Liang looked angry when she saw Bai Xiaohu's bare foot hanging unnaturally, the mud not hiding the large bruises and clear signs of being soaked in water for a long time.

In the heavy rain, the dry well filled with water, and if they hadn't rescued him in time, he would have drowned.

"The little monk searched everywhere according to Miss Su's instructions, but couldn't find him, so I went to catch Wan Shan. There was someone protecting Wan Shan, but fortunately, they were no match for me. After catching Wan Shan, in order to avoid trouble, the little monk didn't want to hurt anyone, so I took him around the mansion, and when seeing someone, I made them tie each other up and gag each other. Finally, I forced Wan Shan to confess where Little Tiger was. At first, he refused to admit it, so the little monk could only threaten to kill him..." Cheng Yun recounted the events with some difficulty. It wasn't easy for him to say something like killing someone, even if it was a bluff.

Su Liang nodded, "Very smart. Thank you." She patted Cheng Yun on the shoulder.

Cheng Yun looked a little stiff, "No... No problem, it's all for saving people, saving Little Tiger. Miss Su, you don't have to do this."

Su Liang:... Her mistake, she scared the little monk. She just wanted to thank him.

"Drink some hot water before you go," Su Liang said, "You sit down first, there's no need to worry about the Huguo Temple thinking you're lost. You're not usually prevented from leaving the mountain."

Cheng Yun hesitated for a moment before sitting down. He looked at the unconscious Bai Xiaohu, then removed the cloth from his head and took off Gu Ling's clothes, folded them neatly, and placed them on a stool next to him, returning to his little monk appearance.

His bald head made Qi Jun, who brought the water, stop in surprise. He then realized that the person who had returned with Su Liang was, in fact, the beautiful little monk from Huguo Temple.

Seeing Bai Xiaohu on the bed amazed Qi Jun even more. Of course, he recognized the boy because he and Su Liang had first met in Bei'an County. Bai Xiaohu was the child of Su Liang's neighbor who often went to Su Liang's place and had a very close relationship.

Qi Jun, who was quite clever, could already guess what had happened by observing everything. He first put down the hot water he had prepared and poured three cups. Then, he brought over a basin of hot water.

Su Liang wiped Bai Xiaohu's face and hands first, then cleaned his feet, found some ointment and applied it to his wounds.

Cheng Yun drank a cup of hot water and poured himself another. As he was about to take a sip, he suddenly heard Su Liang ask, "What happened to Wan Shan? Did you let him go in the end?"

Choked by the water, Cheng Yun coughed a few times, put down the cup, and shook his head, "Not exactly."

"Then what did you do to him?" Su Liang asked.

Cheng Yun looked somewhat uneasy, "When this humble monk rescued Little Tiger from the dried-up well, I couldn't bear the injustice, so I pushed Wan Shan down. But since Little Tiger survived, he shouldn't die, should he?"

Su Liang looked at Cheng Yun's uneasy expression and sneered coldly, "It's better if he's dead."

Cheng Yun sighed repeatedly, "What a sin, what a sin. This humble monk shouldn't have acted impulsively. If I have committed a killing, it would be an unforgivable sin."

"That man wanted to kill Little Tiger. You killed him in the name of justice," Su Liang snorted.

Cheng Yun kept shaking his head and started reciting Buddhist scriptures.

Su Liang knew that the little monk was merely too kind-hearted, with a pure Buddhist heart, unwilling to hurt or harm others, so she didn't say anything more.

Su Liang fed Bai Xiaohu a cup of warm water and gave him some medicine. She looked outside and saw that it was completely dark.

“Miss Su, this humble monk should return to the temple,” Cheng Yun once again brought up leaving.

Su Liang nodded, “Alright, you go ahead, but don’t mention today’s events to anyone.”

Cheng Yun frowned, “Monks do not lie...”

Su Liang shook her head, “You should think of it like this, this matter has nothing to do with other people. If you tell them, it will only bring unnecessary trouble.”

Cheng Yun was stunned for a moment, “Miss Su’s words make sense.”

“Moreover, there are people who want to harm me and Little Tiger. As for me, I should be in the Heavenly Prison awaiting execution. If you tell outsiders, are you wanting them to capture me?” Su Liang asked.

Cheng Yun quickly waved his hands, “This humble monk had no such thoughts.”

“Then it’s settled. If anyone asks where you went, just say you went for a walk at the foot of the mountain. That’s not a lie,” Su Liang said.

“Alright then.” Cheng Yun hesitantly asked, “Miss Su, should I go and check how Wan Shan is doing?”

Su Liang glared at Cheng Yun, “You are not even willing to stay and take care of Little Tiger, but you’re still thinking about that evildoer? How does that make sense?”

Cheng Yun wanted to say that he was just afraid of killing someone, but seeing

Su Liang staring at him, he said subconsciously, “The humble monk won’t go. I’ll return to the temple. Farewell.”

Just after Cheng Yun stepped out, he came back, “This humble monk will come to see Little Tiger tomorrow. Please take good care of him, Miss Su. And take care of yourself too.”

“Go on, no need to recite any more scriptures,” Su Liang waved her hand. Cheng Yun furrowed his brows, “This humble monk wasn’t reciting.”

Su Liang: .

After Cheng Yun left, Qi Jun said he would go buy some food and come back. Su Liang told him to avoid people.

Su Liang brought down a blanket from the upper floor and covered Bai Xiaohu with it. Considering Bai Xiaohu had been captured for at least seven or eight days, the Bai family must be going crazy with worry. Su Liang felt guilty.

Seeing that Bai Xiaohu’s cheeks were flushed, Su Liang touched his forehead and found that he had a slight fever.

She fetched a basin of cold water, soaked a towel, and stuck it on his forehead. She also found some strong alcohol to wipe his hands and feet.

Bai Xiaohu's tiny hand trembled, and he slowly woke up.

Su Liang's face lit up with joy. When Bai Xiaohu saw the unfamiliar face of Su Liang in disguise, he screamed and backed into the corner.

Su Liang remembered that she had forgotten to remove her disguise and quickly said, "Little Tiger, it's me, Sister Su Liang!"

"No, you're not Sister Su Liang! You're a bad person!" Bai Xiaohu shook his head.

Just then, Qi Jun returned with food containers. Su Liang quickly called him over to look after Bai Xiaohu and went upstairs herself.

Qi Jun sat down next to him and said warmly, "Do you still remember me, Little Tiger? I once went to Su Village, my surname is Qi. Back then, you called me Brother Xiao Qi."

Bai Xiaohu kept his eyes closed, unwilling to open them, and curled up into a ball. He trembled slightly, showing that this experience had caused him significant psychological trauma.

Qi Jun tried several times to touch Bai Xiaohu, but all attempts failed. He had to give up. At that moment, Su Liang returned with her original appearance, her clothes changed, and she came downstairs.

Qi Jun sighed and began to serve some porridge.

Su Liang sat down by the couch and said softly, "Little Tiger, it's really me. Do you remember the time we went to the mountain together to hunt wild boars?"

Bai Xiaohu slowly raised his head, saw Su Liang's face again, and suddenly burst into tears with a loud wail.

Su Liang embraced Bai Xiaohu and lightly patted his back, "It's alright now, it's alright. Sister Su Liang will take you home very soon."

"Sister Su Liang... sob sob... I want to go home..." Bai Xiaohu cried breathlessly.

"Yes, we will go back very soon," Su Liang said.

Qi Jun filled two bowls with porridge and was about to go out when Su Liang stopped him and asked him to sit down and eat together.

After reassuring Bai Xiaohu, who had been frightened, Su Liang brought him some steaming hot white porridge. The starving child immediately began eating, and Su Liang told him to slow down.

She first let Bai Xiaohu eat until he was full, then she ate a little before ordering Qi Jun to boil water for Bai Xiaohu to wash and apply medicine.

Su Liang made a decoction for Bai Xiaohu. It was bitter, but he pinched his nose and drank it all.

“Well done,” Su Liang gently patted Bai Xiaohu’s head, “Later, Uncle Xiao Qi will take care of you, so don’t be afraid.”

Bai Xiaohu nodded and asked in a low voice, “Sister Su Liang, is Brother Ning Jing really gone?”

Su Liang sighed softly and nodded.

Bai Xiaohu’s eyes immediately reddened, and he buried his head and cried again.

As Su Liang went upstairs, Qi Jun gave Bai Xiaohu a bath, and seeing his body full of bruises, he couldn’t help but curse at those beasts who didn’t even spare a child.

After giving Bai Xiaohu the medicine, Qi Jun carried him to the study upstairs where Su Liang had prepared a new bed.

Without extinguishing the lamp, Su Liang sat by the bed, “Go to sleep. I’m right here.

Bai Xiaohu fell asleep quickly. Qi Jun spoke in a low voice to persuade Su Liang to rest while he took care of Bai Xiaohu, but she insisted that he rest instead.

“Miss Su, you may have many things to deal with tomorrow, so you should sleep for a while,” Qi Jun urged again.

Once Bai Xiaohu fell asleep, Su Liang asked Qi Jun to keep an eye on him and call her if anything happened. Then she got up and went back to her room.

As she lay down, the tired Su Liang’s last thought before falling asleep was, “If only Gu Ling were here....”

Chapter 243: 243. Really interesting!

Duanmu Chen only returned to the prince’s residence late at night, after leaving the palace. He sat in silence for a long time.

He entered the palace to seek an audience with Duanmu Yi, trying to find ways to help Su Liang. Unfortunately, he could not meet the emperor and could only wait at Imperial Concubine Xiao’s palace. Duanmu Yi stayed in the side palace of the Imperial Study Room tonight and did not go to Imperial Concubine Xiao’s palace.

This made Duanmu Chen suspicious that Duanmu Yi really wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to get rid of Su Liang...

“You ...” Duanmu Chen spoke again and when he saw Chang’an’s expression became serious, he told her, “Go find Xing Yusheng, find out what they’re planning.”

Chang’an hesitated, “Master, are you saying... ‘

“Just do as I say.” Duanmu Chen insisted. “He and the Qin Family will definitely try to save Su Liang, as the Qin Family still has a life-saving golden decree. If I rashly step in now and someone takes advantage of this situation, it will only make things worse

for Su Liang. With this in mind, let's see what they plan to do. Just say that my palace can offer help."

Chang'an was somewhat surprised, "Should I tell him directly?"

Duanmu Chen looked impatient, "Of course! Why are you asking so many unnecessary questions?"

Chang'an dared not say anything more. Duanmu Chen was always cautious, and this time he was sending Chang'an to ask Xing Yusheng about collaborating, which went against Duanmu Yi's edict. This was not in line with Duanmu Chen's usual style.

However, he took this action, causing Chang'an to believe that Duanmu Chen genuinely "cared" for Su Liang and refused to give her up, no matter for what purpose.

Chang'an left, carrying a jade token symbolizing Duanmu Chen's identity.

Duanmu Chen walked to the window and only then realized that the rain had stopped at some point. At this point, he was well aware that Su Liang had been keeping many secrets from him since they first met. Under such circumstances, he shouldn't trust Su Liang or anyone completely. However, when a crisis really hit, he hesitated and, in the end, couldn't turn a blind eye to it.

In the cool night, Duanmu Chen let out a long sigh, "I hope my choice is not wrong."

Qi Jun stayed by Bai Xiaohu's bedside, worried that he missed his chance to inform Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing that Su Liang had returned home. However, he couldn't leave Bai Xiaohu either, so he began to worry that Xing Yusheng would try something reckless, like breaking into the Heavenly Prison tonight.

Since Su Liang didn't instruct Qi Jun to inform Xing Yusheng, Qi Jun still didn't know how she managed to leave the Heavenly Prison unharmed so quickly, without any news leaking and even daring to stay at her home in the capital city. After some consideration, Qi Jun decided that as a subordinate of Su Liang, he should not act on his own if she hadn't ordered him to. He believed that if he had thought of informing Xing Yusheng, Su Liang must have thought of it long ago. Perhaps, letting Xing Yusheng and the others find out too early would not be a good thing.

Meanwhile, Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing returned to the Marquis Zhong Xin

Mansion after leaving the Duke Qin Mansion. They stayed there because the Old Lady Xing had inquired about Su Liang's situation and had asked them for more information.

Chang'an arrived at the small Xing Family residence next to the Su Family mansion but didn't find anyone there. He decided to try the Marquis Zhong Xin Mansion next. Before leaving, he glanced in the direction of the Su Family and thought of paying Su Liang's home a visit since he was already in the neighborhood.

Soon after, Chang'an entered the Su Mansion.

He approached Yuanming Pavilion and saw that it was pitch black without any lights. Chang'an decided to leave.

Just as he was about to turn around, he saw a light turn on in a room on the second floor of Yuanming Pavilion!

Chang'an widened his eyes, sure that he wasn't seeing things, and that there was someone inside. Su Liang was in Heavenly Prison, so who could be in her house at this moment?

Duanmu Chen had asked Chang'an to come during the day, so he felt that it was something his master had instructed.

Although Chang'an felt that the situation was getting more complicated, considering that his master and Su Liang were friends rather than enemies and whoever was staying in Su Liang's residence must be her ally, he decided to take a look.

Yuanming Pavilion was locked, and Chang'an was about to knock on the door when he heard some movement inside.

A moment later, the door opened, and Qi Jun came out carrying Bai Xiaohu to go to the bathroom.

Chang'an hid in the corner and barely recognized Qi Jun, who was carrying a skinny figure in his arms, causing Chang'an to be surprised.

When Qi Jun returned holding Bai Xiaohu, Chang'an revealed himself and greeted him, "Guard Qi, I'm from the prince's residence."

Qi Jun only hesitated for a moment, but Bai Xiaohu got scared and tightened his grip around Qi Jun's neck.

"Wait a moment." As soon as Qi Jun finished speaking, he returned Bai Xiaohu to the Pavilion first.

Once upstairs, Qi Jun woke Su Liang up and told her that someone from the prince's close entourage had arrived.

Su Liang rubbed her forehead, went to check on Bai Xiaohu, and told him to sleep peacefully. Qi Jun stayed to watch over him while she went downstairs to meet Chang'an.

The familiar female voice came from the Yuanming Pavilion, "Chang'an!"

Chang'an's expression was filled with astonishment. Su Liang was actually at home?

He hurriedly entered and saw Su Liang sitting inside, looking at him. "Miss Su, how are you...?" Chang'an couldn't understand the situation at all.

"Why are you here?" Su Liang asked back.

Chang'an regained his senses and explained to Su Liang that Duanmu Chen had asked him to come here once during the day, and he went into the palace to ask for an audience with the emperor but to no avail. He was now on his way to discuss countermeasures with Xing Yusheng and stopped by to have a look.

"The crown prince has good intentions. Please thank him for me." Su Liang believed Chang'an's words were true.

"Knowing that Miss Su is safe, the master can be relieved." Chang'an said, "However, the Heavenly Prison is heavily guarded. How did Miss Su...?" "About that..." Su Liang pondered for a moment.

Just as Chang'an thought Su Liang would not reveal the truth, she continued, "You can go back and simply tell the crown prince that I was secretly released by someone, and he will understand naturally."

Chang'an was even more puzzled. Before he could figure it out, Su Liang had already gone upstairs.

Chang'an had no choice but to leave. He closed the door from the outside and hurried back to the crown prince's mansion.

"You didn't see Xing Yusheng?" Duanmu Chen's expression darkened.

Chang'an hurriedly said, "Master, I saw Miss Sul"

Duanmu Chen looked at Chang'an incredulously, "What did you say?"

Chang'an recounted the events to Duanmu Chen, who was also astonished, "The Heavenly Prison is heavily guarded, and she's not inside? Nor is she hiding, but sitting in her own house? What's going on?"

"Miss Su asked me to tell the master that she was released by someone. But I haven't figured it out..." Chang'an scratched his head.

However, Duanmu Chen's expression changed! The one who stationed heavy guards at the Heavenly Prison was Duanmu Yi. Only Duanmu Yi could secretly release Su Liang from the prison without leaving a trace because even he, as the crown prince, was helpless.

But why did Duanmu Yi do this?

It didn't take long for Duanmu Chen to think that during the day in the palace, Duanmu Yi knew that Su Liang was framed and guessed that she was threatened to confess her guilt. Since the Empress Dowager pressed hard and forced him to deal with Su Liang on the surface, he secretly released her to let

The more Duanmu Chen thought about it, the more he felt that this must be the case. As for the child that Chang'an saw Qi Jun carrying, he must be the hostage captured by the Wan family.

If Su Liang had escaped on her own or under any other circumstance, she wouldn't have returned to stay at her home, as it would be too dangerous.

There was only one possibility: the person on the Dragon Throne was on her side.

Chang'an saw that Duanmu Chen suddenly looked annoyed and was even more confused.

Duanmu Chen snorted coldly, "Does Su Liang think that I, as the crown prince, am not capable and chose my father as her support instead? No wonder she can come and go freely in the Imperial Palace and borrow books from the Library Pavilion at will."

Although Duanmu Chen was very respectful to Duanmu Yi and had no rebellious intentions, he had always known that they were first monarch and subject, and then father and son. He even had to constantly remind himself not to have any illusions about their father-son relationship.

Chang'an finally realized, upon hearing Duanmu Chen's sarcastic words, that the one who released Su Liang was the emperor.

“Isn’t that highly unlikely?” Chang’an frowned, “If that were the case, why would Miss Su bother telling me about the incident?”

Duanmu Chen’s expression became more focused at these words, and he fell into silence once again.

Indeed, he shouldn’t doubt Su Liang. Borrowing books was simply because she loved reading, which Duanmu Chen already knew. As for the assassination attempt on Duanmu Qianqian during the day, it was a carefully planned “accident” aimed at Su Liang. She couldn’t have known it beforehand and conspired with Duanmu Yi.

So, Su Liang was fine, but there was an unexpected situation that Duanmu Chen hadn’t anticipated. The real problem was...

Duanmu Chen’s heart skipped a beat as he suddenly realized that his assumption that Duanmu Yi had wanted to take advantage of this opportunity to get rid of Su Liang was completely wrong! In fact, it was quite the opposite. Lately, Duanmu Yi had been protecting Su Liang both overtly and covertly!

Allowing Su Liang to borrow from Library Pavilion wasn’t a big deal, but giving her a token that granted her free access to the Imperial Palace was extraordinary.

Since when had Duanmu Yi become so trusting of Su Liang?

And why were today’s events kept hidden from him, the crown prince? In the past, Duanmu Yi often discussed matters related to Su Liang with Duanmu

Chen.

The more Duanmu Chen thought about it, the more he felt something was off, and the issue was related to Su Liang. But it wasn’t her that was off, it was Duanmu Yi!

When did it all begin...

Duanmu Chen was deep in thought, while Chang’an didn’t dare to interrupt him and just silently stood by his side.

Not much later, Duanmu Chen whispered three words, “Crown Princess...”

He recalled that earlier, Duanmu Yi had wanted Su Liang to be the crown princess and even directly approached her about it. Su Liang then specifically sought out Duanmu Chen to resolve the matter quickly.

However, not long after, when Duanmu Chen went to the palace to discuss the matter with Duanmu Yi, the latter didn’t mention Su Liang at all. Instead, he said he would continue to choose a wife for Duanmu Chen, and soon after, arranged for their engagement to Princess Yaoguang of Liang Country.

What happened in between was an event that Duanmu Chen couldn’t afford to overlook: the appearance of a massive stone at Huguo Temple, which Duanmu Yi had ordered to be transported into the palace. Nobody knew the secret that the stone held.

After the mysterious falling stone, Duanmu Yi no longer wanted Su Liang to be his crown princess. But it wasn’t because he suspected her since he only treated her better... At this point, Duanmu

Chen couldn't help but wonder if there was some divine oracle written on that stone that was related to Su Liang. Perhaps something like "He who possesses Su Liang shall possess the world" roused Duanmu Yi's interest in her...

"What's the matter, Master?" Seeing Duanmu Chen's changed expression, Chang'an couldn't help asking.

Duanmu Chen let out a heavy cold snort, "Nothing, I'm perfectly fine!"

Chang'an didn't understand why Duanmu Chen's mood suddenly worsened even though Su Liang was safe. But not daring to ask more, he just listened as Duanmu Chen ordered, "Take some men and go check the situation at the Wan family."

Chang'an took the order and left. Duanmu Chen then wrote a letter to Su Liang, but didn't send it out immediately.

Chang'an led his men to sneak into the Wan Mansion, finding everyone inside tied up and gagged. After searching, they found no trace of Wan Shan.

Soon, one of Chang'an's men reported some movements in the rear garden.

When Chang'an went there, he saw a mud-covered figure struggling to climb out of a dried-up well, almost making it out.

Chang'an looked up at the pitch-black night sky and sighed, "The moonlight is quite good tonight."

At the same time, he "unintentionally" took a step forward and just happened to step on Wan Shan's hand.

After a scream, there was a splash as he fell back into the water-filled well, and soon all was quiet again.

"Let's go." Chang'an gave an order and left with his men to report back.

Upon returning to the prince's mansion, Duanmu Chen handed a sealed letter to Chang'an and asked him to deliver it to Su Liang.

Before Chang'an left, Duanmu Chen called him back, took the letter, opened the lampshade, and burned the letter. With a nonchalant expression, he said, "Forget it, I'll talk to her next time I see her. You can go rest now."

Chang'an withdrew, feeling that there must have been something significant in that burned letter.

Before dawn, Duanmu Yi sent someone for Su Liang, and she secretly returned to the Heavenly Prison.

Qi Jun knew that Su Liang would be fine, so he remained at ease watching over Bai Xiaohu.

The Martial Arts Champion assassination attempt on the princess yesterday was still being discussed amongst the awakened capital city's people, boiling with endless debate.

After the rain, the sun rose, the world suddenly became bright and warm, even the small puddles visible everywhere reflected a soft light, the capital city remained bustling and prosperous.

Approaching noon, the old Imperial Physician Gao returned home from the palace, his anxious grandson Gao Jiabao immediately greeted him, "Grandfather, how is it? Is there any change in the situation?"

The old Imperial Physician's face was strange, "Don't worry, that girl Su shouldn't be in any trouble."

On the other side, Qi Yan found out that Qi Jun hadn't been seen since he returned to the Su Family yesterday, and came to look for him for fear that something had happened, only then did he learn the truth. Soon, Xing Yusheng, Lin Xueqing, and the Qin Family were informed about the situation, but they didn't make a fuss.

At noon, there was a major turnaround in yesterday's incident.

The news coming out of the palace went like this:

Yesterday, after Sixth Princess Duanmu Qianqian was injured and fell into a coma, she had no chance to say anything. It wasn't until today when she woke up that she found out Su Liang was being wronged for trying to assassinate her. She came to Su Liang's defense and explained that the truth was that she had met Su Liang when the latter came to the palace to borrow a book. She asked Su Liang to teach her some self-defense martial arts, and Su Liang gladly agreed and demonstrated earnestly. Unfortunately, Duanmu Qianqian was too clumsy to learn, twisted her foot, and accidentally stabbed herself with the knife in her hand. Su Liang tried to save her at that moment, but people misunderstood it as her wanting to harm her.

Upon learning the news released by Duanmu Yi from the crown prince's residence, Duanmu Chen laughed with a weird look on his face, "How interesting!"

Unaware of the truth, the common people took everything they heard to heart, and started saying things like, "I knew Su Liang was innocent, she couldn't possibly be a spy. She and the Sixth Princess are good friends."

Under everyone's watchful eyes, Su Liang walked out of the Heavenly Prison, passing through half of the capital city on her way back home.

As she arrived at the entrance of the Su Mansion, she happened to run into Monk Cheng Yun, who had come to visit Bai Xiaohu.

"Miss Su." Cheng Yun's face was clearly not right.

Su Liang asked what was wrong.

Cheng Yun sighed deeply, "That Wan Shan, he's gone."

Su Liang paused for a moment, knowing that Cheng Yun thought he had killed someone, broke his vow of nonviolence, and might even be feeling uneasy and upset about it in his heart.

So, Su Liang earnestly said to Cheng Yun, "It wasn't you who killed him. Actually, last night he crawled out of the well, but was pushed back in by the people sent by the Emperor and lost his life."

Cheng Yun's eyes widened, "Is this... true?"

Su Liang nodded, "It's true. As you know, Wan Shan wanted to rebel. He caught Little Tiger and nearly killed him. He even tried to harm me. The Emperor naturally cannot tolerate him."

Cheng Yun chanted “Amitufo” and sighed deeply again.

In fact, Su Liang didn’t know how Wan Shan had died, but she simply didn’t want Cheng Yun to be affected by the matter of a scoundrel who deserved to die, so she said those words.

Bai Xiaohu’s complexion was better than yesterday, and he was vividly telling Lin Xueqing about his adventures with Su Liang and Ning Jing in the mountains, hunting wild boars.

Upon seeing Su Liang, Bai Xiaohu eagerly asked, “Sister Su Liang, when are we going home?”

He said ‘we’ because yesterday Su Liang had said she would take Bai Xiaohu home. In his mind, Su Liang’s home was in Sujiacun.

“In a few more days.” Su Liang replied. She planned to take advantage of this opportunity to move the graves of Su Yuanzhou’s family back to their hometown of Bei’an County and needed time to prepare. Moreover, she was waiting for someone to return.

Su Liang asked Xing Yusheng to send someone back to Sujiacun in Bei’an County to inform Bai Xiaohu’s family that he was alright and not to worry. She wrote a letter to Lei Zheng and Su Bai, briefly mentioning Bai Xiaohu’s situation and asking Su Bai to help prepare for Su Yuanzhou’s family to return to their hometown for burial. Along with the letter, she also sent a silver note for Su Bai to use.

“Sister Su, since the Sixth Princess was seriously injured, will the Emperor still let her go on the diplomatic marriage?” Lin Xueqing suddenly thought and asked Su Liang.

Su Liang snorted, “She didn’t die, so she can’t escape it.”

“That’s really too terrible!” Lin Xueqing still looked somewhat angry, “Why is it that there are always so many despicable people trying to harm Sister Su? It was so dangerous this time since the injured person was a princess after all. Fortunately, the Emperor is wise and has always believed in Sister Su!”

When Su Liang thought of Duanmu Yi, who had personally visited her in the

Heavenly Prison yesterday, her eyes narrowed slightly. The Emperor’s treatment of her was almost too good....

Chapter 244: 244. Problematic (First update)

After sending away the visiting friends who came to express consolation, Su Liang took a bath, changed into comfortable clothes, and took a nap on the lounge chair in the study room.

Qi Jun pushed the injured Bai Xiaohu in a wheelchair to bask in the sun by the lake. This wheelchair was previously used by Xing Yusheng and was readily available.

Children recover quickly when they have a trusted person by their side. Upon arriving at a strange place, Bai Xiaohu’s fear subsided and was replaced by excitement, as he enthusiastically recited poems to Qi Jun about what he had learned in school.

Qi Jun praised him generously and fed him delicious snacks from time to time.

Listening to the voices outside, Su Liang's mind and body fully relaxed, and she soon fell asleep.

At this moment, the Empress Dowager and the Empress, who were under house arrest in the palace, were desperate to live or die. Duanmu Yi showed complete indifference and threw the letter, which Duanmu Cheng wrote to

Wan Shan, in front of them. The rebellion of the Wan family and the missing Eldest Prince were proven, along with the evidence that the false charges against Su Liang were the first step in the rebellion as mentioned in the letter.

Both the Wan family and the younger madam Wan rejected the charges and claimed that the letter must have been forged by Su Liang.

"Last night, in a downpour, Wan Shan sleepwalked into the garden and accidentally fell into a dry well, dying." Duanmu Yi said coldly.

The older and younger madam Wan's faces turned ashen and could not speak for a long time.

Duanmu Yi left with a flick of his sleeve, "The marriage of Qianqian cannot be changed. For the sake of her legitimate princess title, I will not depose the empress. "

Young Madam Wan's eyes shifted slightly, but Duanmu Yi's figure was already gone. She suddenly burst into loud sobs and clumsily spoke of how she didn't want to do such things.

On the other hand, Empress Dowager Wan was surprisingly calm, pinching young Madam Wan harshly to shut her up.

With a sniveling voice, young Madam Wan listened to Empress Dowager Wan's cold stare, "Stupid woman! Do you really think he will remember old feelings? That you will be empress for a lifetime? Don't dream! As long as Qianqian hasn't married, your death will be bad luck. Once Qianqian is married and you die, she will forever be a legitimate princess! The emperor will not depose the empress, but he can make you disappear!"

Young Madam Wan turned pale as paper, trembling all over, "I don't want to die... I don't want to die... What should I do..."

"I don't know where Sheng'er is hiding, or if anyone is helping him..." Empress Dowager Wan said gravely, "Wan Shan is gone, and there is no one in the Wan family we can rely on. Only Sheng'er's return can give us hope. Until then, we must survive, understand?"

Young Madam Wan nodded subconsciously, clutching Empress Dowager Wan's arm in terror, "But what if the emperor wants me dead..."

"He is a man with a high sense of propriety; he will not be too cruel in handling matters. We will find an opportunity." Empress Dowager Wan said in a cold voice.

Duanmu Yi did not publicize Duanmu Cheng's plot to overthrow the government in alliance with Wan Shan. In his opinion, Duanmu Cheng, who was hiding somewhere without his minions, was no longer a threat, and there was no need to add more disgrace to the royal family's reputation.

The day after Su Liang was “released,” she entered the palace to express her gratitude and retrieve her bookcase, which she had left in the Imperial Garden the day before.

“Is the child okay?” Duanmu Yi asked with a smile.

Su Liang shook her head, “His injury isn’t serious. He will recover.”

“That’s good,” Duanmu Yi nodded, “Your bookcase was cleaned and put aside by me yesterday, knowing that it would soon be returned to its rightful owner. I had some free time today and flipped through the books. You have quite a diverse collection, covering all subjects.”

Su Liang replied respectfully, “This is because there are too few medical books.”

Duanmu Yi laughed heartily, “You are right. I had forgotten that there were some medical documents in the library. One of my late brothers was particularly fond of the Medical Skills. Most of the books were taken by him. After his accidental death, the prince’s mansion was sealed, and those books were never returned.”

Su Liang’s curiosity was piqued. So this was the reason a bookshelf in the Library Pavilion was half-empty.

“If you need it, I’ll send someone to look for those books and deliver them to your mansion. Be sure to return them when you’re done,” Duanmu Yi said warmly.

“Thank you for your grace, Your Majesty. I promise to study diligently and improve my medical skills to meet your expectations,” Su Liang replied happily.

Duanmu Yi didn’t say much more and let Su Liang leave with the bookcase.

Two hours after Su Liang returned home, two large boxes full of medical books arrived, delivered by the Forbidden Army.

Su Liang expressed her gratitude and rewarded the guards. After they left, she opened one of the boxes and saw the book “Toxins and Nutrition” at first glance.

After flipping through it, Su Liang found that it recorded food compositions that have been verified to clash with each other, and it included details of the symptoms caused by ingesting them — quite interesting.

Without sitting in the wheelchair, Bai Xiaohu jumped on one foot closer, curious to see the books in the box, “Sister Su Liang has so many books!” Su Liang laughed softly, “These are borrowed, not mine.”

At dusk, Chang’an arrived and saw Su Liang, Qi Jun, and Bai Xiaohu having dinner together through the open window on the first floor of the Yuanming Pavilion.

When Su Liang came out to see Chang’an, he smiled and asked, “Miss Su, what delicious food did you make? It smells so good.”

Su Liang replied indifferently, “It’s the signature dish of Wan Family Restaurant — want to buy some?”

Chang'an shook his head awkwardly, "No, no." His curiosity was piqued: why had Su Liang not been cooking for herself lately?

Chang'an then spoke about the main purpose of his visit, "Master Ning Jing invites Miss Su to visit when she has time. It's not urgent."

Without asking what for, Su Liang let Chang'an leave.

That night, Su Liang initially planned to go to the Crown Prince's Mansion around midnight but got lost in reading and lost track of time. As it was too late, she did not go.

The next day, Xing Yusheng visited along with the Feng Shui master he had hired.

Su Liang planned to move the graves back to Bei'an County and initially asked Xing Yusheng for help to find some people. When Xing Yusheng went back and mentioned it to the old lady of the Xing family, she said that young people didn't understand this matter and that they must first find a Feng Shui expert to see if there were any taboos.

When Su Liang found out, she said she would listen to her elders.

Bai Xiaohu also wanted to go, but Su Liang handed him a book, like assigning homework, and asked him to study at home, with Qi Jun accompanying him.

On arriving at the Su family cemetery on Wangxiang Mountain, the Feng Shui expert walked around, looking here and there.

In the end, the conclusion was that this was a Feng Shui treasure and very suitable as a graveyard, with nothing inappropriate. The person who had chosen this place must have been an expert.

Su Liang was speechless, for she had asked this person to come and see how to move the graves, not to bury people here.

The Feng Shui master said that there were no taboos in moving the graves. The elders should go first, in order, one by one. After moving the graves, it would be best to plant trees so as not to leave the land empty.

With that, the day of moving the graves would require more help.

As Su Liang descended the mountain, she thought of Duanmu Che. Back then, he had saved the Original Master, sent the Original Master back to his hometown, and buried the Su Yuanzhou family. But now, Su Liang knew that it was not Duanmu Che who had done these things, but his old servant Huang Bo.

Duanmu Che despised the Original Master, and his relationship with the Su Family originated from Su Yuanzhou's years of medical treatment for him.

Huang Bo, who discovered that the Original Master had not been killed, had a son who had died and claimed that all the things he had done for Su Liang were Huang Bo's idea. Duanmu Che simply pretended to be kind and did not stop him. These things did not require Duanmu Che to give anything. He stood by and enjoyed the fame of being righteous and kind.

Su Liang had not seen Huang Bo for a long time, thinking that he had been the one to bury the Su Family in Wangxiang Mountain and even hired a Feng Shui expert to choose a location. He had personally escorted the Original Master back to the Su Family village and handed her over to her so-called relatives.

When Su Liang returned home, Gao Jiabao happened to come over and ask her about some medical issues, so she asked him about Duanmu Che.

Gao Jiabao knew because his grandfather was now in charge of treating Duanmu Che. He had to go to the Fifth Prince's mansion every three days, and he had taken Gao Jiabao with him last time.

"Prince Fifth is in good health now, but he stays at home all the time," Gao Jiabao said.

"What about Huang Bo, the old man by his side?" This was what Su Liang really wanted to ask.

Gao Jiabao thought for a moment, "Huang Bo? Do you mean that housekeeper? I've met him before, but the housekeeper at the Fifth Prince's mansion has been replaced for a while now. The new one looks young and seems like a master."

Su Liang's expression changed slightly, "Huang Bo is no longer at the Fifth Prince's mansion?"

Gao Jiabao shook his head, "I don't know about that; I was just there yesterday. When I get back, I'll ask my grandfather. He goes there often, so he might know."

"Thank you for helping me ask," Su Liang said.

Seeing Su Liang's serious expression, Gao Jiabao did not understand why she suddenly cared about an old servant from the Fifth Prince's mansion, but he still treated it as important and went back to ask the old doctor. After getting an answer, he came back to Su Mansion.

"My grandfather said that Huang Bo disappeared last month. He even asked about it, and Prince Fifth said that Huang Bo's son went missing, so he went to look for him and has not returned," Gao Jiabao said.

Su Liang's heart sank, and she thanked Gao Jiabao, saying that she would treat him to a meal another day.

After Gao Jiabao left, Su Liang reexamined the entire incident, and couldn't help but sigh. Huang Bo's son died in the Su Mansion and was buried in the

Xunyang City Ning Family cemetery. His mission was to assassinate "Ning Jing" twice on Duanmu Che's orders. The first attempt failed, but in a sense, the second one succeeded, with the "Ning Jing" who died being his impersonation.

Since Su Liang had returned to the capital city, she hadn't had any peaceful days. She initially had enmity with two of the princes, which later became three, including Duanmu Che. However, when dealing with the royals, she has always been cautious and striving for every step, never leaving any handles.

Now Su Liang had successfully eliminated Duanmu Cheng and Duanmu Ao, but there was no movement from Duanmu Che's side.

Actually, when thinking about it now, it was still because of the things that

Huang Bo had done for the Su Family. Su Liang didn't have any feelings for Duanmu Che; she subconsciously didn't want to provoke Huang Bo. Huang Bo has always been loyal to Duanmu Che, like a grandfather to him.

However, now Su Liang wondered if Huang Bo had gone to find his son for real. Duanmu Che couldn't possibly know where Huang Bo's son was now, and he probably didn't care. He must have lied to Huang Bo about the things he had secretly done, but the lies could not last forever...

Su Liang planned to wait for Gu Ling to come back and discuss with him whether to go to the Fifth Prince's mansion to inquire and find Huang Bo's whereabouts.

That night, Su Liang thought of Duanmu Chen's request to meet her. Since it couldn't be conveyed through Chang'an or letters, it must be important, so she secretly went there at the arranged time.

Duanmu Chen was waiting for Su Liang and complained as soon as he saw her,

"I waited for you until midnight last night, and you didn't come."

Su Liang shrugged, "Crown Prince, please mind your words. People who don't know might think we had a rendezvous in the middle of the night."

Duanmu Chen's mouth twitched slightly, "Less nonsense! Sit down; I have important matters to discuss with you."

Su Liang sat down and poured herself a cup of tea, not afraid of staying awake because she planned to finish reading the few pages of her book she hadn't finished when she went back.

"Do you feel like there's something wrong with my father lately?" Duanmu Chen asked.

Su Liang thought for a moment, "Indeed. His Majesty has been treating me too well lately, granting my every request. It's terrifying."

When Duanmu Chen heard this, he knew that Su Liang was not completely oblivious, and snorted, "You think it's terrifying? Why?"

Su Liang swayed her tea cup gently, her eyes slightly narrowed, "He wouldn't be... falling for me, would he?"

Duanmu Chen sneered, "How could he not? He's totally in love! Very much so!"

Su Liang covered her forehead, "Are all you royals a bit off?"

Duanmu Chen spoke with a melancholy tone, "Though you are scolding me, you are not wrong.."

Chapter 245: 245. I am angry (Second Update)

The moonlight broke through the dark clouds, casting a clear and bright cold light on the ground.

Su Liang stopped and turned around, staring at the approaching shadow, she snorted lightly, "Great God, do you know that scaring people can cause death?" In the blink of an eye, Gu Ling had reached Su Liang's side. He looked down at the laughter in her eyes and reached out, saying, "It's been a long time."

Su Liang shook Gu Ling's hand and then released it, smiling, "Actually, it's not been that long, but something happened, if only the Great God had been with me."

Before Gu Ling could say anything, Su Liang turned around and continued walking, asking if his trip had been successful.

"As you expected," Gu Ling said succinctly.

At the beginning, Su Liang had said that Nian Jincheng might hesitate, but Yang Yu would definitely listen to her.

"I thought you would wait for them to finish dealing with the matter there before returning to the capital together," Su Liang said.

Gu Ling shook his head, "I trust Yang Yu's abilities."

Su Liang couldn't help but smile, "If someone heard this, they would be heartbroken. Do they have any place in your heart anymore?"

"He's already been taken by someone, there's no need for him to have a place in my heart," Gu Ling replied.

Su Liang agreed, "That makes sense."

The two chatted as they left the alley and headed back to Su Mansion late at night.

Stopping before they reached Yuanming Pavilion, Gu Ling paused.

Su Liang turned back, "Why aren't you walking?"

Gu Ling's eyes were cold, "Where should I stay?"

Su Liang massaged her temples, "Sorry, I forgot that Little Tiger is sleeping on your bed, and Qi Jun is also there."

Bai Xiaohu's injuries had not healed yet, so Qi Jun stayed with him at night to take care of him. They were using Su Liang's study, which was actually Gu Ling's room.

"Your belongings are in the warehouse. Do you want to stay somewhere else?" Su Liang asked.

Gu Ling frowned slightly, "I'm very hungry."

Su Liang hesitated for a moment, "I forget you've just returned from a long journey. What would you like to eat?"

After listening to Su Liang mention "forgot" twice, Gu Ling stared at her before moving towards the warehouse, "I'm not eating."

Su Liang wanted to catch up, but she was afraid of making too much noise and waking Qi Jun, which would be difficult to explain later. Seeing Gu Ling's figure disappear from her sight, she walked towards Yuanming Pavilion.

She went straight upstairs, the door to the study was ajar, and Qi Jun looked out through the crack, lowering his voice and asking, "Miss Su is back, is everything all right?"

Su Liang shook her head, "Nothing's wrong, you guys should rest."

Qi Jun closed the door and it was quiet once more.

Su Liang returned to her own room. Earlier, she had not blown out the lamp. A book that was almost finished lay open on the table. She had drunk a cup of tea at Fourth Prince's Mansion to refresh her mind and wanted to finish reading it when she got back home.

At this moment, the window was open, and obviously someone had slipped in quietly. On the open book, there was placed a small, colorful stone. It was a rain flower stone that Su Liang had liked in her previous life, and it was breathtakingly beautiful.

She knew it must have been brought back by a certain someone. Since Su Liang was not at home in the middle of the night, it was clear that she had gone to find Duanmu Chen. So, they went to look for her.

Su Liang picked up the stone, which felt cool and smooth to the touch. Holding it close to the light, she saw that its semi-transparent texture had naturally formed colorful patterns that seemed to flow within. One particularly vivid outline resembled a small rabbit with two pointed protrusions.

Su Liang's lips curled up slightly, and she placed the stone in the little rabbit's purse. She then picked up two books from the bookshelf and went out again with them.

Qi Jun hadn't fallen asleep yet. Hearing Su Liang go downstairs again, he thought it was strange and assumed she had gone to fetch water to drink. He didn't question her any further.

Su Liang took the books to the kitchen next to the Yuanming Pavilion, leaving them by the door. She went in to see what ingredients were available, planning to make a bowl of noodles for Gu Ling. It was late, and something hot would be good for sleep.

By the time Su Liang had prepared the noodles, not much time had passed. She scooped them into a large soup bowl, covered it with a lid, and also warmed up the Plain Steamed Buns which Lin Xueqing had prepared for dinner. They were made especially for Bai Xiaohu, who had mentioned that his grandmother made delicious steamed buns back in Su Village. After heating the buns, Su Liang turned them into pan-fried buns.

After confirming that Bai Xiaohu's room was dark and the window open, Su Liang didn't want to disturb them and decided to take the food to Gu Ling.

It wasn't hard to find him, as Su Liang knew he would definitely stay in the courtyard they had previously occupied.

At the entrance of the courtyard, she saw a light in one of the rooms. However, it was not the room where Gu Ling had previously stayed but the room where Su Liang had previously lived. This was because all the furniture in Gu Ling's room had been moved by the people sent by Xing Yusheng, fearing that Su Liang would feel nostalgic when seeing those items. So there was no bed there.

Since the mansion was prepared by Duanmu Chen, the bed from Su Liang's original room was still there and hasn't been moved to Yuanming Pavilion. Su Liang arrived at the door and gave it a push, but it wouldn't budge.

"Great God?" Su Liang knocked on the door.

From inside came Gu Ling's cold voice, "I'm changing clothes. Wait a moment."

Su Liang stood outside with the food, looking at the moon and realizing that the Mid-Autumn Festival was fast approaching. Time had flown, and it had already been a year and a half since she arrived.

As the door behind her opened, Su Liang turned back without another word, handing over the food in her hands to Gu Ling. With a faint “thank you,” the door was closed again...

Su Liang stood in a daze outside the door, staring at the tightly closed door in front of her, “Is the Great God mad at me?”

Gu Ling didn’t answer.

“There’s something else I need to tell you,” Su Liang knocked on the door again. Gu Ling’s voice came from inside, “It’s too late.”

Su Liang frowned, “Oh, alright then. Great God, have a good rest after you eat. I’m going back.”

The courtyard soon returned to silence. Gu Ling finished the noodles, drank the soup, and ate the steamed buns. He picked up the two books he had never read before, knowing that they must have been borrowed from the Imperial Palace’s library by Su Liang after he left.

Gu Ling gazed at the cover of the book, his eyebrows slightly furrowed, and didn’t flip it open immediately. The image of Su Liang’s bewildered face when she was denied entrance flashed in his mind as he murmured inaudibly, “Returning after several days of travel, I don’t even have a place to stay... I can’t be angry? For the sake of the delicious food you brought, I’ll be angry for just one night.”

Su Liang returned to Yuanming Pavilion, washed and laid down, unable to sleep. She recalled the book she had planned to finish tonight and got up again to sit at the table.

After finishing the book, Su Liang yawned and finally went to bed.

Coinciding with Su Liang’s light being turned off, the figure standing by the lake disappeared.

The next morning, Su Liang passed Gu Ling’s courtyard while jogging.

She didn’t go inside, but continued jogging. After exercising, Qi Jun came back with breakfast.

Su Liang checked on Bai Xiaohu’s injuries. His twisted ankle needed further care, but the rest were just superficial wounds, which had already improved greatly after treatment.

“Sister Su Liang, am I going to be ugly?” Bai Xiaohu asked with a furrowed brow.

Su Liang smiled lightly, rubbing his fluffy little head, “How could that be? When we get home, your looks will return to normal. But you need to eat well, otherwise your grandparents will blame me for not feeding you enough.”

“No way!” Bai Xiaohu shook his little face seriously, “My grandparents love Sister Su Liang the most!”

Su Liang smiled, “Little Tiger is here in the capital city for a rare visit. Although his foot is injured, it doesn’t prevent him from going out to play. Do you want to go out for a walk?”

Bai Xiaohu’s eyes suddenly brightened, “Can I?”

“Of course.” Su Liang looked at Qi Jun, “Take a look at the Imperial Palace from a distance, enjoy the scenery of the capital city, and bring gifts back for your family and friends.”

“But I don’t have money.” Bai Xiaohu frowned slightly.

Su Liang said with a smile, “You are my guest here in the capital city, so naturally, I will treat you. We are friends, so don’t be polite. As you know, I have so much money now that I can’t spend it all.”

Bai Xiaohu shook his head, “That’s Sister Su Liang’s money. Grandma said it’s not right to spend other people’s money. Teacher also said, ‘don’t take rewards without merit’.”

Qi Jun thought that this child had excellent character and values despite his young age and poverty.

“Then, it’s like I want to buy gifts for your family and friends, but I don’t know what to give. You help me choose. Let’s see what they like.” Su Liang said with a smile.

After thinking it over, Bai Xiaohu agreed, since those would be considered as gifts from Su Liang using her money, and he would just help her choose.

“However, I’m busy today and can’t accompany you. I’ll let your little brother Xiaoqi take you to play.” Su Liang said.

Bai Xiaohu knew that Su Liang was a busy and important person and nodded his agreement. He then politely said to Qi Jun, “Thank you for the trouble, Brother Xiaoqi.”

Qi Jun laughed heartily, “No trouble. My mission today is to have fun, so I should thank Little Tiger instead.”

Su Liang had Qi Jun prepare new clothes and shoes for Bai Xiaohu beforehand, so he looked like a little young master when he dressed up.

By the time Qi Jun wheeled Bai Xiaohu out with his injured foot, the sun was already high in the sky.

Su Liang went to the courtyard where Gu Ling lived and saw that the door was closed. She knocked on the door and heard Gu Ling’s voice, “What is it?”

“Great God, have you had breakfast?” Su Liang asked.

“What do you think?” Gu Ling countered.

Su Liang then stood outside the door and explained to Gu Ling what had happened after she left and why Bai Xiaohu was staying in his room. At that time, the child had just been rescued and was attached to Su Liang, so she had no other choice.

“I plan to move my family’s tomb back to our village and send Little Tiger home in the process. What do you think, Great God?” Su Liang asked.

“Does the Emperor agree?” Gu Ling asked.

Su Liang paused, “Why would the Emperor have to agree to this sort of thing?”

The door suddenly opened, and Gu Ling's disguised face looked indifferent, "The Emperor may want to take you as his concubine because he treats you so well. He might want to have a connection with the stone in Huguo Temple." Su Liang sighed, "Before I could even mention it, you've already guessed. But this is all speculation, there's no solid evidence. Everything the Emperor has done so far is beneficial to me. I can't turn my back on him just because of a guess, right, Great God?"

Gu Ling nodded, "Being cautious for now is not a bad thing." Even if Duanmu Yi really wanted to take Su Liang as a concubine, as long as he doesn't resort to underhanded tactics, there's room to maneuver.

"When do you plan to reveal your identity, Great God? Will you wait for Xiao Nian to return to the capital? Together?" Su Liang asked.

Gu Ling shook his head, "Let's talk about that later. I'm hungry."

"I didn't cook. Qi Jun bought the food from outside." Su Liang said, "Do you want me to buy more for you?"

Gu Ling looked at Su Liang deeply, as if giving her a chance to rephrase her words.

Su Liang nodded, "Yes, I was wrong, my apologies. I'll cook for you. What would you like to eat, Great God?"

"Buddha Jumps Over the Wall," Gu Ling said.

Su Liang held her forehead, "I want to jump over the wall as well."

Gu Ling nodded, "You jump."

Su Liang: .

Of course, Buddha Jumps Over the Wall couldn't be made. Su Liang cooked porridge and egg pancakes for Gu Ling, a simple homemade breakfast.

When she finished, she saw Gu Ling had tidied up Bai Xiaohu's things and moved them to Qi Jun's courtyard. The intent was clear.

Su Liang thought it was fine, as Little Tiger was already familiar with Qi Jun and they weren't far away.

"However, Great God, if you go back to the Su family village with me, you'll have to act as a secret guard on the way since Little Tiger will be with us." Su Liang said while scooping porridge for Gu Ling.

Gu Ling's expression remained calm, "I didn't say I would go with you."

Su Liang paused with the spoon in her hand, "Great God, do you have other arrangements?"

Gu Ling took the porridge, "I'll go back with Little Tiger."

Su Liang really wanted to pour a spoonful of porridge over Gu Ling's head, but of course she didn't dare...

"Are you still angry, Great God?" Su Liang asked.

Gu Ling glanced at her and nodded slightly.

Su Liang thought for a while and said, "Then I'll tell you a joke."

Gu Ling nodded again.

Su Liang looked serious, "It's the New Year, and our family has a pig and a donkey. Which one do you think we should kill first, the pig or the donkey?"

Gu Ling paused with the spoon in his hand, "You're the one holding the spoon, you choose."

Su Liang gave a thumbs up, "Congratulations, Great God, you got it right!"

Gu Ling's eyes were cold, "Where is the humor in this?"

Su Liang snorted, "You're forcing me to use the 'laughter card', Great God!"

Gu Ling nodded, "Yes, it's hilarious." He lowered his head to eat the porridge.

"By the way, I persuaded Uncle Liang to leave," Su Liang mentioned the conversation she had with Uncle Liang that night.

After listening, Gu Ling nodded slightly, "Thank you." He didn't want to become enemies with Uncle Liang, as he was someone his late mother had trusted.

"Then consider the gift you sent me last night as a thank you gift, so you don't have to strong-arm me and make another wooden card to make me owe you something," Su Liang said with a smile.

Gu Ling's face was as usual, "You found out. This time, let's forget it.."

Chapter 246: Hide a chubby baby

When Qi Jun went to Xing's Mansion to borrow coachmen, he mentioned Su Liang had something to do today, so Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing did not come to disturb them.

During the whole day, there were only Su Liang and Gu Ling in the mansion. Gu Ling moved Bai Xiaohu's things out and his things into the Yuanming Pavilion study, restoring it to its appearance before he left.

He wanted to eat Fried Fish Nuggets, and caught a fat fish before lunch. Su Liang fried it and served it on a plate, which Gu Ling ate like a snack, eating more than half before it was served, leaving only two pieces for Su Liang.

Seeing this, Su Liang didn't get annoyed, but found it a bit funny. When it came to eating, Gu Ling never let her win. She should be very "moved" that he left her two pieces.

Summer had passed, and the Mid-Autumn Festival was approaching; the days were still hot and dry.

The afternoon sun was scorching, so Su Liang remembered that Xing Yusheng had built an ice cellar for Su's Mansion while building one for Xing's. There were ice blocks stored inside, but she had never used them, so she had Gu Ling fetch some.

"What for?" Gu Ling asked with confusion.

“You’ll see when you bring it,” Su Liang teased.

As a result, she heard footsteps and turned her head while peeling grapes. She saw Gu Ling holding a large square ice cube wrapped in cloth.

Su Liang directed Gu Ling to place it on a shady spot on the table. “We don’t need that much, but since you’ve brought it, we’ll use the leftovers for you to play with ice sculpting.”

Gu Ling frowned slightly at the comment, finding it strange that Su Liang seemed to treat him like a child, but it didn’t feel bad...

Gu Ling didn’t know what Su Liang was going to do, but saw several white porcelain bowls on the table, filled with small pieces of three kinds of fruit, another bowl of peeled grapes, and a bowl of honey water. He smelled the sweet fragrance of honey.

This was definitely for making something delicious.

Gu Ling got a clean, wide knife as Su Liang instructed and began to shave the ice. After a rough first try, he soon got the hang of it, shaving thin layers into a bowl forming shaved ice.

Two translucent glazed glass cups, gifts from Old Master Qin, were filled halfway with shaved ice. Then the four types of fruit were evenly arranged on top, with an appropriate amount of honey water poured over.

Su Liang finished one cup and held it up, asking Gu Ling, “Does it look good?” Gu Ling nodded.

“Hmm, this is a kind of visual feast in our time, used for viewing in summer, to dispel the heat. But when the ice shavings turn to water, they won’t look so good, so you better watch closely, don’t blink and don’t touch.” Su Liang explained seriously and jokingly.

Gu Ling was speechless, so he reached out his hand and said, “Give it to me.”

Su Liang chuckled and placed it in front of Gu Ling, also handing him a wooden spoon for eating desserts.

Gu Ling took a spoonful of shaved ice along with a piece of fruit, tasted it, nodded slightly, and then tried another fruit. After trying all four types, he began to taste the different combinations of two fruits, then combinations of three fruits. In the end, the last bite had one piece of each fruit mixed with

shaved ice.

Watching Gu Ling while she was making her own, Su Liang couldn’t help but admire him, thinking he must have a severe compulsive disorder.

Finally, Gu Ling put down his spoon and concluded, “Different flavors, but all delicious. ”

Su Liang: ...She thought Gu Ling would make a flavor ranking...

It happened that Su Liang got distracted for a moment, and a newly made cup ended up in Gu Ling’s hands. This time, he ate it randomly, scooping whatever was available, but the number of fruit pieces still made a new random combination.

Su Liang could only think that maybe this was the highest realm of food lovers, who could taste a hundred different flavors from the same food.

In the end, Su Liang ate only a small bowl, which was indeed delicious, but too sweet. She always tasted sweet food sparingly.

Although sweet, the icy texture made it not greasy at all. Gu Ling, who tasted the fruit shaved ice for the first time, ate three cups.

Su Liang didn't save any for Bai Xiaohu, who had been a bit malnourished due to previous abuse and had a weak stomach. He was still taking medicine and couldn't eat this.

The remaining large chunk of ice, missing only a small corner and wrapped in cloth, was placed in a shade to avoid light and wind without melting much.

"Great God, if you want to sculpt ice, do it quickly. It will melt soon. I'm going to take a nap." Su Liang had sat in the sun earlier and felt a bit sleepy.

When Su Liang went upstairs, Gu Ling brought out his entire set of carving tools, studied the ice for a while, and started carving.

Su Liang usually didn't take naps, so she woke up after a short while this time.

Just about to go downstairs and take a look at Gu Ling's ice sculpture, as soon as she opened her door, she saw him carrying a tray12ature.onclick=function(){return false;}from downstairs with a piece of silk cloth on it.

"Is it done?" Su Liang asked with curiosity, "What is it?" She reached out to lift the cloth.

Gu Ling stepped aside and carried the tray into Su Liang's room, placing it on the table.

Su Liang followed, watching Gu Ling lift the silk cloth and drape it around the ice sculpture to prevent the melting water from flowing onto the table.

Moving closer, Su Liang saw it was an abstract ice sculpture. At first glance, she couldn't identify the chaotic outline.

Upon closer inspection, she saw that it contained elements from her previous life's era, such as airplanes, trains, cruise ships, cars, computers, mobile phones, etc.

It's more like an ice art collage, a three-dimensional one at that, with exquisite details.

"Great God, your carving skills are really good," Su Liang murmured in admiration. "But it will melt soon, just like these things, becoming my dreamy mirage, never to return again."

Gu Ling asked, "Do you want to go back?"

After thinking for a moment, Su Liang said, "At first, I felt that I should adapt since I was already here, and there was nothing worth lingering for in the other world. But now, I do want to go back a little. I can adapt to the rules of survival here, but I don't want to adapt to many things, especially dealing with the Royal Family now. It's exhausting."

Gu Ling was silent for a moment, "If you can find a way to go back, take me with you."

Then Su Liang laughed, "Of course. From the beginning, Great God wanted to go there more than I did. If only one person can go, I'd be willing to let Great God experience the other world, after all, I've already experienced it."

Gu Ling frowned slightly, "Never mind one person, I'm afraid."

Su Liang laughed loudly, ending the topic. She took it as a joke because she didn't believe there was any chance of returning. She was already dead in that world, and she didn't come through a man-made time machine with a return trip.

The ice, representing Su Liang's memories from her past life, melted to a thin layer before sunset.

After disposing of the ice, Su Liang watered the flowers with the melted water.

At night, Qi Jun brought Bai Xiaohu back home with many big and small parcels.

As they entered Yuanming Pavilion, Bai Xiaohu's excited little face told Su Liang about the tall, big, and beautiful palace he saw that day, the huge and beautiful lake, shopping and eating he did.

They had just eaten dinner at a restaurant outside. Su Liang and Gu Ling had eaten as well.

Qi Jun brought back several dishes for Su Liang, which she said she would heat up for a late-night snack when she got hungry.

After listening to Bai Xiaohu, Su Liang saw how happy he was and said, "Let's go out again tomorrow." It would take more than a day to explore the vast capital city.

Bai Xiaohu nodded vigorously.

When Su Liang proposed that they stay in the courtyard Qi Jun originally chose for them that night, both of them had no objections.

Qi Jun thought that Su Liang must want to read late into the night without being disturbed.

After learning that Su Liang had already moved their belongings to the new place, Qi Jun and Bai Xiaohu left after drinking some water, urging Su Liang to rest early. The medicine Bai Xiaohu needed to drink was prepared by Qi Jun anyway.

When Su Liang went upstairs, she found that Gu Ling had gone out at some point.

He returned shortly, saying he had gone to take a look at Zhengzheng.

Su Liang then asked Gu Ling a question, "Great God, if you were already married and had children, and suddenly had an opportunity to travel to another dimension, but could only do so alone and couldn't return, what would you choose?"

Gu Ling asked back, "What do you think?"

Su Liang nodded, "I believe in your character, Great God, so of course, you would choose the former. However, there would still be some regrets. I sincerely hope that you can achieve what you desire."

Gu Ling's eyes suddenly became deep and mysterious. "Thank you for your blessing." After finishing his words, he turned around and left.

The following day, Xing Yusheng asked Yan to come over and informed him that the best day for relocating the graves was the 18th of the eighth month, three days after the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Su Liang thought it was quite suitable. They would celebrate the festival in the capital city and still have two days to prepare. The weather would also be the most comfortable, neither cold nor hot.

Su Liang planned to mention her trip to escort the spirits back to their hometown when she next met Duanmu Yi, rather than actively seeking him out to talk. They had already discussed the matter before, and Duanmu Yi had asked her to wait until the weather cooled down before setting off. This was tantamount to agreeing to give Su Liang a leave. Moreover, the auspicious day for this matter couldn't be delayed.

On this day, Qi Jun and Bai Xiaohu went out to play, and Su Liang invited Gu Ling to practice with her. Gu Ling said her Luoying Swordsmanship had improved, but she needed more practice. She wasn't fast enough yet. Once she reached a certain level of expertise with the Luoying Sword, her abilities would greatly increase.

Su Liang practiced martial arts for half a day, then studied books in the afternoon, returning her life back on track.

That night, Gu Ling secretly sneaked into the Fifth Prince's mansion to investigate Huang Bols whereabouts. After waiting for a long time, he overheard two night watchmen talking about Huang Bo. They said he had really gone to the south to look for his son at Lin's Family because Duanmu Che arranged for Huang Bo's son to be sent to Lin's Family to deliver a message, intending to repair his relationship with his maternal grandparents' family.

Gu Ling returned to Su Liang and relayed the information he had gathered. Su Liang thoughtfully said, "Duanmu Che must have deceived Huang Bo with this pretext. Once Huang Bo reaches Lin's Family and learns that his son had never been there, Huang Bo would think that his son had an accident along the way, but he would not suspect Duanmu Che."

At this point, Su Liang could only wait to meet Huang Bo again before considering how to make him see Duanmu Che's true colors. For now, they didn't know where he was, so they had to wait.

The day before the Mid -Autumn Festival, Qi Jun took Bai Xiaohu to Huguo

Temple. Monk Cheng Yun had mentioned during his last visit that Huguo Temple would distribute homemade pastries to worshipers before Mid-Autumn Festival.

On their side, Su Liang had prepared the ingredients for making mooncakes early and declined Lin Xueqing's invitation to make them together. Su Liang suggested they make them separately and then exchange them, but the real reason for this was to avoid making someone unhappy. Gu Ling had carefully carved several beautiful mooncake molds so he had to be involved.

The fruit trees in their courtyard were originally planted by Duanmu Chen according to Su Liang's request, and Xing Yusheng had gifted her pomegranate trees, forming a sizable orchard.

Only half of the trees had borne fruit this year, but it was enough to eat.

Su Liang made a nut filling, two fruit jam fillings, as well as date paste, red bean paste, and salted egg yolk fillings.

During festival times, making special dishes brought a sense of ritual. Gu Ling was responsible for starting the fire, kneading the dough, and baking the mooncakes, demonstrating great control over the heat.

It was unlike their neighbors, the Xing Family. The young couple brought Old Lady Xing over, and she worked with Lin Xueqing to make mooncakes and asked Xing Yusheng to mold them. Xing Yusheng ended up breaking three molds in a row. Lin Xueqing hit him once, but fearing that Old Lady Xing would be upset, she stopped. However, Old Lady Xing ended up hitting him three more times...

Since there were kids at home and they had to give them away as gifts, the two of them spent half a day, and the mooncakes made by Gu Ling were neatly arranged in a pyramid shape on the table, with evenly distributed patterns.

Su Liang couldn't help but "praise", "Great God, your OCD is too incredible."

Gu Ling knew what OCD was, but he didn't think he had it. Pleasing to the eye was also a harvest, and it didn't take much thought, so why not?

They had asked Qi Jun to purchase the packaging materials in advance. As soon as the mooncakes cooled down, Su Liang and Gu Ling packed four in a pound together, and then wrote on the red paper outside what kind of filling they contained.

Anyway, Gu Ling and Su Liang's handwriting was the same, so there was no need to worry that anyone would think it was written by "Ning Jing."

The Qin, Gao, Lin, and Xing families all sent people to deliver gifts separately. Su Liang's return gift was homemade mooncakes, as well as the fruit from the trees in the mansion. Gu Ling picked the two kinds he didn't like as much. In addition, there was a tea set and a big gift package of "tea-related items" prepared by Song Qi in advance for the Ning Family.

After receiving the return gifts and seeing the words on the mooncakes, everyone knew that Su Liang had made them herself and thought that she was very considerate. Old Master Qin took all two packages of Su Liang's homemade mooncakes for himself, while the Imperial Physician Gao reluctantly shared one piece with Gao Jiabao.

By evening, Wan Hui's family of three arrived with gifts carried in carts. Seeing Lu Yu bring a group of servants carrying gifts into the mansion, Su Llang toucnea ner roreneaa ana said, "wny IS blster wan Still so politer"

Zhengzheng smiled and said, "It's from Grandpa to Auntie!"

It wasn't just Wan Hui's family who sent so much, but also the Mid-Autumn Festival gifts from the Wan Family in Qingyang City.

Su Liang took out a beautiful Chinese knot to give to Zhengzheng, which was actually from Gu Ling.

Zhengzheng cherished it, hung it on her chest and hugged it while playing.

Wan Hui laughed and said she would hang it in Zhengzheng's room when they got home.

Qi Jun and Bai Xiaohu returned with some pastries from Huguo Temple.

Seeing Zhengzheng, Bai Xiaohu couldn't help but think of his little brother and missed home even more with the festival approaching, so he became a little upset. Noticing this, Qi Jun comforted Bai Xiaohu, saying they would set off to return home in a few days.

Bai Xiaohu and Zhengzheng played together and quickly became lively.

Gu Ling sat in the study upstairs, with a few mooncakes and a fruit plate on the table. He had already eaten the dumplings for dinner, which were prepared in advance.

Downstairs was a warm and lively atmosphere, but he sat alone, holding a book and not turning a page for a long time.

Gu Ling put a bookmark in, closed the book, and put it aside. He laid a piece of paper on the table, pondered for a moment, and started to draw.

After Wan Hui's family left with Su Liang's return gift, Qi Jun took Bai Xiaohu back to their courtyard. They offered to help clean up, but Su Liang said it wasn't necessary.

Su Liang went upstairs, knocked on Gu Ling's door, and said, "Great God, you're not asleep, are you? Come down to wash the dishes."

Hearing Gu Ling responding to her from inside the room, Su Liang went downstairs first.

A little while later, Gu Ling finally put down his pen. On the paper was a beautifully drawn chubby baby with no discernible gender. Upon closer inspection, the facial features resembled both Gu Ling and Su Liang, perfectly blended together.

Gu Ling gently dried the ink, picked up the drawing, and stared at it for a long time before carefully putting it away and going downstairs to wash the dishes....

Chapter 247: 247. Can I t live this way anymore

On Mid-Autumn Festival, a banquet was held in the palace, where the emperor and his court enjoyed themselves together.

After Su Liang resigned her military post, she was only an Imperial Physician with a relatively low rank and was not originally qualified to attend the Mid-Autumn Palace Banquet. However, an invitation was sent to her mansion early in the morning.

Upon receiving the invitation, Su Liang casually said, "If I can't avoid going, I can take Little Tiger with me to see the world."

But Gu Ling disagreed, "There's not much to see in that world."

Bai Xiaohu was just a young man from a remote village who had learned to read and write only because of the opportunity Su Liang gave him. Soon, he would return to his previous life. His current experience was already dark enough and might take a long time to forget. Gu Ling was not worried that Bai Xiaohu would be unable to bear poverty after being exposed to the luxury of the palace. Instead, he just didn't want anything unexpected to happen at the palace banquet that might scare Little Tiger.

"You're right." Su Liang sighed slightly, "Let Qi Jun stay with him at home. I'll

go by myself. Great Goa, have you considered making a splendid appearance tonight?”

Gu Ling nodded, “Yes. But then I won’t be able to go back to the Su Family Village with you.”

“Never mind,” Su Liang shook her head.

Qi Yan came over to tell Su Liang that Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing were going to spend the festival with Old Lady Xing and wouldn’t attend the palace banquet. Later, Lin Bojun and his wife would come to pick her up.

Old Lady Xing had been looking forward to her son’s return, hoping from one holiday to another, but all she got was one disappointment after another.

Just as Qi Yan left, Lin Bojun and Qin Yujin arrived.

Lin Bojun was riding a horse while Su Liang sat in the carriage with Qin Yujin. Lady Lin Boyan was pregnant, so she stayed home this time.

“Sister Liang, I heard that you’re going back to the village to move the graves?” Qin Yujin asked.

Su Liang nodded, “Yes, we’re leaving on the eighteenth of the eighth month.”

Qin Yujin sighed slightly and held Su Liang’s hand, “Please be careful on the journey.”

Su Liang laughed lightly, “Of course, I will.”

Before Qin Yujin could say anything, a sweet smile appeared in her eyes, and one hand subconsciously touched her abdomen.

Su Liang guessed what Qin Yujin was hinting at but pretended not to know, only to see Qin Yujin reach out her hand, “Sister Liang, would you mind taking my pulse?”

Su Liang shook her head seriously, “You look very well, Lady Qin. What seems to be the problem?”

“Never mind.” Qin Yujin was about to withdraw her hand when it was grabbed by Su Liang.

After a while, Su Liang lifted the carriage curtain and said to Lin Bojun, who was riding slowly beside them, “Second Brother Lin, you’re going to be a father soon, remember to treat us!”

“Ah!” Qin Yujin tugged at Su Liang’s arm, “He didn’t know yet!”

Su Liang was stunned, “Didn’t you both know already?”

Qin Yujin couldn’t help but laugh, “I just found out this morning and wanted you to check before I told my husband.”

At this point, the excited Lin Bojun dismounted and lifted the carriage curtain, ready to climb in, “Xiaoliang, you ride the horse!”

Su Liang: ... It’s understandable.

Just as Su Liang was about to leave the carriage, Lin Bojun held Qin Yujin’s hand and asked nervously, “Is everything alright with Yujin’s health?”

Su Liang shook her head, "Nothing seems to be wrong for now, but you must be careful in the future."

Hearing this, Lin Bojun didn't let Su Liang get off the carriage and immediately ordered the carriage to turn back home.

Su Liang agreed, "That's a good idea. During the early stages of pregnancy, you shouldn't jolt around, and you should get some rest early, avoid alcohol, and not be startled. It's better not to go to the palace."

Upon hearing Su Liang's words, Lin Bojun became even more anxious, "No jolting? Then this carriage won't do." He started to lift Qin Yujin to carry her. Feeling embarrassed in front of Su Liang, Qin Yujin insisted, "I'm fine, really." But still, Lin Bojun's strong arms encircled her.

"I'm going to be a father, haha!" Lin Bojun couldn't help but laugh foolishly again.

Seeing their anticipating and nervous expressions, Su Liang talked to them about the precautions while secretly thinking it was a good opportunity not to attend the palace banquet tonight.

When the carriage returned to Lin Mansion, Lin Bojun carried Qin Yujin out horizontally while Su Liang quietly jumped out.

Upon learning that they had returned halfway, Lin Shuzhi rushed over, only to find Su Liang speechless, watching Lin Bojun and Qin Yujin gaze at each other in foolish laughter...

"Xiaoliang? This... You guys..." Lin Bojun furrowed his eyebrows.

Su Liang smiled and stood up, "Second sister-in-law is pregnant."

Lin Shuzhi was stunned for a moment, and then his face was overjoyed, "Great! I'll have the servants prepare some food for you."

Both daughter-in-laws being pregnant was a great joy for Lin Shuzhi. He couldn't be happier.

It didn't take long for Lin Boyan to come and congratulate Lin Bojun.

It was only with Qin Yujin's reminder that Lin Bojun realized he should send someone to inform the palace. They couldn't just decide not to go after receiving the invitation. Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing had already sent their reply to the palace early with the help of Qi Yan.

"I'll write it," Su Liang said.

Quickly, Su Liang finished writing the "request for leave" and showed it to Lin Bojun and Qin Yujin.

Qin Yujin laughed non-stop, and Lin Bojun nervously asked Su Liang if laughing so much was not good.

Because in the note Su Liang wrote: The undersigned and General Lin's wife were traveling together to the palace banquet. Halfway there, I took General Lin's wife's pulse and told General Lin that his wife was pregnant. General Lin was overjoyed and could only look at his wife with a silly smile. The undersigned accompanied the couple back to the Lin Family. I performed acupuncture for General Lin. Unable to attend the banquet on time, please forgive me, Your Majesty.

Qin Yujin thought Su Liang's writing was a bit exaggerated, making her husband seem silly.

Su Liang chuckled, "Isn't Second Brother's current look silly?"

Qin Yujin looked at Lin Bojun, only to see him grinning, showing a big white tooth, as if he didn't hear what they were saying or cared about what Su Liang wrote. His laugh was so simple, almost exactly as Su Liang described...

The note was quickly sent out. Su Liang had a late-night snack at the Lin Mansion and repeatedly told Lin Bojun and Qin Yujin to be careful about pregnancy. They should be cautious in their actions but not too strict in their thoughts.

In the end, after Su Liang's long explanation, Lin Bojun said, "We should ask big sister-in-law! Xiaoliang hasn't been pregnant before!"

Su Liang rubbed her forehead, "Farewell."

Qin Yujin twisted Lin Bojun's ear, "What did you just say?"

But she saw Su Liang turn around and wink at her, "For the first four months, you must avoid intercourse, this is a must."

As soon as her words fell, Su Liang was gone. Qin Yujin blushed, and Lin Bojun asked puzzledly, "Only the first four months are not allowed? After that, it's fine?"

Qin Yujin covered her face. Su Liang must have heard it. How embarrassing...

When Su Liang left the Lin Mansion, she met Lin Shuzhi who couldn't sleep and was taking a walk in the mansion.

"Xiaoliang, I heard you're going to relocate the graves back to your hometown. This is important, but you must pay attention to safety. Although your strength is not weak, it's still better to hire some masters for protection." Lin Shuzhi said earnestly.

Su Liang obediently nodded, "I know, Master, don't worry, I'll arrange it." She had masters around her, especially the highly-skilled ones, and they didn't even need money, just food would suffice.

When Su Liang left the Lin Family, the Mid-Autumn Festival banquet in the palace had already begun.

Without Lin Bojun's couple and Su Liang, there were no other members of the

Lin Family at the banquet. When Duanmu Yi asked, Qin Kang said there must have been an issue, and he immediately asked his son to leave the palace to check.

Old Master Qin worried when he couldn't see his beloved granddaughter and grandson-in-law. Because Su Liang also didn't come, he worried even more if they had encountered an assassination or if someone else was sick.

Instead of letting Qin's son leave the banquet, Duanmu Yi sent someone to the Su Mansion and Lin Mansion.

Before Duanmu Yi's arrangements were made, Su Liang's note was delivered to the palace.

After reading it, Duanmu Yi had the old eunuch read it aloud to everyone.

Then, Duanmu Chen led everyone to laugh.

Duanmu Yi smiled, "Since it's a happy event, how can I blame them?"

Old Master Qin was already grinning from ear to ear, thinking that it was too late today, and he would visit his granddaughter at the Lin Family first thing in the morning.

Su Liang rode Lin Bojun's horse and left the Lin Family. Halfway, someone appeared on the roof not far away and pointed in a direction.

Su Liang urged the horse to go there.

Passing through a narrow alley, the view suddenly opened up, and the famous scenic spot Jingyue Lake of the capital city appeared in front of her.

Su Liang had played on the lake with Qin Yujin and Lin Xueqing before, but it was her first time there at night. This was because she wouldn't pass by here when going to the Imperial Palace or the Crown Prince's Mansion.

Su Liang tied the horse to a large tree and headed toward the lake.

A figure like an ink feather crossed over her, landing on the dock on the opposite side of the lake, using a long bamboo pole to propel a flat boat towards Su Liang.

The moonlight was bright, silver gleam scattered all around, the lake surface like a piece of ink-colored glass, reflecting a mysterious and dark light. That slender figure's clothes fluttered, their silver mask upon their face reflecting the bright moon and mirroring the lake, as if an immortal had descended from the heavens.

Gu Ling saw the regret in her expression and asked why.

Su Liang giggled, "It's a pity there's no camera. Otherwise, I would definitely take a lot of pictures of the Great God."

Gu Ling knew what a camera was, and upon hearing this, the corner of his lips curled up in a barely discernible smile. But he listened as Su Liang continued, "If I make a photo album and sell it, it will definitely be in high demand." Gu Ling snorted lightly, "I am not a celebrity."

"I was joking. But I really do want a camera." Su Liang laughed as she sat down on the boat, squinting her eyes and letting the night breeze brush her face. It felt so comfortable, giving a sense of freedom as if she could drift with the wind.

Gu Ling put away the bamboo pole and sat down at the other end of the boat. They spent the night boating on the lake, surrounded by silence, only hearing the chirping insects, birdsong, and the sound of water between the boat.

"You can paint." Gu Ling said.

Su Liang shook her head, "You, Great God, have amazing painting skills. I won't embarrass myself."

At the time Su Liang told Lin Bojun he was to be a father, Gu Ling was nearby, so there was no need to ask Su Liang why she didn't enter the palace.

"Tell a story." Gu Ling said.

Su Liang shook her head slightly, “No.” She wanted to enjoy this peaceful and leisurely feeling, not wanting to think about anything, emptying her mind.

Gu Ling didn’t insist either, and the two let the small boat drift quietly in the night breeze without talking.

That is, until Su Liang yawned...

Gu Ling got up, propped up the bamboo pole, and reached the shore in a moment.

Su Liang got on the horse, and Gu Ling’s gaze was fixed on the position behind her, but he said nothing and disappeared into the night.

At the Mid-Autumn Festival banquet, the Empress Dowager and Empress were ill and did not appear. The Imperial Concubine Xiao sat beside Duanmu Yi.

Sixth Princess Duanmu Qianqian had not fully recovered and also did not show up. The two countries had arranged the marriage alliance to take place after the new year.

The next day, Su Liang went to the palace to return the books she had read. She would not borrow any new books for the time being, as Duanmu Yi had sent her two big boxes of medical books from the sealed prince’s mansion last time, which would last her until the new year.

She chose today to return, and just two books, with the intention of asking Duanmu Yi for leave to return to her hometown.

After returning the books to the library pavilion, Su Liang requested an audience with Duanmu Yi and saw him very quickly.

“Was General Lin alright last night?” Duanmu Yi asked with a smile.

Su Liang shook her head, “He was fine, just a little too excited. I previously mentioned to Your Majesty about relocating the graves. I found someone to check the dates, and the day after tomorrow is the right day. I came to Your Majesty to ask for leave and request your approval.”

Duanmu Yi frowned, “You’ve already picked the date before telling me?”

In terms of procedure, Su Liang was indeed at fault. As a salaried doctor specifically serving the Royal Family, she needed to arrange her leave in advance.

However, Su Liang wanted to see just how “good” Duanmu Yi was to her.

As a result, Duanmu Yi’s face quickly cleared, “Fine, since you mentioned it before, and I agreed at that time, only saying that you should wait until the weather cooled, now is a good time. Since the date has been set, it would be unreasonable for me not to approve.”

“Thank you, Your Majesty.” Su Liang expressed her gratitude.

Duanmu Yi said, “Although you have resigned from the post of General, it is only temporary. If needed in the future, I will reinstate you at any time. This time, I will assign a team of soldiers for your disposal.”

Su Liang hurriedly declined, “Your Majesty, I am going to my hometown for a funeral and do not require soldiers to accompany me.”

“It is for your protection.” Duanmu Yi insisted.

Su Liang persisted in refusing, "If someone really wanted to assassinate me, ordinary soldiers would only increase casualties, which is something I absolutely do not want to see. I have already hired several skilled guards to protect me secretly."

"Oh? Is that so?" Duanmu Yi nodded, "That's good then."

Just as Su Liang thought Duanmu Yi was giving up, he called for someone else.

Su Liang didn't know what Duanmu Yi was up to, so she waited for a while, then a young girl came in.

Gu Ling was someone Su Liang had seen before, that day in the Heavenly Prison, when Duanmu Yi brought the female guard to take Su Liang's place, her name was Silver Flower.

After Silver Flower respectfully saluted, Duanmu Yi smiled and looked at Su Liang, "You should always have someone around to serve you, so she will follow you from now on!"

Silver Flower immediately knelt down in front of Su Liang and called her Master.

Su Liang was dumbfounded, suspecting that this female guard was the person Duanmu Yi was really trying to plant by her side, and that the talk of soldiers and horses was just a smokescreen.

"Your Majesty, this humble servant is not accustomed to being served..." Su Liang carefully chose her words.

"Then get used to it." Duanmu Yi said without arguing, "You are a talented person, you cannot be wasted too much time on trivial matters, it would delay your reading, don't you think?"

With these words, Su Liang really couldn't refute.

Thus, when they left the palace, Su Liang had one more attendant by her side.

Outside the palace, Su Liang had gotten on her horse before realizing that Silver Flower had none. She dismounted again and held the reins, intending to ask some basic information first.

Silver Flower urged Su Liang to ride ahead, saying she would go to the Su Mansion by herself. Seeing Su Liang shake her head, she took the reins, "This slave will do it."

Su Liang looked at the mechanical reverence on her face and asked, "Do you have an older sister named Gold Flower?"

Silver Flower was visibly taken aback, then nodded, "Yes, she's no longer with us."

"I'm sorry." Su Liang asked something else, "Were you originally his Majesty's secret guard?"

Silver Flower nodded, "Yes, I only took over my master's position last year, and haven't had a chance to do anything yet."

"Took over?" Su Liang was curious.

But Silver Flower remained silent, not daring to say more.

Su Liang guessed that it was something outsiders shouldn't know, so she didn't ask further, "Your martial arts skills must be quite impressive. Once we return to the mansion, we can exchange pointers."

They passed by the Wan Family Restaurant and heard Zhengzheng's voice, so Su Liang took Silver Flower in with her.

Wan Hui was curious about the stranger who appeared next to Su Liang, thinking that she was her friend, and smiled, "Sister Su, why don't you introduce this sister to us?"

Silver Flower lowered her head in fear and took a step back.

Wan Hui was stunned, then heard Su Liang say, "His Majesty kindly arranged a guard for me, her name is Silver Flower. By the way, what's your last name?"

Silver Flower shook her head, "This slave has no surname, please grant me one, Master."

Su Liang frowned, "That's not what I meant."

"This slave hopes the Master will grant me a name." Silver Flower looked seriously at Su Liang.

Su Liang thought for a moment and said, "Jin Yin Hua, also known as Ren

Dong, how about you be called Ren Dong from now on?"

Wan Hui smiled, "This name sounds nice." However, the fact that the emperor had sent a guard to Su Liang made her feel uneasy.

Su Liang was also helpless, as it was obviously a spy planted by him.

Back at the mansion, Su Liang asked Qi Jun to arrange a place for Ren Dong to live, then returned to Yuanming Pavilion by herself.

Pushing open the door to Gu Ling's room, Su Liang entered and sighed, "I can't live like this anymore. His Majesty sent me a female guard and I couldn't refuse."

Gu Ling calmly replied, "Tonight, you will face an assassination attempt."

Su Liang looked confused, "I have bad luck? Someone wants to kill me?"

Gu Ling shook his head, "Me."

Su Liang caught on, "You, tonight, are going to assassinate me?"

"Yes. The female guard will be injured, and you will be traveling soon, so you won't have to take her." Gu Ling said.

Su Liang's eyes brightened, but then she frowned, "But if you defeat her, you'll have to seriously injure me, otherwise, the assassination will seem fake."

"You can use poison to drive me off." Gu Ling said.

Su Liang thought it was workable, "Good idea.. Let's do it!"

Chapter 248: 248. Awkward Chili Pepper

When Su Liang brought Ren Dong back, she said that she wanted to compete with Ren Dong. After they returned home, drank a cup of tea, and Gu Ling came up with a plan to get rid of Ren Dong, Su Liang had Qi Jun call Ren Dong to the training ground in the back garden.

“This is a competition, forget our relationship for now,” Su Liang said seriously, “If you can’t even defeat me, then it won’t be appropriate for me to protect you in times of danger. Don’t you think?”

Ren Dong’s face, which was originally mechanically respectful, changed slightly upon hearing these words, nodded, “Master is absolutely right, this servant will do her best not to disappoint you.”

“That’s for the best,” Su Liang nodded and assumed a fighting position with a longsword in hand, just like Ren Dong.

Gu Ling hid himself in a lush tree ahead of time. From the outside, his figure was completely invisible, but he could see everything happening in the training ground.

Qi Jun and Bai Xiaohu were the audience, quietly discussing the upcoming competition and unanimously believing that Ren Dong could not be a match for Su Liang.

“But after all, she is a guard by the Emperor’s side, her strength must be quite strong,” said Qi Jun, looking at Ren Dong, whose every word and action bore the marks of someone who had served the Royal Family and was very curious how the female guards in the palace were selected.

Bai Xiaohu asked Qi Jun, “Will this new elder sister go back to the village with

Qi Jun smiled, “That’s hard to say.”

Having known Su Liang for so long, she had never allowed anyone other than

Ning Jing to truly live with her, including Lin Xueqing. Ren Dong was the Emperor’s person, it was impossible for her to be loyal to Su Liang immediately after being assigned to her side today.

Qi Jun believed that Su Liang would find a way to make Ren Dong leave.

The competition began.

After Qi Jun saw Su Liang and Ren Dong exchange a few moves, he silently straightened his back. As expected, Ren Dong was not weak at all.

If one overlooked Ren Dong’s similarity in stature to Su Liang, her martial arts style was more like a man’s, with her slender limbs appearing very powerful.

As for Su Liang, she had perfectly combined strength and agility in her martial arts.

From Su Liang’s point of view, compared to those like Mu Ya who had once fought her, Ren Dong was more focused on the oppressiveness of martial arts itself, her goal was clear, not just to win, but even revealed an undisguisable killing intent.

However, Ren Dong was sent to “protect” Su Liang, with no grudges or grievances, so naturally, she would not want to kill Su Liang. She was probably trained as a killer, like the sharp blade of a sword, as long as she meets someone, she would only have a hard and sharp attack.

After half an hour of fighting, both of them had expended quite a lot of energy, but there was still no decisive winner.

As the battle went on, Su Liang started feeling that, in terms of personality, Ren Dong was more of an assassin than Yan Shiba.

Another quarter of an hour later, Su Liang called for a halt.

Ren Dong was able to be by the Emperor’s side. Considering Ren Dong’s mention of “taking over,” Su Liang couldn’t help but speculate if there were people who specifically selected and trained such secret guards for the Emperor.

After this competition, Su Liang felt that rather than being a secret guard, Ren Dong was more like a palace-trained killer. Perhaps, if the Royal Family wanted to secretly eliminate someone, they would send people like her?

Su Liang was curious about Ren Dong’s background and her original mission, but now wasn’t the right time to ask since Ren Dong would not tell her.

However, Ren Dong did not think it was a draw. “Master is proficient in various weapons; I am far inferior.”

Su Liang chuckled lightly, “In a real battle, there is no chance to change weapons. ”

“Master, can this servant stay?” Ren Dong asked respectfully.

Su Liang nodded, “You can.” But she wasn’t sincere. Facing Duanmu Yi’s spy, she had no other choice but to say that.

Bai Xiaohu and Qi Jun began to cheer.

“That was amazing!” Qi Jun said with a beaming smile, “I didn’t expect Miss

Ren Dong to be so powerful!”

Ren Dong thought Qi Jun was Su Liang’s servant, but listening to his address to Su Liang and herself, it was obvious that he was not.

“There’s nothing to do today, go pack your things, if you need anything, just ask Qi Jun,” Su Liang instructed Ren Dong.

“Yes, Master,” Ren Dong bowed again.

Qi Jun left with Ren Dong and Bai Xiaohu asked Ren Dong curiously where she had learned her martial arts. Ren Dong only said she had learned them from her master but did not reveal who he was.

With Su Liang left alone on the training ground, Gu Ling leaped down from above, holding a tree branch in his hand, and began attacking Su Liang.

Su Liang had just fought a match and was feeling tired; it didn't take long for Gu Ling's tree branch to hit her arm.

It didn't hurt much, as she took a pill to help her recover and soon regained much of her strength.

The battle didn't stop; Gu Ling used the same swordsmanship as Su Liang had used against Ren Dong, and Su Liang tried to imitate Ren Dong's moves.

Analyzing each other's strengths and weaknesses during fights had always been their habit.

Su Liang lost without a doubt because Gu Ling was very familiar with her moves, but it was not easy for her to learn Ren Dong's swordsmanship quickly.

They rested for a moment and switched positions; Gu Ling began to imitate Ren Dong's swordsmanship and attacked Su Liang.

Su Liang sighed in her heart, 'Who can take care of this monster?' , and then focused on handling the attack.

Qi Jun returned to Yuanming Pavilion with lunch from a restaurant after arranging Ren Dong's accommodations. He found Su Liang had just returned from the training ground with her long sword.

Qi Jun hesitated, "Miss Su, have you been practicing martial arts all this time?"

Su Liang nodded, "I didn't do well in that fight, so I've been reflecting on it." After receiving Gu Ling's guidance, she felt that her chances of winning against Ren Dong would be much higher next time.

Qi Jun admired Su Liang's diligence, "Miss Su, you are too hardworking. I am truly ashamed."

"Your strongest point is not martial arts," Su Liang said.

Qi Jun knew that Su Liang was being sincere, but at the same time, he became more aware of his own deficiencies.

Su Liang took the meal box from him, "See if you can find out more about Ren Dong. "

Qi Jun pondered, "She is tight-lipped; I doubt we can find out much by questioning her."

"Think of a way," Su Liang said.

Qi Jun asked weakly, "Miss Su, you don't mean for me to seduce her, right?"

Su Liang was taken aback, "Is that what you were thinking? Well, sure, you can try."

Qi Jun's expression became awkward, "I was just joking; please don't take it seriously, Miss Su."

"I was joking too. Just take care of Little Tiger; don't worry about anything else." Su Liang entered the Yuanming Pavilion after finishing her sentence.

Qi Jun thought of Ren Dong's stoic face and shook his head, "Those who come from the palace must be completely devoted to serving their master, devoid of love."

After freshening up, Su Liang ate lunch with Gu Ling and discussed Ren Dong again.

Su Liang voiced her speculation about Ren Dong possibly being a “royal assassin”, and Gu Ling nodded slightly, “Perhaps.”

“She’s just carrying out orders. Could our plan end up harming her?” Su Liang sighed, “What if she’s sent back and gets punished? I think the emperor must have more than one person like her by his side.”

Gu Ling’s expression remained indifferent, “She will die within three days.”

Su Liang was stunned, “Has her brow turned black already? Was it like that when she arrived or was it after we discussed trying to get rid of her?”

“The latter,” Gu Ling said.

Su Liang frowned, “That means she really will be killed by us. She won’t have a chance to return to her original status once she leaves here.”

Gu Ling remained silent, essentially confirming Su Liang’s view.

Seeing Ren Dong’s black brow meant that fate wanted him to intervene. Now that it tied directly with their actions, their original plan was no longer feasible.

The reason why both of them didn’t think that the black mist appearing on Ren Dong’s brow meant she would kill someone she shouldn’t within three days was that she would only act on the instructions of “Master”.

Now Ren Dong’s actual master is Duanmu Yi, and her nominal master is Su Liang. Since Duanmu Yi had given Ren Dong to Su Liang, he wouldn’t temporarily assign her tasks unrelated to Su Liang, and Su Liang wouldn’t let Ren Dong kill people who shouldn’t be killed either.

Unless Ren Dong planned to kill Su Liang within the three days. But if that were the case, Gu Ling should have seen a black mist on Su Liang’s brow. Cases of preventing murder are rare, and in such situations, Gu Ling would definitely see the murderer first, and the person who would become the victim would be farther away from him.

“No wonder during the martial arts competition, I felt like she was starting to worry that I’d let her go,” Su Liang said helplessly. “What should we do? We can’t let someone be harmed just because she’s not trustworthy.”

Gu Ling’s expression remained calm, “Win her over.”

“But she must be a person with a strong will. If the attempt to win her over fails, it would backfire,” Su Liang said.

“You’ll find a way,” Gu Ling expressed confidence in Su Liang.

Su Liang pondered, “The Beauty Scheme...”

Gu Ling’s hand holding chopsticks froze, his face turning slightly dark, “What did you say?”

Su Liang blurted out, “I was wondering if Qi Jun had taken a fancy to Ren Dong since he mentioned the Beauty Scheme... Great God, you just picked up a chili pepper.”

Gu Ling stared at the red chili pepper that had reached his mouth, and the atmosphere was inexplicably awkward.

Su Liang smiled, "I didn't expect Great God to have such a unique taste today. I wonder how spicy this chili pepper is, why don't you give it a try, Great God."

Taking her words to heart, Gu Ling indeed put the chili pepper into his mouth. The moment the chili pepper broke, the intense spiciness went straight to his head, changing his expression at once.

Su Liang was only teasing, not expecting Gu Ling to actually eat it. Seeing this, she quickly handed over an empty bowl, "Spit it out quickly!"

She put down the bowl and picked up a teapot, "Rinse your mouth, drink more water to alleviate it."

Gu Ling spat out the unforgettable chili pepper and drank the whole pot of water, but his face was still slightly flushed.

This dish was made according to Su Liang's recipe, cooked by Wan Family Restaurant. The chef added a red chili pepper as decoration on his own initiative. When the waiter served the dish, he would remind the guest that it was not for eating, only for decoration...

"Great God, it's good that you want to try everything, but there are some things you just can't eat," Su Liang said, "educating" Gu Ling earnestly. "What if it was poison

Gu Ling's expression was clearly calm, but his slightly flushed face seemed out of place.

"You look like you're drunk," Su Liang said.

"I'm not drunk," Gu Ling shook his head.

Su Liang also shook her head, "That's what every drunk person says."

"The food is getting cold," Gu Ling lowered his head, indicating that he couldn't chat anymore, and began eating.

After the meal, Su Liang cooked mung beans and had Qi Jun get some shaved ice. She cooked the milk that Wan Hui had sent in the morning into milk tea, scooped out a small amount to cool before adding tea leaves, then added it to the green bean ice.

When Su Liang carried the glazed glass cup into Gu Ling's room, she saw his hands hanging down and suspicious traces of water on his face.

Su Liang approached, and Gu Ling raised his hands, placing two ice cubes on a plate on the table.

Su Liang stifled a laugh, "You can wrap the ice cube in a handkerchief before applying it to your face."

"Hmm, what's this?" Gu Ling was good at changing the subject today.

Su Liang placed the green bean ice in front of him, "This is for you to cool down, just apply it to your face."

Gu Ling gave Su Liang a chilly glance, took up the spoon, tasted it, and nodded slightly, "Not bad."

“Great God, you eat first and think about how to solve Ren Dong’s problem. I’ll go cook the milk tea,” Su Liang left as soon as the words were spoken.

Gu Ling muttered barely audibly, “Eating the wrong thing can also have its gains...”

If Su Liang knew what Gu Ling was thinking right now, she would definitely knock the large spoon in her hand onto his forehead.

The milk tea was almost ready when Su Liang heard Xing Yusheng’s voice, “Su Liang, what are you making? It smells so good!”

Following that was Lin Xueqing’s cheerful voice, “Sister Su!”

So, after a while, Gu Ling was eating green bean ice upstairs, while Su Liang was entertaining friends with afternoon tea downstairs. In addition to her homemade milk tea, there were also desserts brought by Lin Xueqing, made by her sister-in-law. She and Xing Yusheng had visited Qin Yujin at Lin Mansion earlier in the day and came straight here after lunch.

“Father is overjoyed, and second brother is happy like a fool.” Lin Xueqing laughed.

“My grandmother has been nagging about holding her great-grandchild, but when I think about how Xueqing will ignore me after we have a child, I think it’s better to wait a bit longer.” Xing Yusheng willingly shared his thoughts.

“Let’s just let things happen naturally.” Lin Xueqing, on the other hand, was quite looking forward to having a child, as she loved children very much.

Su Liang had made quite a lot of milk tea, so she had Ren Dong deliver some to Wan Hui and Zhengzheng at the restaurant.

When Ren Dong returned, she reported at Yuanming Pavilion, “Master, Miss Wan and Young Master are not at the restaurant, so this servant has sent it to their home.”

“Alright, you can go find Qi Jun now.” Su Liang said.

After Ren Dong left, Xing Yusheng asked who she was, and Lin Xueqing was also curious about the sudden appearance of a female guard at Su Liang’s place.

When they heard that it was the emperor who had sent her, both Xing Yusheng and Lin Xueqing frowned.

“What does the emperor mean by this?” Xing Yusheng instinctively felt that something was amiss, “Placing someone by your side, is he trying to monitor you?”

With a relaxed expression, Su Liang said, “Why worry? I’m not a spy and I’ve done nothing wrong.”

Lin Xueqing took Su Liang’s hand, “Why don’t I give you a reliable maid, Sister Su? Keep the one from the palace farther away from you.”

Su Liang shook her head with a smile, “No need. I’ve got it under control.”

Xing Yusheng sighed slightly, "In any case, Qi Jun is now at your disposal, and he's quite happy about it. As for his marriage and such, you can handle it."

"Alright." Su Liang agreed. If she had no choice but to keep Ren Dong, she would need Qi Jun to maintain a balance, in order to avoid having to rely on Ren Dong for everything. Besides, Qi Jun was truly reliable, and Su Liang was familiar with him, so she did not refuse.

"Sister Su, what kind of tea leaves did you use for this milk tea? It's so fragrant. I want to make some for my grandmother, father, elder brother, second brother, elder sister-in-law, second sister-in-law, grandfather and uncles and aunts!" Lin Xueqing said.

It was clear that she got along very well with her two sisters-in-law, Madam Xing, and the Qin family.

Su Liang directly handed Lin Xueqing a jar of tea leaves.

Although not Da Hong Pao, these tea leaves were only second to Da Hong Pao in terms of value. A pot of this tea, already brewed, sold for a hundred silver taels in the tea house of the Ning family in the capital city.

Lin Xueqing felt it was too extravagant, but Su Liang assured her that it was a gift and not to worry, as people don't drink milk tea every day, and who says tea leaves can only have one way of being consumed?

When it was time to leave, Xing Yusheng finally remembered the important matter, "Everything is arranged, and we'll be heading to Wangxiang Mountain early tomorrow morning. Qi Yan will take you there."

Today was the sixteenth day of the eighth month, and Su Liang would set off with the coffins of the Su family the day after tomorrow to return to her hometown. Tomorrow, they would move the grave.

Su Liang had invited the monks from Huguo Temple to chant scriptures, and she also had to go burn paper offerings. Qi Jun had prepared all the necessary items.

After thanking Xing Yusheng, he and his wife left. Su Liang went upstairs and heard Gu Ling saying, "I want to drink milk tea."

"If you can think of a solution to Ren Dong's problem, you can have some milk tea. If not, then no." Su Liang indicated that all the milk tea had been shared and Gu Ling would have to wait for a new pot to be brewed, even though he had already made green bean ice for him.

Gu Ling nodded, "I've thought of a solution."

"Alright then." Su Liang took the rest of the milk which was originally meant for making dessert and brewed a small pot of milk tea especially for Gu Ling.

After Gu Ling finished drinking it slowly, Su Liang asked about Ren Dong's problem again. He wiped the corner of his mouth, and calmly said four words, "Act according to circumstances."

Unable to bear the deception, Su Liang picked up the empty wooden fruit plate beside her and knocked it on Gu Ling's forehead,

Without any change in expression or sign of embarrassment, the suddenly hit Gu Ling nodded slightly and said, "The milk tea is good, try using Da Hong Pao next time.. "

Chapter 249: 249. The Counterattack of the Bootlicker

Rendong offered to attend Su Liang's daily routines, saying she didn't know many things, but she could learn.

Su Liang's response was that she liked quietness, not used to having people by her side all the time, and Rendong was a guard, not a maid.

After Rendong left, Qi Jun asked Su Liang about the division of labor, as they were both guards.

Su Liang smirked, "Her martial arts skills are higher than yours, right? From now on, she will be the guard, and you will do the maid's tasks. How about that?"

Qi Jun's mouth twitched, "Miss Su...you must be joking with your subordinate, right?"

"I trust you, but I also need to be cautious about her. So, your duties will be determined according to the situation." Su Liang said.

Qi Jun got serious, "I understand."

The next day, just as dawn broke, Su Liang arrived at Wangxiang Mountain.

Four monks had come to Huguo Temple, the youngest of which was Chengyun, who had also helped Su Liang invite the other monks to recite scriptures. In the past, Huguo Temple did not refuse such tasks, but it was difficult for ordinary people to invite them.

Su Liang explained the whole story, and her filial piety touched Chengyun. She also donated a large sum of money for oil to Huguo Temple on behalf of Su

Yuanzhou.

Su Liang burnt paper money and kowtowed in front of Su Yuanzhou's grave, whispering in her heart: I have avenged your deep hatred, please rest in peace.

Su Liang also burnt paper money for the other Su family members, and at the right time, Xing Yusheng helped her by inviting people to dig up Su Yuanzhou's grave first.

Finally, Su Liang stood in front of "her own" tombstone, looking at the words "Tomb of Su Liang" inscribed on it, and let out a soft sigh.

"Miss Su, how do you want to deal with this place?" Qi Yan asked.

Su Liang's face was calm, "Since my tombstone is already engraved, and there is a coffin, I will take it back to my hometown and be with my family."

Qi Yan frowned. Su Liang was still alive, but she had a tomb, which was actually very unlucky.

However, since Su Liang had always been strong-willed and courageous, Qi Yan didn't say anything more, thinking that Su Liang keeping this tomb might be a reminder for her not to take things for granted and be cautious.

When the sun rose, Su Liang climbed to the top of Wangxiang Mountain and looked into the distance to the north. Tomorrow she would set off for Su Village, but because she had important matters to attend to this time, she didn't feel excited, on the contrary, she felt very calm.

She looked back, and Rendong was standing quietly not far away, her eyes barely moving, like a statue.

Su Liang gestured for her to come over.

Rendong went to Su Liang's side, "Do you have any orders, Master?"

"When His Majesty arranged for you to follow me, what did he tell you?" Su Liang asked.

Rendong reverently said, "His Majesty commanded me to use my life to protect you, and I will do my best to accomplish any task you assign."

"In that case, I want you to help me kill someone." Su Liang said, turning her gaze to the south.

Rendong's face remained unchanged, "Who does Master want me to kill?"

Su Liang spoke slowly and gently, "Man Ya, the imperial concubine of Yin Country's crown prince."

Rendong frowned, "But Master's journey is imminent, and if I go south, I won't be able to stay by your side."

"She sent a spy to assassinate me before, and even almost killed my friend." Su Liang sighed softly, "It was only recently that I discovered she was the real culprit behind a certain poison, and I didn't tell His Majesty because I didn't want to cause conflict between the two countries. But she won't let the matter rest, and neither will I."

"Can I do this after you return safely to the capital from Bei'an County?" Rendong was still unwilling to leave, "His Majesty specifically instructed me to protect your safety during your travels, and I cannot neglect my duty."

"What if I insist?" Su Liang looked at Ren Dong indifferently, "I feel that having you by my side and having you eliminate those who try to kill me in the dark are essentially the same thing, both for my own protection." Ren Dong's complexion was clearly wrong, "But..."

"But what? You are my subordinate, but I can't command you?" Su Liang's expression was unhappy.

Ren Dong took a step back, bent her knee, and knelt down, "Please forgive me, Master! Don't drive this subordinate away!"

Su Liang's eyes narrowed slightly, 'What do you mean, I'm driving you away? I'm just asking you to do something. Do you mean that, apart from following me all the time and not letting me leave your sight, you can't do anything else?'

Ren Dong's expression stiffened, "No, that's not it."

"Then, you shall head south today. When I return to the capital, I want to see MO Yu's head. Can you do it?" Su Liang asked.

Only then did Ren Dong nod.

"Get up, go back and pack up. If you need money, just ask Qi Jun." Su Liang said.

Ren Dong got up and left. Before going down the mountain, she looked back at Su Liang, who picked up a stone from the ground.

Having Ren Dong go to Yin Country to kill MO Yu was an idea Gu Ling suggested to Su Liang that morning.

They discovered yesterday that if they found a way to send Ren Dong back to Duanmu Yi, Duanmu Yi would not let her live.

But Su Liang asking Ren Dong to go on a distant mission did not mean that she would not let her return, in which case Ren Dong would not be in danger of losing her life.

Su Liang wanted revenge on MO Yu because MO Yu had sent Qiu Ming to poison Su Liang and almost killed Gao Jiabao.

It wasn't necessary to go now, but it was better to get rid of such a hidden threat as soon as possible. They hadn't acted before because neither Su Liang nor Gu Ling could conveniently leave on a long journey.

It was fitting to let Ren Dong go. She appeared to be an assassin cultivated by the royal family, about as strong as Su Liang and naturally stronger than MO Yu, so she could do it.

At this moment, Gu Ling was secretly following Ren Dong to see if she would secretly return to the Imperial Palace to report to Duanmu Yi, and what Duanmu Yi's reaction would be.

If Ren Dong didn't go, that would naturally be good. If she went to the palace, it would prove that her true master was still Duanmu Yi. In fact, the latter was quite obvious. Su Liang allowing Ren Dong to leave her side could cause suspicion from Duanmu Yi.

But in many cases, if Su Liang adhered only to established rules, such as the rule that a subject must obey the emperor's words, it would not be good for her, especially in the situation where she suspected that Duanmu Yi had ulterior motives for her. Breaking the rules and being "willful" would help her test Duanmu Yi's bottom line.

An hour later, Ren Dong was kneeling in front of Duanmu Yi.

Duanmu Yi's face was gloomy, "Waste! How did I tell you?"

Ren Dong looked terrified, "Your Majesty, please forgive me. This slave servant is incompetent. It is only because if this servant refuses Miss Su's request, I won't be able to stay by her side, so I had no choice but to agree."

“MO Yu?” Duanmu Yi’s eyes flickered, “So, the mastermind behind that incident was actually MO Yu.” Suddenly, his expression changed, “When you left Su Mansion you weren’t followed by anyone, were you?”

Ren Dong shook her head, “This slave servant first left the city and came back, and did not notice anyone following.”

Duanmu Yi snorted coldly, “That girl always has secrets hidden, which is why I sent you. But she is too cautious, knowing that you are watching her, so she found things for you to do far away from her. And, unfortunately, it’s something that needs to be done...”

Not daring to breathe, Ren Dong listened as Duanmu Yi continued, “Her trip to relocate the grave and return to her hometown is traceable. What you need to do next is show her your loyalty. You should go to Yin Country! If you cannot bring back MO Yu’s head, you and your brother will hit the road together!” Ren Dong’s body trembled, “Yes, this slave servant obeys!”

Gu Ling saw Ren Dong sneak into the Imperial Palace from an inconspicuous place and then come out, heading towards the city gate.

During broad daylight, there were masters near Duanmu Yi, so Gu Ling did not follow into the palace and thus did not know what Duanmu Yi had said to Ren Dong.

But Ren Dong’s actions were all within the expectations of Su Liang and him.

This could not be considered a betrayal, as Ren Dong was originally a spy, and not on their side.

However, if Duanmu Yi wanted Ren Dong to gain Su Liang’s trust, he would give her the opportunity to prove her loyalty.

In the evening, Su Liang returned home, having made all the arrangements for the journey.

Qi Jun had originally planned to keep a close eye on Ren Dong, but unexpectedly, Su Liang sent her away to take care of other matters. Qi Jun was not sure what those matters were, and Ren Dong didn’t come to him for any “expenses”.

Xing Yusheng, who came to set up for Su Liang, lamented, “I would really like to take Xueqing back to Qiuming Manor for a while, and then visit Xuanbei City, but my grandmother is in the capital city.”

As Xing Ji couldn’t return for the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Old Lady Xing was already missing her son. It would be unacceptable for her if Xing Yusheng also left the capital city.

“There will be opportunities later,” Su Liang said.

Lin Xueqing hugged Su Liang’s arm and asked when she would be back.

Shaking her head, Su Liang replied, “Hard to say. When the tragedy happened at home, I didn’t have the chance to mourn for my family. After the burial in my hometown, I want to stay there for a few days.”

“I know, Sister Su doesn’t like the capital city,” Lin Xueqing sighed, “Little Tiger told me Sister Su had a lot of fun in the village.”

“I’ll invite you to visit later,” Su Liang said with a smile.

Lin Xueqing was looking forward to it, but she wasn't a capricious person, so she could only say, "I hope there's a chance."

Xing Yusheng suddenly mentioned Gu Ling, "He and Nian Jincheng still haven't made any moves, they might not be planning to return. It's better this way."

"Who knows," Su Liang shook her head, "Maybe they'll show up in a few days. I really want to see what kind of beauty the legendary number one beauty in the capital city is."

"I haven't seen her either," said Xing Yusheng.

Lin Xueqing raised her hand, "Neither have I."

Gu Ling who was eating a single meal upstairs: Already looking forward to how Su Xiaoliang would perform her "love at first sight" for him, the deeper the acting, the better...

On the eighteenth of August, it was a good day for a journey.

Many people in the capital knew that Su Liang was going to move the graves of her family back to their hometown, and they all praised her filial piety.

Su Liang had Qi Jun prepare two carriages; she rode in one alone while Qi Jun accompanied Bai Xiaohu in the other.

The workers who had previously helped were hired by Xing Yusheng, and this time those who went to Bei'an County were arranged by the Ning family's steward. In addition, Su Liang paid handsomely for escort masters to protect them.

The most famous escort agency in the capital city, Changfeng Escort Agency, took the deal. Both the young owner and the main escort of the agency set out for the task.

During the journey, Su Liang couldn't help praising the "wealth and ease," as there were always people arranged by the Ning family's steward to make food and lodging preparations in advance.

Gu Ling was unable to get close to Su Liang during her journey, as there were many watchful eyes around her.

The two could only meet at night. When Su Liang was staying at an inn, Gu Ling would sneak into the room she was going to stay in and wait for her to come.

On the first day of the journey, nothing happened. At dinner, Su Liang said she wanted to eat alone and had the meal sent to her room.

After the servants had left, Gu Ling appeared. Su Liang carried Gu Ling's utensils in her suitcase, the two ate together, and Su Liang told him about the contents of the medical books she had read during the day.

In this way, Su Liang consolidated her memory through storytelling, teaching Gu Ling at the same time. Occasionally, Gu Ling would raise some doubts, and the two would discuss and deepen their understanding, learning and progressing together.

When Su Liang took a bath, Gu Ling left, but actually did not completely leave, he hid nearby to prevent anyone from intruding.

When it was time to sleep, Gu Ling and Su Liang decided who would get the bed and who would sleep on the ground by playing rock-paper-scissors, as they had agreed. Su Liang insisted that Gu Ling shouldn't have to sleep on the floor since he was there to protect her.

But a problem arose on the first night.

For some reason, after many rounds, they always had the same hand gesture.

Gu Ling, who had long since figured out Su Liang's micro-expressions, said calmly, "With this outcome, you sleep on the bed."

"Why not you?" Su Liang countered.

Gu Ling reasoned, "It's cold. You can't be freezing. Save some ginger date brown sugar water."

Su Liang: ...She couldn't rebut that.

So it was settled. Before going to bed, Su Liang continued to tell stories to Gu Ling. The Water Margin was almost finished, and Gu Ling had drawn dozens of pictures to go along with it.

After finishing the story and closing her eyes, Su Liang suddenly remembered

Yan Shiba, "It has been a while since the Great God sent a message to Yanyun

Building. Why hasn't she sent any news? Did something happen to her?"

Gu Ling said indifferently, "If something happened, she brought it upon herself."

Su Liang sighed softly. Yan Shiba had a quirky personality and definitely wasn't a good person, and she and Su Liang were not true friends. Su Liang owed her a favor, but she didn't owe Yan Shiba anything. Su Liang was more curious about Yan Shiba rather than worried about her.

At this moment, in a valley near Huguo Temple, a bloody Yan Shiba, with red eyes, stood unsteadily with the support of her sword, her injured left knee trembling uncontrollably.

The eight black-clad assassins surrounding her did not make a move.

The pale, sinister man opposite Yan Shiba was her shadow since childhood, Yan Shiqi.

Yan Shiqi had one blind eye covered with black cloth. His left hand was raised, and four fingers were severed. Wearing a black jade thumb ring that symbolized the identity of the owner of Yanyun Building, his gloomy laughter was especially eerie in the valley.

"Eighteen, are you going to the capital to wait for Gu Ling?" Yan Shiqi sneered, "I've been so good to you; my eyes and heart are full of you. Why don't you love me? I even risked my life for you, but you only treat me like a dog! When did you meet Gu Ling? What do you love him for? Does he know who you are?"

Yan Shiba glanced in the direction of Huguo Temple and cursed loudly, "Of course I like Gu Ling, he's an immortal from heaven, and you're just mud on the ground! Don't even dream about making me like you!"

Yan Shiqi's eyes narrowed viciously, and he coldly snorted, "Fine, very well! Since that is the case, I will take you back first, then 'invite' him to see you when Gu Ling becomes a Marquis. I can't help but want to treat you well. Why don't you thank me now?"

“One-eyed blind, you damn whore! I’ll thank your eight generations of ancestors!” Yan Shiba shouted angrily, charging at Yan Shiqi with her sword.

Not too long after, the severely injured and unconscious Yan Shiba was taken away by Yan Shiqi, entering the capital of Qian Country, and the valley went quiet once again.

As dawn approached, Yan Shiba woke up and stared at the ceiling, mumbling incoherently, “Ning Jing, that pretty white face can’t possibly die. Without him, Gu Ling would have to appear. He is him. You sly girl, you’re playing me. I’ll get back at you someday...”

Yan Shiqi suddenly appeared and asked coldly, “What did you just say?”

Yan Shiba laughed maliciously with her pale face, “I miss my lover so much that my heart aches. When will you help me find him?”

Yan Shiqi couldn’t contain his anger and grabbed Yan Shiba’s neck, almost choking her to death before letting go.

Yan Shiba coughed violently, and said intermittently, “You really are... so damn cheap... even now... you can’t bear... to kill me... ha ha ha ha!”

“You wait. When I find Gu Ling, I will dismember him into ten thousand pieces in front of you!” Yan Shiqi left in anger.

Yan Shiba kept laughing and even laughed until tears came out, “He’s now sleeping with my sister. You go and find him. You go and find your own death, hahaha... ah, you wicked girl, you’re making me so angry....”

Chapter 250: 250. Take some more time to nurture it

“You still like Gu Ling?” Yan Shiqi coldly stared at the girl dressed in plain clothes kneeling at his feet.

The girl was massaging Yan Shiqi’s leg and froze upon hearing his question, opting to remain silent.

Yan Shiqi angrily slapped her to the ground and stomped on her. Rage consuming his remaining eye as he yelled, “Just because Gu Ling is handsome? You women are all cheap! Cheap!”

The girl slowly crawled up and knelt in front of Yan Shiqi. She spoke in a hoarse voice, “Master, all I feel towards Gu Ling now is hatred. He’s a heartless man who doesn’t care for anyone.”

Yan Shiqi snorted, “So, if he merely beckons you, you’d pounce at him? But he would never beckon you. Nian Ruting, if I were to capture Gu Ling and have you kill him with your own hands, would you dare to?”

Once the renowned Nian Family in the capital city was no more, with the scandal beginning when the talented Fourth Miss Nian Ruxue and overlooked Fifth Miss Nian Ruting cheated in the Military Exam, committing the crime of deceiving the monarch.

The day their guilt was revealed, Nian Ruxue had disappeared from her home by the time the arresting officers arrived.

Nian Ruting, who was at the centre of the scandal, had no chance to escape. After being locked in the Heavenly Prison, in an attempt to lure Gu Ling to her rescue, she betrayed Nian Jincheng, implicating him with the then-fugitive rebel Gu Ling, resulting in Nian Jincheng's imprisonment in Heavenly Prison as well.

The night atop Wangxiang Mountain, Su Liang had asked Yan Shiba to abduct Duanmu Che to save Nian Jincheng in exchange.

In that deal, Su Liang, acting as a delegate of the Royal Family, ostensibly aimed to save Duanmu Che. By doing so, he also helped rescue Nian Ruting from the Heavenly Prison as Duanmu Che traded the Nian siblings, because at that time Duanmu Yi and Duanmu Chen had been planning to use Nian Ruting, Gu Ling's secret fiancée unknown to others, to force Gu Ling to show himself.

Of course, it wouldn't have worked, but Su Liang believed that the Royal Family could tarnish Gu Ling's reputation, so he decided to handle everything at once, rather than being bothered again later.

Nian Ruting was thrown off a cliff by Su Liang himself. The person to catch her was Yan Shiqi, who set up the rescue by Yan Shiba's instructions.

The purpose of that time was to save Nian Jincheng, and it was successful. He was taken to Su Liang's house by Yan Shiba.

Yan Shiba left in a hurry, and Su Liang forgot to ask how Nian Ruting was to be dealt with. But Yan Shiba didn't forget, and he ordered Yan Shiqi to kill Nian Ruting and toss her corpse into the unmarked graves.

That Nian Ruting was still alive today was because Yan Shiqi spared her. Back then, Yan Shiqi had truly attempted to strangle her, which led to her damaged vocal cords and husky voice.

In the end, compassion stayed his hand. He saw his own reflections in Nian Ruting's face. Her infatuation and obsession with Gu Ling mirrored Yan Shiqi's shadow-like pursuit of Yan Shiba.

Yan Shiqi didn't inform Yan Shiba of his failure to kill Nian Ruting. Since Yanyun Building was jointly controlled by them, Yan Shiqi had significant power and plenty of loyal followers, making it easy to hide the truth from the unsuspecting Yan Shiba.

Moreover, Yan Shiqi even arranged for someone to treat Nian Ruting's injured leg. She could move freely now, but her limp was still noticeable.

At this moment, Yan Shiqi asked Nian Ruting if she would dare to kill Gu Ling? In reality, he was also asking himself if he would be willing to kill Yan Shiba?

The answer was negative.

The thought of Yan Shiba's death caused his long-held affection for her to ache, followed by resentment. After all he'd sacrificed without gaining anything in return, how could he be content?

Before Nian Ruting could answer, Yan Shiqi laughed coldly. "Wait and see, if Gu Ling dares to show up, I will capture him and use his life to force Yan Shiba to marry me! Hahaha!"

Nian Ruting, who had been kneeling on the ground, suddenly lifted her deathly still eyes, looking up at Yan Shiqi. Her face, once more beautiful than Nian Ruxue, was now emaciated and pale. She said hoarsely, "Master, let Gu Ling marry me! That way, Yan Shiba will give up on him!"

Yan Shiqi looked at Nian Ruting, squinting his eyes, “No wonder you were easily manipulated back then. Your brain really is faulty! If Gu Ling cared for you, you wouldn’t be in this state now. Don’t tell me you have a way to make him marry you? Because you saved his mother? Or because you harmed Nian Jincheng?”

Nian Rutinz’s face turned extremely ugly, “1...1 had an engagement with him!

His mother arranged it!”

Yan Shiqi sneered, “If I remember correctly, the one who once had an engagement with him was Nian Ruxue. Even if it’s true that Nian Ruxue stole your merits, the only thing you should have done back then was to kill Nian Ruxue! Fool!”

Nian Ruting kept a straight face, and then heard Yan Shiqi suddenly sneer again, “As long as you serve me well, once Gu Ling is caught, it’s not impossible to make arrangements for him to end up with you.”

“Thank you, Master!” Nian Ruting kowtowed.

Yan Shiqi had long known that Yan Sui died at the hands of “Ning Jing”, and he had also interacted with “Ning Jing” in Xunyang City.

When he learned that “Ning Jing” had died, Yan Shiqi was also surprised, but he did not associate it with Gu Ling. The once invincible Yan Sui in Yan Shiqi’s eyes could die, so it was not impossible for someone stronger than “Ning Jing” to kill him.

The key point was, only Yan Shiba knew about “Su Liang likes Gu Ling”.

Although Yan Shiba had always ordered the people of Yanyun Building to find Gu Ling, he never mentioned to Yan Shiqi and others that he was looking for him on behalf of Su Liang. Even when he saved Nian Jincheng, Yan Shiqi asked why, and Yan Shiba casually said that she intended to use Nian Jincheng to force Gu Ling to show up.

The two of them had always been like this from childhood. Yan Shiqi laid his heart bare, and Yan Shiba called him around, not bothering to say an extra word to him when she didn’t need him.

As a result, Yan Shiqi misunderstood that Yan Shiba liked Gu Ling and kept looking for him. As for Gu Ling, he was merely a fabled beauty to Yan Shiqi, and he had no knowledge of anything else and had not connected him with Su Liang at all.

It wasn’t until last night that Yan Shiba admitted that she likes Gu Ling. At that time, she was desperate and was just trying to deceive Yan Shiqi. She absolutely cannot let Yan Shiqi know that she is actually smitten with a little monk from Huguo Temple.

The resentment and bitterness accumulated in Yan Shiqi’s heart finally erupted after narrowly escaping death in the Yin Country.

He took the blow for Yan Shiba, nearly lost his life, and Yan Shiba either thought he was dead or didn’t care whether he was alive or dead, and ran away to save herself. If it weren’t for Nian Ruting, who was secretly following and saved Yan Shiqi, he would have already been dead and gone.

After Yan Shiqi’s wounds healed, he seized Yan Shiba’s power, and hunted her for hundreds of miles.

This was also why Gu Ling tried to lure Yan Shiba out two months ago, but to no avail. At that time, there was infighting within Yanyun Building.

The next time Yan Shiqi saw Yan Shiba, he brought up Su Liang.

“Would you like me to invite your beloved Liang sister to accompany you?” Yan Shiqi watched Yan Shiba’s reaction.

Upon hearing this, Yan Shiba chuckled, “By all means, please do! Go right away!”

Yan Shiqi’s expression changed, sensing deceit. He knew long ago that Su Liang was tricky, but at that time it was because of “Ning Jing”.

“Ning Jing” was dead, and Yan Shiba still hoped that Su Liang would come to her rescue? Why?

Yan Shiqi narrowed his eyes, “Is there a master by Su Liang’s side?”

Yan Shiba snorted lightly, “Are you afraid?”

Yan Shiqi thought more, “No wonder she went all the way from the village to the capital city, without a scratch. Who exactly is her master?”

“Your grandfather!” Yan Shiba snorted, “I miss Liang sister, hurry up and find her! If you don’t, it means you are a coward!”

Yan Shiqi thought Yan Shiba was using reverse psychology, seeming unwise to provoke Su Liang and reveal himself at this moment.

With these thoughts, Yan Shiba left silently, mentioning no more of capturing Su Liang.

Yan Shiba could present an opposite reaction, suggesting Yan Shiqi not to touch Su Liang, making it certain that Yan Shiqi would look for her.

But Yan Shiba, certain that Yan Shiqi wouldn’t kill her, doesn’t really want Yan Shiqi to approach Su Liang at this time. Although she thinks that Gu Ling should be with Su Liang, it was just her speculation. In case Gu Ling is not there and has gone elsewhere temporarily, Su Liang wouldn’t be able to withstand the power of the entire Yanyun Building.

On one hand, Yan Shiba does not want anything to happen to Su Liang. On the other hand, only if Su Liang is all right, there would be a chance to save Yan Shiba from her predicament.

Therefore, after hearing Yan Shiqi mention Su Liang, Yan Shiba made up her mind: She can’t let Yan Shiqi find Su Liang. It would be better for Yan Shiqi to look for Gu Ling.

The two are not the same.

Su Liang has always been in the open, while the mysterious Gu Ling has not appeared. Once Gu Ling appears, whether Yan Shiqi finds him to do whatever he wants, he will definitely not succeed. Even if Su Liang is always by Gu Ling’s side, as long as the direct target is not her, Gu Ling can block it for her.

“Foul couple... you two really know how to play...” Yan Shiba began to complain bitterly about Gu Ling and Su Liang again, “I really want to hug my little brother Yun...”

When Su Liang and her group arrived in Pingbei City, it was evening.

The previous time she accompanied Gu Ling to Pingbei City to participate in the Provincial Exam, she bought a house here. She had passed by the last time she went back to the capital, this time she still rented an entire inn, letting the others stay, while she, Bai Xiaohu, and Qi Jun moved into the Su Mansion in Pingbei City.

Qi Jun and Bai Xiaohu were staying in one courtyard, and Su Liang moved into the courtyard she used to live in with Gu Ling.

As night fell, Qi Jun and Bai Xiaohu went to a restaurant for dinner while Su Liang did not go, saying she was very tired and didn’t want to eat.

The truth was, Gu Ling had already secretly bought delicious food to bring back.

Returning to the place where she had once lived, Su Liang sighed a little, “It was just last year’s events, but it feels like a long time ago. Master and Xueqing have both settled in the capital city, and they will hardly come back here.”

The Lin Family was originally in Pingbei City. After their two sons passed the Imperial Examination, Lin Shuzhi remained in Qianshan Academy as dean, while Lin Xueqing also grew up in the academy.

Thinking of how she and Gu Ling met them last year, Gu Ling was still pretending to be Lin Shuzhi’s disciple “Ning Jing”, seeing Lin Xueqing at Qianshan Academy, and being called “Brother Jing”.

She also met Zheng’er in Pingbei City halfway through her journey with Gu

Ling, and saved Little Monk Cheng Yun. She met Wan Hui here as well. Before Wan Hui came to pick Zheng’er up, Gu Ling once put Zheng’er in a bamboo basket and took him to Qianshan Academy to play in his free time.

At this moment, listening to Su Liang talking about the past, Gu Ling found her voice lively and particularly pleasant.

“Great God, if given a chance to start over, would you choose the same path again?” Su Liang asked.

After a moment of silence, Gu Ling nodded, “Yes.” Because you are on this path...

The moon plunged into silence and darkness, Gu Ling said he wanted to go to Qianshan Academy to see, and Su Liang was not inclined to sleep, so the two of them secretly left.

Standing on a mountain behind Qianshan Academy, Gu Ling looked up at the sky and saw the moon obscured by dark clouds.

Su Liang looked at the three trees standing side by side. These were planted by Lin Boyan, Lin Bojun, and the real Ning Jing when they were children.

“Would Yang Yu and Nian Jincheng be in the capital city at this moment?” Su Liang asked.

Gu Ling nodded, “Yes.”

“Without you showing up, Nian Jincheng can’t recover his identity on his own.

It’s a bit risky. I can’t go back, so I can’t match them up.” Su Liang sighed softly, “Their wedding date has to be postponed again.”

“There’s no need to rush.” Gu Ling said.

Su Liang shook her head, “Great God, you don’t understand this. For those two who are in love, they naturally hope to get married sooner, especially Nian Jincheng. Wasn’t Xing Yusheng the same back then? Great God, you are inexperienced in love, so you can’t understand them.”

Gu Ling turned around and stayed silent, his back to Su Liang. He wished he could say, it’s not clear who exactly is inexperienced in love...

But Gu Ling hasn’t confessed his feelings to Su Liang yet. Firstly, it’s because Su Liang is still “too young”. He wants to follow her past life tradition and wait until she turns eighteen.

According to Su Liang it is easy for relationships before the age of eighteen to have a negative impact on studies and physical development isn’t mature.

And indeed Su Liang has been constantly studying, very busy.

Secondly, Gu Ling feels that Su Liang does not currently hold romantic feelings for him. She admires him, respects him, treats him as a dear friend and elder brother, trusting him unconditionally without any ulterior motives.

But none of these two issues is big. If Gu Ling confesses, he can pursue Su Liang, make Su Liang fall for him and wait until she is eighteen to become intimate.

And here lies the problem.

Gu Ling has thought, if he confesses and Su Liang accepts to date him, and their relationship becomes romantic, he may not be able to hold back until Su Liang grows up...

At present, whenever Gu Ling looks at Su Liang, he has to suppress the desire to get close to her. Although he shows no hint of it.

“Great God? Great God?” Su Liang called Gu Ling a couple of times and tugged at his sleeve, which brought him back to his senses.

“What were you thinking about just now?” Su Liang asked curiously.

Gu Ling wished he could blurt out “thinking of you”, but he still gave up and casually said, “I was thinking about how great the chance of surviving would be if I jumped off from here.”

The place where Gu Ling stood was atop a cliff. Su Liang glanced down and laughed lightly, ‘Great God, such curiosity can be somewhat dangerous. I’m really worried that one day you’ll want to taste what poisonous grass tastes like and you’ll end up killing yourself.’

“I’m not a fool.” Gu Ling replied with a gloomy tone.

Su Liang shook her head, “You not being a fool and you not doing something foolish aren’t the same thing.”

Gu Ling thought, indeed, he was doing something foolish right now. The moonlight... even though it wasn’t very good, why not take the opportunity to confess? Maybe the result would be really good? But what if Su Liang refuses and says she only wants to be friends with him, what then...

Su Liang found Gu Ling spacing out again, pulled his sleeve and turned around, “Great God, stop sleepwalking, let’s go back. We still need to hit the road early tomorrow.”

Su Liang let go of his sleeve and walked ahead.. Gu Ling watched her thin figure from behind and silently thought to himself: Let it simmer for a while longer...