

Three-Time 301

Chapter 301:301. You should give me a hug.

The Lin Family was extremely important in Jiaye City.

Lian Shun's grandfather, Lian Xuan, was once a renowned general of the Southern Qian Country. He guarded the gates of the Qian Country diligently until his death from a sudden illness, deeply loved by the common people.

However, Lian Xuan's two sons were not suitable to be military commanders. Lian Shun, the only grandson capable of inheriting his grandfather's mantle, spent years trying to save his grandson, Duanmu Che, before finally joining the army last year.

Although it was said that the Lin Family had declined and had no successors, Lian Shun might have received insincere compliments when he went to the capital city and was regarded as "Master Lin." Yet, in the southern region, especially in Jiaye City, the reputation of the Lin Family remained undiminished and was respected.

On the eve of the war, the people of Yin Country meticulously planned for a long time, captured the entire Lin Family, and blackmailed the guard general of Jiaye City, Yuan Ye, to personally negotiate. However, they ambushed and killed Yuan Ye, causing chaos in Qian's army, and the Jiaye City quickly fell.

Guard General Yuan Ye was the sworn brother of Lian Xuan, who had gone through life and death together. Yuan Ye would never ignore the life and death of the Lin Family. Even though Lian Shun had just returned from the North and was recovering from his injuries, he had not formally taken any position in the southern army.

It is evident that Yin Country was well-prepared and aggressive this time.

Through careful planning and deployment of masters, it would not be difficult for Yin Country to abduct the weakened Lin Family from Jiaye City, whose only remaining member was still recovering from injuries.

The answer is clear: the Lin Family could not prevent or defend against this level of malice and means.

Targeting the Lin Family as a breakthrough was undoubtedly sinister and ruthless, but it was indeed effective.

Destroying peace by any means necessary signaled that Yin Country was serious this time.

Obviously, the alliance between Qian Country and Liang Country posed a crisis to Yin Country.

However, among the three countries, it was Qian Country that truly did not want to wage war and could not afford to do so. Due to geographical reasons, Liang Country and Yin Country were far apart, with one in the south and the other in the north, making it impossible to fight each other directly. However, they could easily join forces to attack Qian Country.

Therefore, Qian Country would not refuse an alliance with either the South or the North.

Nevertheless, alliances were superficial and fragile. Qian Country could not easily allow the Liang army to enter its territory and jointly defend against Yin Country, as that would be inviting the wolf into their home. Once Yin Country and Qian Country fought each other to a certain extent, their so-called ally Liang Country might choose to stand by or, worse, join the fight, most likely against Qian Country.

This was the confidence behind Yin Country's decision to initiate the war. Ultimately, the relationships among the three countries were driven by self-interest.

Listening to Che Yun recounting the events from the beginning of the war to the present, Su Liang checked his wounds and recent medication.

The injury was on the lower right side of his chest, not life-threatening. What was tricky was the poison. Luckily, the army doctor had treated it properly at the beginning, stopping the spread of toxins as much as possible. Otherwise, Che Yun would already be dead.

Su Liang regretted not bringing Lao Bai with him. But it was too late to think about that now.

"Can you detoxify this poison?" Che Yun saw Su Liang frowning and asked with a pale face.

As Su Liang was taking some stuff from the medicine box, he didn't look at Che Yun, "What if I say I can't?"

Che Yun sighed deeply, "Then it's my fate."

"You're lucky," Su Liang said. "Although my poison techniques are poor, and I don't understand what poison you have, I met a senior before who gave me some divine remedy."

Che Yun was stunned for a moment, watching Su Liang take out a small jade bottle from the medicine box and pour out a brown pill the size of a green bean.

"Eat it," Su Liang handed the pill to Che Yun.

Without any hesitation, Che Yun swallowed it.

Su Liang shook his head, "You're too trusting. What if I were a spy from Liang or Yin Country? I've already told you I don't know how to detoxify it, and yet you still dare to eat the medicine I gave?"

Che Yun coughed twice, holding his chest, and said, "If it's given by you, it must be right."

Su Liang closed the medicine box and took Che Yun's pulse, "You should be fine." That was a detoxifying divine remedy given by Lao Bai, who claimed to have carried it for many years, with only two pills in total. Su Liang didn't know how Lao Bai had hidden it and didn't want to know. The other pill was given to Gu Ling.

"Thank you," Che Yun tried to smile.

Su Liang stared at his beard, "Have you ever thought about shaving it off?" Che Yun shook his head, "Not for now."

He had told Su Liang the reason for growing a beard before: he wanted to look more masculine as he had some feminine features.

“Forget it.” Su Liang was just speaking casually.

“Gu...Will Marquis Chang Xin be in any...danger when negotiating with people from Yin Country?” Che Yun furrowed his brows.

Su Liang sneered, “You originally wanted to say there won’t be any problems, right? He may be too good-looking and not sociable, but he’s not just a vase, don’t worry. No matter the outcome, with him going, it will be the best result we could achieve.”

Che Yun nodded slightly, “It seems you trust him a lot.”

“Of course, we’re family.” Su Liang said, “It’s the same whether he goes or I go.”

However, after getting dressed, Che Yun still insisted on going to the riverside to check on the situation, claiming that he was worried about Lian Shun.

“That’s fine.” Su Liang sighed slightly, “I also want to see how Lian Shun is.

Let’s go together.”

Su Liang walked out with the medicine box, and Che Yun followed behind. At the door, he suddenly asked Su Liang, “Didn’t you say you had one more thing to tell me?”

Su Liang didn’t look back, “Let’s talk about it later.”

Che Yun insisted on riding a horse, and Su Liang didn’t stop him. Since his limbs weren’t injured, the poison issue wasn’t a big deal.

When the two left the military camp, they ran into a young man in mourning clothes with a wooden expression. After passing by on horseback, Che Yun told Su Liang that it was Yuan Pei, the only grandson of the veteran General Yuan

Che Yun was wounded by an arrow while trying to save Yuan Pei. Yuan Pei, impulsive by nature, rode out of the city alone to avenge his grandfather after being stimulated by Yuan Ye’s death.

“They have a strong bond, and Yuan Pei just lost his reason due to excessive grief,” Che Yun sighed.

Su Liang didn’t agree with Yuan Pei’s actions, and from her perspective, it was even foolish and almost harmful to others and himself. However, she hadn’t experienced the pain of losing a loved one, and she couldn’t empathize. Since Che Yun didn’t blame Yuan Pei and he didn’t die, there was no need for her to say any condemning words.

After leaving the South Gate of Nanshan City, the view became broader. After riding for another two miles, they could see the Qian Country army stationed by the riverside, which had retreated from Jiaye City.

Liuxian River separated Jiaye City and Nanshan City, and it also blocked the offensive steps of Yin Country’s army as another border for Qian Country.

After Che Yun led the troops to withdraw to the north bank of Liuxian River, he quickly deployed a tight defense by the river, with archers guarding day and night.

At this moment, about ten thousand Yin Country soldiers lined up across the river to the south, while Qian Country's army was on high alert to the north.

Su Liang and Che Yun rode their horses through the separated ranks of soldiers, and finally saw Gu Ling's figure.

He stood by the river, his black clothes and hair fluttering in the wind, like an immortal who would ride the wind away in the next moment.

As Su Liang got off her horse, she heard someone report to Che Yun, "General Che, Marquis Chang Xin wants to exchange himself for General Lin! "

Su Liang stopped in her tracks, and Che Yun was stunned.

At this moment, a person wearing armor and a helmet stood at the forefront of the troops on the opposite bank. Su Liang couldn't see clearly, but she knew it wasn't Lian Shun.

"Since Lord Gu is so righteous, we should fulfill his wish! Please, Lord Gu, come and be our guest in Yin Country!" The robust voice echoed along the riverbank, followed by laughter and ridicule from Yin Country's army.

"Su Liang, Yin Country's people are cunning, and the agreement to exchange hostages may contain traps!" Che Yun frowned and said to Su Liang.

However, Su Liang calmly walked towards Gu Ling and said, "If he's willing to go, then let's swap. Prepare the boat!"

Che Yun sighed deeply and ordered someone to quickly prepare a small boat.

By the time Su Liang reached Gu Ling's side, a person appeared next to the commanding officer on the opposite bank – it was Lian Shun who had been taken there. Seeing the captive, Su Liang knew it was Lian Shun even without seeing his face.

At first, people from Yin Country on the opposite bank had been clamoring for a long time but had never actually shown any member of the Lin Family. This was the first time Lian Shun had been brought before Qian Country's people after being captured. The reason was that Gu Ling, who had just arrived in Nanshan City, immediately proposed to exchange himself for Lian Shun voluntarily.

With more than a dozen members of the Lin Family in their hands, there was no fear of them running away. To exchange one Lian Shun for Qian Country's Marquis Chang Xin and Liang Country's Prince Ning was a profitable deal, so they had no reason not to agree.

Su Liang gently bumped Gu Ling's arm with hers, as a greeting.

From Che Yun's perspective, the two seemed very close.

"Great God, are you planning to emulate Bei Jingwang and break into the enemy's camp alone?" Su Liang whispered, "No matter what you want to do, I will definitely support you. But you have to tell me the plan first, so I can evaluate the risks."

Che Yun thought it was inappropriate to exchange people, but Su Liang insisted on doing as Gu Ling said, because she knew that Gu Ling would not lose his reason for anyone.

Lian Shun was brought over and confirmed to be alive, the initiative already tilting towards Qian Country.

“I am Su Liang, the one in charge. I wonder who is in charge on the side of Yin Country?” Su Liang asked loudly.

After a while, a shout came from the other side of the river, “Are all the men of Qian Country dead, so a little girl takes charge! Hahahaha!”

Another burst of laughter followed.

Su Liang’s face remained calm, knowing that the other side was deliberately trying to Dovokey her and demoralize Qian Country’s soldiers. When it quieted

down, she spoke again, “The men of Qian Country are fine. On behalf of me, please pay respects to General Mu Ya of Yin Country. Was she promoted to general because you were not up to it?”

The wind carried Su Liang’s mockery into the ears of the people of Yin Country.

The general standing beside Lian Shun’s face immediately turned as black as a pot. Yin Country once had a female general, Mu Ya. Why should they mock Qian Country for letting a woman be a general? Besides, Mu Ya was defeated by Su Liang, losing in a humiliating manner.

A man being said to be incompetent always sounds ambiguous.

This time, even louder laughter came from the Qian Country’s army on the north shore.

Lian Shun was awake but had his mouth gagged and his mind somewhat dazed. He could vaguely hear Su Liang speaking, sometimes far away and sometimes close, but he couldn’t make any sound.

“Is General Su reluctant to use her lover for a hostage exchange? Just say it outright, and cut the nonsense!” A cold shout came from the other side.

The people on the side of Qian Country also thought that Su Liang would not let Gu Ling go to exchange for Lian Shun.

Su Liang said coldly, “We in Qian Country have always been true to our word. If he wants to exchange, then exchange. I will not stop him! However, in exchange for hostages, my lover’s status is enough to exchange for all members of the Lin Family!”

This time the response from the other side was quick, “Dream on! One for one, or no deal! Let him tie up his hands and come alone. If he dares to play tricks, you’ll be collecting Lian Shun’s corpse!”

Su Liang looked helpless, “Great God, they really don’t appreciate your worth.

You must feel wronged.” She then turned her head and said, “Bring rope.”

Che Yun and other military commanders looked at each other and could only do as Su Liang said.

A general couldn’t help muttering, “Are they really husband and wife? They’re so willing to...”

Soon, the rope was brought, and the boat was in the water.

According to the agreement Gu Ling had made with the other side before Su Liang arrived, he and Lian Shun would board separate boats, tethered by ropes as they crossed to the other side. No one was allowed to intervene, otherwise, the first ones to die would be Gu Ling and Lian Shun, exposed in the middle of the two armies.

Su Liang tied Gu Ling's hands with a rope, of course using a slip knot. The people on the other side could not see the details from this distance. One of the important reasons this could work was that outsiders had no idea how strong Gu Ling's true abilities were.

Then Su Liang helped Gu Ling get on the boat, and the people in Yin Country also put Lian Shun on a small boat. He could hardly stand and fell into a sitting position.

Both sides' archers took their positions. The archers of Qian Country aimed at the other side, while the archers of Yin Country aimed at Lian Shun. If there was any movement, he would be killed by a hail of arrows.

The hostages were both from Qian Country; no matter how one looked at it, Yin Country seemed to have the advantage in this round.

"I trust your abilities, but still, be careful." Su Liang cautioned Gu Ling. It was not their fault that Yin Country had first used Lian Shun as a hostage bargaining chip. If they did not break the situation under Yin Country's control as soon as possible, they would be held hostage, making the situation even worse.

"Okay." Gu Ling nodded slightly, looking at Su Liang, "You should give me a hug." He said it with conviction. There had always been a "ritual" of hugging between them when parting, not to mention that this was not an ordinary separation. Gu Ling was going to do something dangerous.

Su Liang agreed and hugged Gu Ling in front of both armies.

Gu Ling's hands were tied, so in any angle, it was Su Liang who took the initiative.

It was said that she loved him very much, but she let him take risks for the greater good, and she was so reluctant... The onlookers saw Su Liang and Gu Ling embracing each other, which seemed to have a sense of life and death separation.

However, the fact was far from the separation of life and death; Su Liang knew Gu Ling could handle it, and she believed him, knowing that he would come back safely.

"Enough lovey-dovey! Both of you come together; we don't mind!" A shout from a Yin Country general came from the other side.

Su Liang let go of Gu Ling, and after returning to the shore, she made a gesture. The soldiers holding the boat began to release the rope, and Gu Ling drifted towards the other side.

At the same time, Yin Country also released the small boat with Lian Shun.

There was one possibility: Yin Country didn't intend to exchange hostages at all. After Gu Ling's arrival, they would shoot arrows to kill him, and Yin Country would not suffer any losses.

However, Su Liang believes that the decision-makers in Yin Country are not insane. A person is only valuable when alive, and Gu Ling is a particularly special hostage, with the possibility of even controlling the Liang Country's royal family. Killing him would offend both Qian Country and Liang Country simultaneously. At least Situ Xie and Situ Han's behavior all along has given the impression that they care about Gu Ling.

Moreover, even if the people of Yin Country were crazy enough to shoot an arrow to kill a hostage, Su Liang believes that Gu Ling has the ability to protect himself. That is the main reason why she allowed Gu Ling to go.

Stepping forward, Che Yun stood beside Su Liang, looking anxiously at the two small boats slowly drifting in the river, "Are you really so sure about letting him go? If he falls into Yin Country's hands, you will be directly threatened." "He will be fine," Su Liang shook her head, "It seems that Lian Shun is injured." Hearing Su Liang's words, Che Yun sighed deeply and said nothing more.

In the third month of spring, the weather in Nanshan City was already quite hot.

A thunderstorm was approaching, with dark clouds covering the sky and low air pressure.

The boats were controlled by soldiers on both shores with ropes, and they moved slowly.

With a thunderous boom from the dark clouds, the two boats met in the middle of the river, separated by a distance, and crossed without any accidents. Standing on the boat, Gu Ling didn't even glance at Lian Shun.

Unable to restrain himself, Che Yun spoke again, "Su Liang, if Gu Ling takes rash actions over there, it might anger Yin Country people and harm Lian Shun's family."

Upon hearing this, Su Liang suddenly became displeased and did not hide her feelings. She directly confronted Che Yun, "If he doesn't go, can you think of a way to save Lian Shun? Or let Yin Country people capture Lian Shun and torture him in front of us, breaking his limbs to force us to back down and let them cross the river?"

Che Yun's face stiffened as he frowned, "That's not what I meant. I just don't want them to get hurt..."

"I know you care about Lian Shun and his family. But if you can't solve the problem, just shut up and recover from your injuries!" Su Liang said sharply.

Su Liang could understand what Che Yun was worrying about, and she hadn't told him what Gu Ling was planning to do. But hearing such words still made her angry. Regardless of whether Che Yun's concerns were reasonable or not, she didn't want to hear anyone question what Gu Ling intended to do!

As Lian Shun's boat approached the north bank of Liuxian River, Gu Ling drew closer to Yin Country's army.

Finally, Su Liang could see Lian Shun clearly. He looked dazed and bewildered, lying limp on the boat, as if he had been drugged with sedatives. There were no apparent external injuries on him.

When the boat finally reached the shore, someone immediately came to carry Lian Shun ashore and took him to the rear.

At the same time, Gu Ling, who was pulled ashore, quickly disappeared into the Yin Country's army ranks.

In fact, across the wide river, shooting arrows at each other was almost useless unless one was an exceptionally skilled archer.

Su Liang didn't look at Lian Shun's condition and kept her eyes on Yin Country's troops across the bank, counting silently, "One, two, three..."

As Su Liang counted to "six", a disturbance suddenly erupted among the Yin Country forces on the south bank, but nothing could be seen clearly from the North Bank.

The commotion only lasted half a moment before the soldiers retreated like a tide, their formation in disarray.

Su Liang's gaze shifted to the dense forest on the south shore, then quickly returned to check on Lian Shun.

Lian Shun was drugged with something like a muscle relaxant. His mind was not clear, but he still recognized Su Liang, "Su Xiaoliang...where is Gu Xiaoling..."

"Take him back to the city." Su Liang looked at Che Yun, "I'll be there soon."

Che Yun wanted to say something but stopped short. Su Liang knew what he wanted to ask but didn't feel like explaining.

After inspecting the defensive deployment along the riverbank, Su Liang returned to the military camp in the city by horse. Qian Country quickly received a scout report: The hostage Gu Ling who was exchanged, entered Yin Country's army and captured the leading general, Fan Tong, in a swift manner before successfully escaping and disappearing into the dense forest by the riverbank.

"Marquis Chang Xin's strength is so formidable?" A general exclaimed joyfully, "That's great! That Fan fellow is extremely hateful! He is the one who killed the old veteran General Yuan!"

Che Yun looked at Su Liang, "I apologize for my previous words; I underestimated Marquis Gu's strength."

Su Liang shook her head without saying a word and took the medical kit to treat Lian Shun.

Another general, with a relaxed expression, clapped his hands, "The man whom General Su has taken a liking to, how could he be just a pretty face? Marquis Chang Xin is not only brave but also resourceful! Whether we can turn the tide in the upcoming battles is all up to him now!"

Chapter 302: 302. Indeed, it's my Great God

Gu Ling's left arm was injured in Wolong Snow Mountain in Liang Country's Yao City while saving someone, and Su Liang had treated him.

If nothing had gone wrong, his wound should have healed by the time he returned to the warm climate of Jiaye City for the New Year celebrations.

However, what Su Liang saw was Gu Ling's left arm unnaturally twisted, with his left hand's fingers swollen and blackened at the joints, reminding her of a food from her past life, Boneless Phoenix Claws...

It wasn't funny; her heart was filled with rage.

Che Yun walked behind Su Liang, watching her perform acupuncture on Gu Ling. After taking the antidote Su Liang gave him, his mind and body gradually regained strength, breaking free of his previous lethargy.

The other two generals sensed that Su Liang did not intend to share Gu Ling's plan with them, so they wisely left.

"Su Xiaoliang..." As Gu Ling's consciousness gradually recovered, Su Liang's face became clearer in his eyes. He squinted and grinned, "It really is you. I thought I was dreaming..."

"Stop smiling, it's not a good look." After examining him, Su Liang concluded that Gu Ling's injured left arm and hand urgently needed medical treatment; otherwise, the arm would be useless.

"Fetch water," Su Liang instinctively ordered the person next to her.

"Alright." Che Yun responded and turned to fetch the water. Su Liang frowned slightly; she actually meant to call Gu Ling, but had momentarily forgotten he wasn't there to act as her assistant.

Although Che Yun was injured too, Su Liang showed no sympathy, leaving him to clean and care for Gu Ling while she stepped away for a moment.

Upon seeing Su Liang leave, Gu Ling furrowed his brows and asked Che Yun, "Where is Gu Xiaoling? I thought I heard him speak... Did I see him on the boat, or was it just a hallucination?"

Che Yun sighed, "It's not a hallucination. Gu Ling traded himself for you."

Gu Ling's eyes widened in shock, "What? He exchanged himself for me? Who decided that? Su Liang? No, that's impossible... Why would they let him take my place?"

"Don't move." Che Yun shook his head, "It was Gu Ling's own decision. He's very strong and wasn't controlled by Yin Country's people. Instead, he captured the bastard Fan Tong and hid with him in the forest on the opposite shore. They might return with Fan Tong once it's dark. Who hurt your arm?"

Gu Ling lowered his head to look at his limp left hand and snorted coldly, "It was Fan Gang, Fan Tong's son. I cursed him out."

Che Yun let out a deep sigh, "You've become a captive. Why are you still causing trouble? You may have enjoyed cursing him, but is it worth becoming disabled over?"

“Whenever I think about how they killed Grandpa Yuan...” Gu Ling’s eyes reddened as he spoke, “I blame myself for fooling around all these years instead of focusing on what’s important.”

After Gu Ling was captured, trouble broke out in Jiaye City. At first, he didn’t know that Yuan Ye had been killed. It was only when he heard Fan Gang bragging about their victory, mocking the freshly-slain General Yuan Ye, that Gu Ling’s rage exploded.

It wasn’t just because Gu Ling had cursed Fan Gang that he had been retaliated against. Gu Ling lied, claiming he had Jiaye City’s defense map for a trade, lured Fan Gang to his side, and nearly bit off one of his ears. At the time, Gu Ling had no weapons and his limbs had no strength.

This led the infuriated Fan Gang to almost strangle him to death. Fan Gang also twisted Gu Ling’s left arm and broke every finger on his left hand.

Gu Ling knew it was irrational, but there was a moment when he even wanted to die along with Fan Gang and his father.

“Even if it’s not for your own sake, think about your family, ” Che Yun said, frowning.

Gu Ling’s face stiffened, “What...what do you mean? What happened to my family?”

“You don’t know?” Che Yun hesitated for a moment, “Your entire family has been captured. Now, besides you, they’re all in the hands of Yin Country’s people.”

Gu Ling’s face turned pale; his whole body froze.

He was captured when he went out alone that day and hadn’t been held with his family afterward. Today, when he was brought out of captivity, his mind was befuddled, so he had not heard the conversation between Fan Tong, Gu Ling, and Su Liang. As a result, he only now learned that not just himself, but his entire family had become captives.

If he had known earlier, Gu Ling wouldn’t have provoked Fan Gang.

Gu Ling remained silent as Che Yun recounted recent events.

“Don’t be too hard on yourself. Yin Country had planned this for a long time and was well-prepared. Nobody could have known they’d target you and your family,” Che Yun said. “Su Liang is here now, so there must be a way. Hurry up and get yourself together.”

When Su Liang returned, Che Yun had already cleaned Gu Ling and changed his clothes.

“You can go now,” Su Liang told Che Yun.

He nodded and silently left.

“Su Liang,” said Gu Ling, his voice devoid of any energy and no longer teasingly calling her ‘Su Xiaoliang’, “my family... They’ll be alright, won’t they?”

“Haven’t you seen them since you were captured?” Su Liang couldn’t help but frown. She wondered why Gu Ling hadn’t asked her about his family as soon as he’d woken up, but now she realized he had known nothing.

Gu Ling’s bloodless face answered Su Liang’s question.

“They captured your family because they’re valuable alive. To the captors, hostages are only valuable if kept alive.” Su Liang said coldly, speaking the truth.

Lian Shun’s complexion did not improve, “Gu Ling, I hope there won’t be any problems...”

“You don’t need to worry about him.” Su Liang said as she applied medicine to Lian Shun’s wounds, “First, take care of your injuries, and both Gu Ling and I will find a way to rescue everyone.”

“Thank you,” Lian Shun’s voice paused for a moment, as he took a deep breath and gritted his teeth, “If I find out who the bastard behind this whole hostage situation is, I’ll tear them apart!”

Standing outside the door, Che Yun lowered his head, clenched his fists, and after taking a deep breath, he walked away with large strides.

After treating Lian Shun’s injuries, Su Liang instructed him not to move around and gave him a bowl of medicinal soup with a calming ingredient.

Seeing Lian Shun asleep, Su Liang carried her medical kit outside and met Che

Yun who was coming over, “How is he? Can his left arm recover?” Su Liang sighed slightly, “Not very optimistic, I’ll do my best.”

“There’s no activity from Yin Country’s side.” Che Yun said, “I’ve arranged accommodation for you and Marquis Chang Xin, and your luggage has been moved as well. Would you like to go and see it now?”

“Alright.” Su Liang nodded.

On the way there, Che Yun apologized to Su Liang again for what he had said by the river before.

Su Liang only said one sentence, “Gu Ling and Lian Shun are also friends.”

“He told me about what happened in Liang Country.” Che Yun said, “He probably doesn’t even know that you two are married.”

Not continuing with the topic, Su Liang said, “How did the people of Yin

Country come up with the idea of taking Lian Shun’s entire family as hostages? I would very much like to know who proposed it.”

Such a tactic isn’t that special or unusual, but even if they were to take hostages, it is usually important figures like princes or princesses, or at least someone with a higher status or influence.

Lian's Family does have influence in Jiaye City, but that's for the common people. As for their value to the Qian Country's Royal Family, how much could it be?

The person who made the decision was sure that Yuan Ye would not abandon Lian's Family? Then, why not directly take his only grandson as a hostage? It would be much easier and more direct than taking over a dozen people of Lian's Family.

It should be known that Lian Shun's identity in Jiaye City comes from his long-deceased grandfather, and not any real authority that he has. Even if he recovers and takes up a position in the army, his status would still be below

Yuan Ye and Che Yun.

Che Yun sighed, "Whoever came up with this idea, it's really effective."

"Indeed, it's effective, but unusual." Su Liang shook her head and followed Che Yun into a quiet courtyard.

The room was very clean, and Su Liang and Gu Ling's luggage were placed on the table, unopened.

Only at this point did a realization flash in Su Liang's mind: she and Gu Ling were now married, so from the perspective of outsiders, it would only be appropriate for them to live in the same room and share one bed.

"Thank you," Su Liang said.

"You rest first," Che Yun said as he left.

Su Liang sat down and called out to him again.

"Is it the good news you mentioned when you first arrived?" Che Yun's expression turned serious, "You said it was something good."

Su Liang nodded, "You can judge for yourself after listening."

She told Che Yun about her encounter with a young man named Ling Yun and his dying father in a valley near Qianhu city.

"Before he died, the old man mentioned that Ling Yun should go to Xuanbei City to find relatives." Su Liang said, "The age and birthmark match, and I can see a resemblance to your father in his features. At that time, we were in a hurry, so I didn't reveal anything or take the time to investigate."

Che Yun's expression became excited, "That must be my younger brother! It must be him! I have to tell my parents!"

Seeing Che Yun stand up, Su Liang said, "You're injured, and we can't afford to fight here for now. Qianhu City isn't far away, so if you want to find Ling Yun, I approve."

"Well..." Che Yun hesitated for a moment, "Let me go back and discuss it with my parents. In any case, thank you, Su Liang."

“You don’t need to thank me. Meeting your brother was just a coincidence.” As Su Liang finished speaking, she saw Che Yun quickly leave.

Su Liang tidied their belongings and put away their clothes in the closet. As for the single set of bedding and how to sleep when Gu Ling returns, they would discuss it later.

A servant brought food and Su Liang ate a little before heading to the Meeting Hall.

Che Yun was not present, so Su Liang gathered the other generals and asked them about the situation and the current deployment in detail.

“General Su, if Marquis Chang Xin manages to bring Fan Tong back, what will our next step be?” a general asked Su Liang.

Su Liang shook her head, “Let’s wait until he comes back.”

When Che Yun came to see Su Liang again, he said he had decided to go to Qianhu City immediately to find Ling Yun, fearing that something unexpected might happen if he went too late.

“Even if the emperor blames me and removes me from my post, I have to go.” Che Yun said solemnly, “I apologize to you and Lian Shun. If I find my younger brother, I will bring him back as soon as possible. Take care of yourselves.” Su Liang nodded, “You go ahead. Be careful.”

After Che Yun left, Su Liang went to see Lian Shun and told him about Ling Yun.

Lian Shun was delighted for Che Yun, “It’s great that his years of concern can finally be resolved! ” But when he thought of his own family, Lian Shun’s expression soon became despondent.

Su Liang checked on the wounded soldiers and treated several of them who were seriously injured herself.

She was busy until it gradually grew dark. The sky had been overcast all day long, and it finally started raining. Gu Ling hadn’t returned yet.

With an umbrella, Su Liang left the wounded camp and returned to Lian Shun. She saw Che Yun’s parents who had come to talk with him. Che Yun’s mother had prepared a meal for them on the table.

When Che Yun’s father saw Su Liang, he was about to kneel down, but she stopped him, “Uncle, you don’t have to do this.”

With tears in her eyes, Che Yun’s mother couldn’t speak as she held Su Liang’s hand.

Unaccustomed to the situation, Su Liang asked about the food on the table, saying she was hungry.

After sending Che Yun’s parents away, Lian Shun worriedly asked Su Liang, “Gu Ling hasn’t come back yet? It’s dark and raining. Could something have happened to him?”

Su Liang shook her head, “I’m not worried that something will happen to him. If he doesn’t come back tonight, maybe he has a new plan.”

"I know you two are married." Lian Shun frowned, "But how come you don't seem to worry about him at all?"

Su Liang shrugged, "You don't understand; it's trust. Is worrying useful?" "After all, he is just one person." Lian Shun sighed.

Su Liang furrowed her brows and looked at the dark sky outside, feeling a hint of unease. What if he got lost? What if he fell into a hunter's trap and couldn't get out? What if he was standing under a tree and got struck by lightning...

Su Liang shook her head, brushing off those unreliable thoughts. There are no what-ifs; that is her Great God, an omnipotent being.

Jiaye City, which was occupied by the Yin Country's army, was quiet in the stormy night.

The General Mansion in Jiaye City used to be the residence of the Lin Family. After Lian Xuan passed away from illness, the Lin Family moved away, and Yuan Ye and his grandson moved in.

Now it was occupied by the Yin Country. Fan Tong, who had been captured during the day, was replaced by his son, Fan Gang.

Fan Gang looked grim, with his right ear wrapped in cloth. That was an injury inflicted by Lian Shun.

"Where are the Lin Family members? Why haven't they been brought here?" Fan Gang asked coldly.

"General, let's wait a little longer." A sharp-eyed, thin middle-aged man spoke up.

"Wait for what? Are you in charge or am I?" Fan Gang shouted angrily.

The middle-aged man remained composed, "I am the military strategist appointed by the general for this attack on Qian Country. Your father asked me to give advice in his absence. Please listen to my opinion."

Fan Gang slammed the table and stood up, "Your opinion? Who do you think you are? My father got into trouble because he listened to you! What kind of bullshit military strategist?! I think you're a spy sent by someone!"

The middle-aged man sighed slightly, "Please calm down, General. There is no need to deal with all the Lin Family members..."

"Shut up! Be calm? Lian Shun almost bit off my ear, and you still want me to be calm and let him go! My father trusted you, but I don't! Get out! You're all useless!" As soon as Fan Gang finished speaking, he ordered his men to bring all the Lin Family members. "If Gu Ling doesn't return my father safely, I'll slaughter every single one of the Lin Family members!"

The middle-aged man's face turned ugly, and he wanted to persuade him again, but Fan Gang didn't even give him a glance, let alone listen to him.

After waiting for a while, Fan Gang urged again, and the reply was that they had gone to pick them up and were on the way.

Another half hour passed, but no Lin Family members were brought before him. Fan Gang kicked over two of his subordinates and broke Yuan Ye's favorite pen holder.

The middle-aged man who had been sitting there all the time finally spoke again, "I'm afraid something has happened."

Fan Gang snorted, "What could have happened? Everyone in Jiaye City is under our control!"

"General, don't forget that Gu Ling took the general away from our army of ten thousand today." The middle-aged man shook his head.

Fan Gang's face stiffened, "Are you saying he came to Jiaye City? No way; he captured my father and would naturally run back to Nanshan City to negotiate terms with us!"

The middle-aged man sighed and shook his head.

Soon, Fan Gang received a report that there had been an incident halfway through the team escorting the Lin Family members, and they had all been kidnapped.

"How is it possible?" Fan Gang had a face of disbelief, "Gu Ling alone definitely couldn't do it!"

The middle-aged man bitterly smiled and stood up, "I thought that after what happened during the day, General would realize that we underestimated Gu Ling's strength. We shouldn't have let him get close, let alone bring the Lin

Family members over."

"With so many people, even if Gu Ling had a way to kidnap them, where can he take them? Search! Search the whole city!" Fan Gang's eyes were red with anger.

Upon receiving the search order, the Yin Country's army moved, and throughout Jiaye City, the sounds of knocking and barking dogs resounded.

The search carried on until midnight, with no results. Gu Ling seemed to have vanished into thin air along with more than a dozen people.

Fan Gang finally realized the error of his decision and seriously underestimated the threat Gu Ling posed to them. He thought that Gu Ling would take Fan Tong back to Nanshan City and negotiate with them again, but he never imagined that Gu Ling came with no intention of leaving easily...

Fan Gang asked the middle-aged man for advice. The man sighed and said,

"He'll show himself, but by then, any victory we achieve will be meaningless."

Dawn was approaching.

Su Liang sat up on her bed, frowning. She had ordered that she be informed of any news on Gu Ling no matter how late, but no one had come to seek her out.

Su Liang didn't like this feeling. She hadn't had a chance to discuss what to do with Gu Ling after arriving at Nanshan City yesterday. She believed in Gu Ling's strength but started to worry about his luck.

Meanwhile, in Jiaye City, the fruitless search throughout the night drove Fan Gang to the edge of his patience. Just as his temper flared up, he received a report: Gu Ling had appeared at the South City Building.

The southern gate of Jiaye City, also the southern entrance of Qian Country, was the first checkpoint for the Yin Country to attack the Qian Country.

By the time Fan Gang arrived with his troops, he saw his father, Fan Tong, hanging from a flagpole on the South City building, swaying in the wind.

Gu Ling was up there, while the Yin Country soldiers who were previously up there had all put down their weapons and obediently left. The reason was simple: if they didn't surrender, Gu Ling would stab a knife into Fan Tong's heart.

Fan Gang heard Gu Ling's voice coming from a gap in the city building's wall,

"You have an hour to retreat from Jiaye City. If you're even a moment late or harm a single commoner, get ready to collect your father's corpse."

Fan Gang's face turned livid, "Gu Ling, if you dare, come out!"

The next moment, Fan Gang only saw a figure flashing by, and an arrow shot down from above, aiming straight at his neck!

Dodging the arrow, Fan Gang couldn't help but break out in a cold sweat as he looked at the arrow buried in the ground.

The middle-aged man squinted his eyes, looked at the gap where Gu Ling was hiding, and sighed deeply, "For the safety of the general, let's retreat first." Fan Gang gritted his teeth, face full of unwillingness, and roared, "Retreat!"

The atmosphere in the city was tense, but Gu Ling, who was sitting at the top of the city building, was not nervous. He had chosen a blind spot, and only at the height where Fan Tong was hanging from the flagpole would it be possible to hurt him.

He didn't go back last night. Would Su Liang worry about him? ...Gu Ling felt a little uncertain about this simple question. He thought that Su Liang might believe that he could handle any situation and wouldn't worry about his safety.

Not worrying meant Su Liang trusted him. Gu Ling knew this, and what he wanted was not Su Liang's worry, but her care.

Of course, Su Liang cared about him, without a doubt, but ... Gu Ling sighed lightly. What was he struggling over? Did he expect that after this brief separation, Su Liang would realize that she liked him, in the male-female romantic sense?

Gu Ling indeed hoped so, but he also knew that he was probably overthinking it. Su Liang cared for him, worried about him, and believed in him, regardless of whether they married or not.

Gu Ling's decision to go to Jiaye City alone to rescue the Lin Family members was because he knew that as long as the hostages were in the hands of the Yin people, the situation couldn't be reversed.

Of course, it was risky and not easy, but fortunately, he was very familiar with Jiaye City, and he had many good medicines from Su Liang. Carrying out covert actions against specific individuals would be manageable as long as he had enough strength, a thorough plan, and the element of surprise. It was just like how the Yin people had captured the Lin Family members before the war began.

With the important matter dealt with, Gu Ling seriously pondered how to capture Su Liang's heart.

At this moment, Su Liang stood by the banks of the Liuxian River, where Gu Ling had left the day before, her eyebrows tightly knitted as she gazed at the opposite shore.

"General Su, the Yin Country is retreating! They have left Jiaye City!" The scout rushed over with an excited expression.

Su Liang's gaze grew solemn, "What about Marquis Chang Xin?"

The scout reported that Gu Ling had captured Fan Tong and was on the South City Building, threatening Fan Gang to retreat.

Since Fan Gang hadn't mentioned the Lin Family members again, it meant they were all safe... Su Liang took a long sigh of relief. "I understand. Continue scouting."

As the scout left, Su Liang turned to look at the flowing river in front of her, her eyebrows relaxing, and a faint smile appearing on her lips, "As expected from my Great God.."

Chapter 303: The sweetest in the world

Good news from Jiaye City kept pouring in on the north bank of Liuxian River.

Su Liang ordered the stationed army at Nanshan City to withdraw to Jiaye City. Once Gu Ling released Fan Tong, the Yin Country's army might very well attack again.

Originally, Su Liang wanted Lian Shun to stay in Nanshan City to recuperate, but Lian Shun insisted on going back with them. So, Su Liang found wooden boards and cloth bands to fix Lian Shun's injured arm.

When Che Yun's parents wanted to stay in Nanshan City to wait for their son, Su Liang arranged someone to protect them.

"Gu Xiaoling is amazing!" Lian Shun exclaimed, "I really admire him!"

Su Liang: Yes, so do I.

Soon, the army was assembled, and the ships were prepared. Su Liang gave the order to set off.

The sun was shining, and a gentle breeze blew. Su Liang stood at the bow of the ship, looking at the eastward-flowing river water, and asked, "Are there fish in the river?"

Lian Shun, who was standing beside her, immediately nodded, "Of course! The

Liuxian River's specialty carp has a delicate and delicious texture."

"Great," Su Liang thought about rewarding Gu Ling, knowing he loved eating fish.

"Su Xiaoliang, you haven't told me who decided to get married first, you or Gu Xiaoling?" Lian Shun asked curiously.

Su Liang told the truth, "Me."

Lian Shun grinned, "I knew it! I never thought that one day you would be the one chasing someone else! If it was anyone else, they would have been the wrong choice, but that is the most beautiful and powerful Gu Xiaoling!"

Then, Su Liang asked Lian Shun a bizarre question, "If Gu Ling and I both fall into the river, and neither of us can swim, whom would you save if you only have time to save one person?"

Lian Shun paused for a moment, and said seriously, "No matter what, I won't separate you two. I won't save either of you! You can both transform into a pair of lovebirds and fly away."

Su Liang's tone was wistful, "Let's end our friendship." The words sounded very much like Gu Ling's words to Nian Jincheng.

At this moment, Nian Jincheng was leading reinforcements on the way to them but had not yet arrived.

The large ship docked, and Lian Shun, with only one hand able to move, insisted on riding a horse. Su Liang helped him up.

As they approached the North Gate of Jiaye City, they received a new report that the last of Yin Country's troops was leaving through the South Gate.

Su Liang looked back and saw a white figure amidst the dense crowd: Yuan Pei, the grandson of Yuan Ye. Everyone thought that Gu Ling would release Fan Tong after all of Yin Country's troops left. However, she suddenly felt that might not be the case...

The North Gate opened wide, and the anxious common people came out of their homes, cheering to welcome the returning Liang Country's Southern Army.

Su Liang hurriedly rode towards the South Gate and received another report on the way, confirming her suspicion: Gu Ling refused to let Fan Tong go, and the troops from Yin Country remained outside the South Gate, ready to attack at any time.

Lian Shun's expression tightened, "Hurry!"

As Su Liang led her troops and approached, she saw a dark figure standing on Nancheng Building from afar, basking in the sunlight and warm breeze, with his clothes fluttering as if he was a Great God.

It was Gu Ling, holding a bow and arrow, aimed at Fan Tong, the General of the Yin Country, who was suspended from a flagpole.

Su Liang gave the order, and the Liang soldiers who had arrived first began to set up defenses, preparing to face the enemy.

Hearing the noise, Gu Ling turned back and saw Su Liang leaping from her horse, her toes lightly touching the ground as she flew towards him.

The little girl is so beautiful... This was what Gu Ling thought. Fan Gang, who had been waiting below anxiously for a chance to strike, thought he finally caught Gu Ling off guard. At his command, several arrows whistled through the air, aiming straight for Gu Ling's heart.

Without dodging or hiding, Gu Ling seemed oblivious to the danger.

Under the watchful eyes of both armies, Su Liang descended from the sky, landing beside Gu Ling. Her sword danced, deflecting all the arrows that were aimed at him.

So beautiful... Many people couldn't help but marvel at the pair standing high up on the city building.

Su Liang still had the mood to joke around, "Thank you, Great God, for giving me the opportunity to play the hero who saves the beauty."

Gu Ling shook her head slightly and repeated a line that Su Liang had once said, "Beauty saves the hero, very classic." (Source: 'Wulin Gaiden' Guo Furong)

Su Liang chuckled lightly, standing side by side with Gu Ling, looking down at the dark mass of Yin Country's army below, "Which one of you is the son of the rice bucket?"

As soon as these words came out, a burst of laughter erupted from Jiaye City.

Fan Gang, who was protected in the middle, stared fiercely at the delicate figure beside Gu Ling, "You treacherous little man! Release my father quickly!"

"Treacherous?" Su Liang laughed coldly, "If I remember correctly, the last time Yin Country sent an envoy, they said a lot of hoping for peaceful coexistence in front of our emperor. Who was the one who broke their promise and started the war first? If we are little men, are you even human?"

Due to geographical reasons, Qian Country didn't want to actively fight Liang Country or Yin Country. Su Liang's words were fair and unyielding.

Fan Gang's face turned red and his neck thickened with anger, "You! Enough with the nonsense! What do you want?"

Su Liang exchanged a glance with Gu Ling, then looked back at Yuan Pei, who was dressed in mourning clothes and mounted on a horse below, beckoning for him to come up.

Gu Ling put down her bow and arrow and went to untie Fan Tong, who was hanging on the flagpole.

Su Liang looked at Fan Gang again, "I don't know if you've ever heard of the saying, debtor's father, son repaying."

Fan Gang gritted his teeth, "What do you mean?"

"You don't understand? Your father owes a debt, and it's only right and proper for you to repay it. You can even establish yourself as a good filial son. I don't know if you're willing?" Su Liang sneered.

“What debt? Nonsense!” Fan Gang roared.

“It seems you have a bad memory.” Su Liang watched Yuan Pei walk over, pointed at him, and asked, “Do you recognize this young master?”

As soon as Fan Gang saw the mourning clothes on Yuan Pei’s body, he reacted, albeit slowly, but stubbornly said, “I don’t know him!”

“Then let me tell you. This is the grandson of General Yuan from Jiaye City of Qian Country. Do I need to remind you why he is dressed in mourning clothes? General Fan!” Su Liang’s voice suddenly turned cold, “My Qian Country has always pursued peace, and the common people live happily without disputes. Yin Country tore up the agreement and attacked us without reason. They captured the weak and elderly women and children of the Lin Family and set a cruel trap to kill General Yuan. This debt of blood must be paid with blood by

Yin Country!”

Yuan Pei looked at Su Liang, clenching his fists tightly, his eyes reddened.

The soldiers of Qian Country nearby were also excited, and one of them shouted, “Blood debts must be repaid with blood!” Soon, countless echoes resounded like rumbling tides, rushing towards Yin Country’s army outside the city.

Su Liang looked at Fan Gang coldly, waiting for the surrounding voices to die down before speaking again, “Blood debts must be repaid with blood, but I kindly give General Fan an opportunity to be a good son, and you can choose to repay your father’s debt. General Fan, it’s very simple to save your father, just exchange your life for his. How about it?”

The middle-aged man behind Fan Gang stared at Su Liang intently, what a move to kill people and punish the heart!

Su Liang made it clear that one of the Fan family father and son must pay for Yuan Ye’s death with their lives. She gave the choice to Fan Gang, and no matter who died, the one who survived would have to endure a lifetime of pain and torment. This was what they deserved!

War has no mercy, but since Yin Country began to use despicable means, don’t blame Su Liang and Gu Ling for taking revenge!

Fan Gang couldn’t see Su Liang’s expression clearly, but he immediately broke out into a cold sweat, and when the wind blew, his body involuntarily trembled a bit. He turned to look at the strategist who was behind Fan Tong, “What do we do now? Hurry up and think of a way!”

They thought Gu Ling was really going to exchange herself for Lian Shun, but instead, Fan Tong got captured. They thought that as long as they retreated, Fan Tong could naturally return, but they didn’t expect that Gu Ling had been unconventional from the beginning, and Su Liang’s methods were so tough! It had to be said that the so-called “winning the first battle” made the people of

Yin Country too arrogant because of Qian Country’s concessions due to the Lin Family members.

The middle-aged man sighed, “Ask her if she can exchange the general for something else.” There was uncertainty in his tone.

Fan Gang looked at Su Liang again, "As long as you let my father go, you can name your price!"

Su Liang laughed lightly, "I've already said, I can let your father go, the condition is your head, I don't need anything else."

Fan Gang's face turned green with anger, but it was obviously too hard for him to send himself to death. He could only try to stall for time, "This matter, I need to report to the emperor for a decision!"

Su Liang shrugged slightly, "Is it so hard to be a filial son? Then do your duty and mourn for your father!" He handed the sword in his hand to Yuan Pei, who was not far away, "Young Master Yuan, no need to be polite."

Yuan Pei took Su Liang's sword and gripped it tightly, walking towards Fan Tong, who was lying unconscious on the ground.

Gu Ling bent down, grabbed Fan Tong's collar, and dragged him up, standing on the parapet so that Fan Gang and the other Yin Country people below could see clearly.

"Stop! How dare you!" At this point, Fan Gang had only the rage of helplessness. The guard troops of Jiaye City were returning one after another, and if they hadn't set a trap to kill Yuan Ye and forced Che Yun to retreat by using Lin Family members as hostages, the impregnable Jiaye City would not have fallen.

Thus, when the city gate of Jiaye City closed, it would not be so easy for them to come in again. Moreover, Fan Tong's life was still hanging on the city building, so they didn't dare to act rashly.

The situation had turned around yesterday when Fan Tong agreed to Gu Ling to exchange Lian Shun.

Su Liang sneered, "General Fan, there's still a chance now. Before Young Master Yuan plunges the sword into your dad's heart, you can stop it anytime."

Fan Gang's face changed rapidly, and he was almost driven mad. He could only keep shouting for them to stop, but he had nothing else to say.

Yuan Pei had already walked to Gu Ling's side, the long sword in his hand flashing with cold light, pointing at Fan Tong.

"Wait a moment." Su Liang suddenly spoke up, walked over and stuffed a pill into Fan Tong's mouth. The sedatives Gu Ling used were made by her, so of course, she had the antidote.

Then Su Liang raised her hand and fiercely slapped Fan Tong twice, forcing him to wake up.

Fan Tong slowly regained consciousness, his face stinging. He first saw Gu

Ling, and his eyes suddenly turned fierce. The last memory in his mind was Gu Ling dragging him into the dense forest, knocking him out with a slap, and then he knew nothing more.

"General Fan Tong, my name is Su Liang. You are on the city building of Jiaye City. Your son has withdrawn his troops for your sake, but unfortunately, he is unwilling to

exchange his life for your safety." Su Liang coldly informed Fan Tong of the fact that he was about to be executed.

"How dare you!" Fan Tong's expression changed drastically, and his eyes widened like copper bells. He wanted to devour Su Liang alive, "If you dare touch me, go and collect the bodies of Lin Family members!"

Su Liang sneered lightly, "It seems that General Fan hasn't figured out the situation yet. But it doesn't matter. I'll give you three breaths to say goodbye to your good son."

Fan Tong's face stiffened, and he finally realized that the situation had been completely controlled by the Qian Country, and Su Liang intended to execute him in public!

Fan Tong glanced down at Fan Gang and quickly calmed down, "General Su, let's talk about it. Killing me doesn't benefit you at all."

Su Liang snorted coldly, "Blood for blood, do I need to remind General Fan of what he has done?"

Fan Tong's eyes fell on Yuan Pei, his heart sinking, but he still refused to give in, "General Su, we each have our masters, and I have no grudge with General Yuan, I just followed orders..."

"What a joke! Fan Gang, go back and tell your emperor that your dad said it was Emperor Yin who ordered him to kill General Yuan of Qian Country! This debt, we won't forget to settle it with Emperor Yin later!" Su Liang said coldly to the people below, "Time's up! Young Master Yuan, send General Fan on his way!"

Fan Tong's face was full of horror, but he was held by Gu Ling and couldn't move. He watched as Yuan Pei stabbed his sword, piercing through his clothes, flesh, and heart...

Down below, Fan Gang roared and ordered to attack Jiaye City.

But the enraged Yin Country army, that had just been subjected to Fan Tong's public execution, seemed to be deterred. It took a while for them to react and start attacking the city gate of Jiaye City.

As Su Liang let Yuan Pei take action, Qian country's army had already taken their positions, and their morale had been greatly boosted by their anger to avenge Yuan Ye and the pleasure of revenge.

Yuan Pei watched as Fan Tong took his last breath, pulled the sword out, cleaned it with his own clothes, and returned it to Su Liang before walking down the city building, without saying a word from beginning to end.

If a direct attack could capture Jiaye City, Yin Country would have done it long ago.

When Gu Ling threw Fan Tong's corpse with unrelenting eyes off the city building, it fell among the Yin Country army. The nearly mad Fan Gang seemed to want to prove that he did care about his dad, probably not pretending, but this filial piety was not enough for him to sacrifice himself, nor did he care how many Yin Country soldiers he would have to sacrifice to vent his anger.

Su Liang did not order an attack to meet the enemy, because she knew that she could not afford to fight and did not want to fight.

It didn't take long for Fan Gang to finally sober up somewhat, ordering a retreat and leaving with Fan Tong's corpse.

Before leaving, he gave a vicious threat, vowing that Su Liang and Gu Ling would pay blood for blood.

Su Liang calmly replied, "I look forward to witnessing General Fan's brilliant tactics." However, she knew that Fan Gang was just a "child of privilege," and it was only because of Fan Tong that he had his current status. After this failure, he would not have an easy time when he returned home.

Su Liang and Gu Ling exchanged glances, and she gave him a thumbs up with a smile, "Great God never disappoints."

Gu Ling enjoyed Su Liang's praise, but still couldn't help but ask, "Weren't you worried that I might get into trouble?"

As they walked down the city building together, Su Liang shook her head, "Of course I was worried."

Gu Ling was slightly delighted in his heart, "What were you worried about?"

Su Liang said seriously, "Last night, there was thunder and lightning, and I was really worried that the Great God would go into the dense forest, take shelter from the rain under a tree, and get struck by lightning."

Gu Ling paused briefly, walked past Su Liang to the front, and gave her a silent back, letting her think about it on her own...

Su Liang laughed and caught up with him, "I'm not joking." She had really considered such a possibility for a moment yesterday.

Gu Ling: .

"Gu Xiaoling!" Lian Shun rushed over looking anxious, "I'm glad you're okay!"

Where are my family members?"

Gu Ling replied indifferently, "They are in the cabin in the Orange Garden."

Lian Shun was stunned, "My family's Orange Garden?" How did Gu Ling think of hiding people there?

"Yes." Gu Ling nodded, "I've stolen oranges from there three times."

Lian Shun burst into laughter, "How could you be so cute, Gu Xiaoling? Come on, help me get on the horse!"

Gu Ling reached out, gave Lian Shun a hand, and after he got on the horse, he rode away, "You must stay at my house! And you have to show your commitment to me again in my presence, otherwise, I'll regret it for the rest of my life!"

"Are his family members all right?" Su Liang asked Gu Ling.

Gu Ling shook his head, "His sister was injured, but her life is not in danger."

Su Liang let out a sigh of relief, "As long as they're alive. We'll wait for Emperor Yin's decision when the time comes. It's unlikely that Yin Country will strike back."

"I'm hungry." Gu Ling looked at Su Liang.

For some reason, Su Liang felt like Gu Ling was acting coquettish? It must be her illusion. She smiled and said, "Lian Shun said that the carp from Liuxian River are very delicious. I asked someone to catch a few. How do you want to eat them? You have worked hard, so today you can order anything you like. Or, Great God, do you want to cook them yourself?"

"No." Gu Ling shook his head, "I'm tired and hungry."

"Alright, alright. I'll do it. If you have any other requests, just let me know. You're the boss." Su Liang's face was filled with a pleasing smile.

People nearby secretly watched, thinking that Su Liang really loved and admired Gu Ling. It was clear that she was trying to make him happy!

"So, within today, whatever I say goes?" Gu Ling asked.

Su Liang agreed without hesitation, "Deal!"

"Then let's go fishing." Gu Ling thought for a moment. The weather was so nice; he didn't want to see anyone else, only wanting to be with Su Liang. Su Liang held her forehead, "As long as you're happy."

When Lian Shun brought his family members back home and went to find Su Liang and Gu Ling, he was informed that the two had gone fishing outside the city and didn't want anyone to disturb them.

With a face that seemed to say "my favorite couple not only became a reality, but they are also the sweetest in the world," Lian Shun sighed, "How wonderful! I'm just waiting to hold my grandchild now!"

Chapter 304: 304. Great God's Confession

It was a warm afternoon.

The battles had just ended, and there were not many people around Liuxian River. On the sparkling river floated a small boat, and from the shore, one could only see a young girl in dark clothes sitting at the bow.

Gu Ling said they would go fishing, but fishing and boating were not easy to perform simultaneously since the boat could not be fixed in one place on the river without moving.

Su Liang brought a fishing net and chose a spot to cast it, letting the boat drift within a small area.

The reason people on the shore could only see the girl on the boat was because a handsome man had lain down to sleep right after boarding.

Su Liang had no fishing experience, so she decided to wait a little longer. When she looked at Gu Ling again, sunlight shone on his jade-like face, casting shadows from his long eyelashes. His hands were crossed on his chest, and even his sleeping posture was flawless.

After waiting for another quarter of an hour, Su Liang was bored and drowsy from the warm sun. She decided to take a short nap, and when she woke up, she would pull up the fishing net, then they could go home with their catch.

The afternoon sunshine was an excellent aid for napping, especially when accompanied by a gentle breeze.

Su Liang was initially sitting, but before she knew it, she had reclined.

The wind blew the boat away from its original position, drifting leisurely downstream.

When Gu Ling opened his eyes, the scenery on both sides of the river had significantly changed from when he had boarded the boat. Seeing Su Liang sleeping soundly on the other side, Gu Ling instantly understood what had happened. Su Liang had fallen asleep while dreaming of catching many plump fish for him to enjoy.

Gu Ling couldn't possibly be angry; he only felt a little sorry for her. The day they left the capital city was supposed to be their wedding day. They had traveled day and night, and when they arrived in Nanshan City, they immediately started resolving troubles. He had been busy rescuing people the night before and hadn't slept, while Su Liang, even if she had slept, had not yet fully recovered her energy.

Gu Ling removed his outer coat and gently placed it on Su Liang. He sat beside her, watching her quietly, his eyes focused on her eyebrows and eyes, sketching them in his mind. A faint smile crossed his face, and he thought: This is peace and tranquility, isn't it...

When Su Liang woke up, the setting sun resembled blood, dyeing the Liuxian River red. It was evening already.

She rubbed her eyes, sat up, and saw Gu Ling sitting quietly at the stern.

Glancing around, she found herself in an unfamiliar place, "Where are we

"I was about to ask you the same thing." Gu Ling's expression was indifferent.

"Where are the carps?"

Su Liang looked embarrassed, "Great God, I apologize, I inadvertently overslept. As for the carp... it was too cute and hardworking; could you bear to eat it?"

As she continued talking, Su Liang's voice weakened. She ridiculed herself for speaking nonsense and not being the least bit humorous.

Gu Ling found it quite amusing, however, he held back his laughter in front of Su Liang to let her come up with more ways to amuse him.

Su Liang stood up, quickly identified the direction of Jiaye City, and started rowing back.

Having rowed for a while, the speed of the boat suddenly increased, and when Su Liang looked back, she saw Gu Ling standing at the stern.

“Is it your internal power? So strong!” Su Liang admired and envied him. But Gu Ling simply replied, “I’m starving.”

Su Liang immediately felt guilty, “When we get back, I’ll cook something delicious for you. For the next three days, you can order anything you like.” Gu Ling reluctantly agreed and forgave her.

If Su Liang knew that Gu Ling had happily watched her sleep, but now pretended to be aggrieved and demanded benefits, she would certainly kick him into the water, and as he resurfaced, she would kick him back in again...

When Gu Ling and Su Liang returned to Jiaye City, Lian Shun was preparing to lead soldiers out to search for them.

“Didn’t you say you were going fishing?” Lian Shun glared at the two

latecomers. “What kind of fish were you waiting for so late? Where are the fish you caught? Do you know how worried I was! ”

After all, it was wartime, and no matter how strong they were, it was inevitable for Lian Shun to worry when they went out alone, disappeared, and didn’t return for a long time. He couldn’t help but be concerned that the people of Yin Country were playing dirty tricks.

“It’s because of me...” Su Liang tried to explain.

Lian Shun scoffed, “I know you want to be alone with Gu Xiaoling! It’s not enough to sleep together at night, you even follow each other closely during the day. Really!”

Su Liang: ...No words to say.

Everything was fine in the city, the people of Yin Country hadn’t fought back, Nian Jincheng hadn’t arrived yet, and Che Yun hadn’t returned either.

Su Liang wasn’t able to cook dinner herself, because Lian Shun’s mother had prepared a table of good dishes for them and had been waiting.

Calculating, they were visiting a friend’s house in Jiaye City after leaving the capital, and they mustn’t be rude.

So, Su Liang and Gu Ling followed Lian Shun back to his home.

Father Lin wore a stern face and looked very serious, but Lian Shun had already revealed his true colors: he was most afraid of his mother, who Su Liang described as a strict wife.

Mother Lin had a slightly plump figure and, upon seeing Su Liang, she smilingly took her hand, “Finally, we’ve met. I’ve heard so much about you. I never thought that a girl as amazing as the one in the rumors would also have such a stunning appearance. Thank you so much for taking care of Sunsun. He’s always running around and causing a ruckus, so please bear with him a little more.”

Lian Shun scratched his head on the side, his mother usually wasn’t this hospitable to people.

Father Lin continued his wife’s words, “Thank you, General Su, for taking care of our unruly son.”

Su Liang smiled and said there was no need to be so polite, she and Lian Shun were friends.

Mother Lin pulled Su Liang down to sit with her and looked at Gu Ling, 'We met Marquis yesterday. If it weren't for him, I don't know where our whole family would be right now. You two are truly a match made in heaven. Compared to you both, Sunsun falls far short.'

Lian Shun nodded seriously, "Mother is right."

Father Lin glared at him, "You should learn from Marquis and General Su in the future, and stop being so playful."

Lian Shun nodded again, "Father is right."

Su Liang liked the atmosphere at Lin's Family; it was warm and harmonious, and there weren't too many rules. Otherwise, they wouldn't have raised such an optimistic and cheerful child like Lian Shun.

Lian Shun's younger brother was a boy who pretended to be mature, while his younger sister was still sick and didn't come out to greet the guests.

At the table, Lian Shun mentioned that Gu Ling had once gone to Lin Family's

Orchard to steal oranges. Father Lin and Mother Lin both laughed and told Gu Ling and Su Liang not to be so polite, and that they were welcome to visit often.

Hosts and guests enjoyed their time, and after dinner, Su Liang asked to see the injury of Lian Shun's younger sister. Mother Lin led her there.

Father Lin began to speak, "I heard that Marquis is highly skilled at chess. I wonder..."

Lian Shun disrupted him, "Gu Xiaoling, my father's chess skills are poor, but his addiction to it is immense."

Father Lin picked up a stool, but Lian Shun had already dragged Gu Ling away,

"I'll take him to see the rooms! Father, play chess with my younger brother!"

"I still have a book I haven't finished reading yet!" Lian's younger brother lowered his head, took two steps at once, and followed them away.

Lian Shun's younger sister had injured her head when falling during the kidnapping. The wound became worse in the hands of Yin Country people, but fortunately, a doctor there had treated her.

Su Liang examined the wound, which was not very serious, and the recovery was fairly good. The medicine used had no issues, but the only problem was that Lian Shun's younger sister had lost her memory and had forgotten everything that had happened before.

"It's good that she's okay." Mother Lin sighed as she walked out of Lian Shun's younger sister's room with Su Liang, "As for the past, let it be forgotten."

The severity of a head injury is not entirely related to memory loss. The memory may suddenly return one day, or it may never come back. But compared to one's life, the latter is more important.

Su Liang said she would prepare more medicine for Lian Shun's younger sister when she returned. Mother Lin was very happy and personally escorted Su Liang to the residence Lin's Family had arranged for her.

Lian Shun came out from inside, “Gu Xiaoling is taking a bath. Su Xiaoliang, go and help wash his back!”

Mother Lin pulled her son back and bid farewell to Su Liang.

“What was that remark just now?” Mother Lin glared at Lian Shun.

Lian Shun looked innocent, “They’re newlyweds, isn’t that quite normal? I didn’t even mention taking a lovers’ bath! ”

Mother Lin pinched Lian Shun’s ear, “Tell the truth, have you been running around outside and getting involved with some dubious women? What kind of nonsense have you learned!”

Lian Shun quickly begged for mercy, “I got involved with only one woman.”

Mother Lin frowned, “Who?”

“Of course, it’s Su Xiaoliang! Who else could it be?” Lian Shun claimed to be a good, clean man!

Mother Lin snorted, “I’ll take your word for it. You’re not getting any younger, hurry up and get married. Look at Marquis Gu, he married such a nice girl.” “There’s nothing I can do, mother made me too ugly to compare with Gu Xiaoling.” Lian Shun predicted he would get hit, and disappeared before his words stopped.

Su Liang stood at the door of the room, “Great God, are you taking a bath?” There was only one room which was the problem here.

Gu Ling responded. He had heard what Lian Shun said to Su Liang, and if she joked about “scrubbing his back,” he would definitely agree.

But she didn’t. Su Liang walked to the eaves outside, looked around, and then looked up with a smile on her face, “I’m going to the roof to watch the stars!”

A moment later, Gu Ling heard some movement on the roof, and Su Liang’s voice came from above, “Great God, there are so many stars tonight!”

“Really?” Gu Ling replied, thinking that it would be nice to watch the stars together, he liked it and planned to go upstairs after the bath.

Su Liang leaned on her arm while lying on the roof, watching the countless stars and telling Gu Ling about the Star Trek movie plot she liked in her previous life.

When Gu Ling came out of the room wearing a wide dark robe, with still damp hair, and flew to the roof, Su Liang smiled and raised her right hand. She made a Vulcan salute with her little finger and ring finger together, middle finger and index finger together, and the thumb separated.

Gu Ling sat down beside her, mimicked Su Liang’s gesture, and asked her what it meant.

“Eternal life, prosperity and success,” Su Liang said, looking at the starry sky. “If only we could really travel back to the world I came from. Maybe technology has advanced enough to explore the stars.”

Gu Ling gazed at the night sky, “I really want to go.”

Su Liang chuckled, "I know. If there's only one chance, I'll give it to the Great God. But it's just our wild imagination. Besides going there, is there anything else you really want to do now, Great God?"

At Su Liang's words, Gu Ling fell silent.

Su Liang found it strange and sat up to look at Gu Ling's side face. Seeing him in deep thought, she nudged his arm, "Great God, is there something you can't tell me? Really?"

Gu Ling turned his head to look at Su Liang, still wearing his usual cold expression, "Recently, I have been indeed thinking about something." Su Liang nodded, signaling Gu Ling to continue.

"It's about," Gu Ling's voice paused for a moment, "that kind of thing." Su Liang's expression was inexplicable, "What kind of thing?" "The kind of thing men and women do," Gu Ling said.

Su Liang looked shocked, "Great God, are you in heat?"

Gu Ling's face darkened, but it was not obvious under the night sky, "It's all your fault. "

Su Liang's heartbeat suddenly quickened, "What... what do you mean?" Did Gu Ling have feelings for her?

Gu Ling sighed softly, "Ever since you asked me if there was a problem with that aspect, I couldn't help but think about it. You know, I'm curious about things I haven't done before, wondering what it feels like."

Some things don't need planning or mental preparation. What Gu Ling said was actually from his heart. He just didn't want to scare Su Liang, so he only mentioned that he was curious about that kind of thing and didn't say he wanted to sleep with her.

As Su Liang said, there was nothing they couldn't talk about between the two of them. She had even drawn human anatomy charts, given Gu Ling biology lessons, and told him about menstruation, how babies were made, and how they were born.

Therefore, the topic they were discussing at the moment would seem absurd to anyone else, but Su Liang could accept Gu Ling's way of expressing it.

However, they were still of different genders. And at Su Liang's suggestion, they had become a married couple in name. So, Su Liang did not feel as calm and objective as she thought.

"Great God, I can understand, after all, at your age, full of vigor and vitality..." Su Liang said, feeling a bit strange, shook her head, and asked Gu Ling seriously, "Now I know what you mean, so tell me, how do you want to solve

Gu Ling looked into Su Liang's sparkling eyes, and his heart beat faster. The stars were shining, the night breeze was cool, and the girl he loved was by his side. He had already brought up the topic, and his desire to confess his love grew wildly like weeds.

Maybe Su Liang liked him but didn't realize it because they were too used to being friends. Life is short, should they really waste more time waiting? Su Liang could fall in love before she turned eighteen, right?... Gu Ling asked himself.

"I was thinking, why don't we just be together, for real?" The words that Gu Ling blurted out had been rehearsed countless times in his heart so quickly that he couldn't restrain his rationality any longer or try to hide his true feelings.

Su Liang's heartbeat skipped a beat as she stared blankly at Gu Ling before suddenly coming to her senses. "Because you want to do that kind of thing? Great God, I consider you a friend, and you're lusting after my body?" Gu Ling's expression stiffened, "No. You misunderstood."

"I didn't misunderstand." Su Liang felt inexplicably terrible, "You just want to sleep with me. Thanks for your honesty, but I refuse. Go find someone else to experience it with!"

With that said, Su Liang stood up and attempted to leave.

But the rooftop tiles were covered in moss, and Su Liang's foot slipped, causing her to lean sideways.

Gu Ling rushed over and grabbed Su Liang's slender waist, bringing her back onto the rooftop.

Their bodies pressed against each other, making Su Liang suddenly feel very hot. She tried to push Gu Ling away but couldn't, and she became annoyed, "Let go of me!"

Gu Ling frowned, realizing that his way of speaking tonight was a problem, and needed to clarify immediately, "In my heart, you're not just a friend, brother or sister. You're the girl I like."

Su Liang's face stiffened, "You're lying. Don't try to make up for it like this."

"I can't imagine what life would mean without you," Gu Ling said.

Su Liang scoffed, "You're not the type with a love brain!"

"Do you think you know me well?" Gu Ling looked down at Su Liang, still not letting go.

Su Liang nodded, "Of course. Even alone, you can live well. I have no doubt about that."

"Wrong." Gu Ling shook his head, "I can live alone, but it's just living. Only with you can life be enjoyable."

"Is it because I can tell you a lot of things you don't know?" Su Liang scoffed.

"That's part of you, and I won't deny it," Gu Ling said, "since you know I'm honest, why don't you believe that I genuinely like you?"

"The reason is simple!" Su Liang stomped on Gu Ling's foot angrily but forgot that they were standing on the rooftop. The slippery tile caused her to fall out once more.

The next moment, Su Liang fell back into Gu Ling's arms. She glared at him and continued with her unfinished sentence, "If you've liked me for a long time, why are you only saying it now?"

Gu Ling furrowed his brow, holding Su Liang as they landed on the ground. He forgot to let her go and didn't want to, while she just stared at him, waiting for an answer.

“Because you said it yourself, you’re not an adult until you’re eighteen,” Gu Ling revealed the reason that had been troubling him for a long time.

The angry Su Liang looked at Gu Ling’s serious and somewhat distressed expression, and pushed him away, standing up. She looked at him half mockingly, “Do you want me to believe that you were waiting for me to turn eighteen before confessing, because of what I said about being an adult? How do you explain your behavior tonight? Maybe you’ve already told the truth, and you can’t help but want to sleep with me. That’s your real intention!”

Gu Ling: ...He messed things up. Although it was something he had been thinking about for a long time, everything happened so suddenly, and he never thought that his confession would lead to this outcome.

Su Liang turned around, “Let’s end our friendship.”

Gu Ling frowned, “I didn’t dare to confess earlier for fear of being rejected, but tonight I couldn’t hold back.”

Su Liang continued to walk away.

Gu Ling leaped into the air, passing over Su Liang’s head like a dark feather, and landed in front of her before she could leave the courtyard.

Su Liang stopped and stared at him, “You have two sentences left.”

Two sentences... Gu Ling’s hair fluttered, and his face, which had just been bathed, was glowing white in the night, beautiful enough to remind Su Liang of the Dark Night Elves from the movies of her previous life. His eyes seemed to carry a touch of grievance, “I like you.. Is it wrong for me to want to sleep with you? You always praise me for being beautiful, so do you want to sleep with me?”

Chapter 305: 305. Fall in love with me

The stars in the sky were silent, and Su Liang on the ground wanted to... fight. “You...” Su Liang took a deep breath, telling herself to stay calm, “You’re trying to seduce me.”

A confident tone.

Gu Ling nodded in acknowledgment and sighed inaudibly, “It seems useless.” “Taking off your clothes isn’t seduction?” Su Liang scoffed.

Gu Ling paused, his hand already on his belt, “Shall we... go back to the room?”

“You can go back yourself.” Su Liang’s eyes had regained their calm, “If you don’t know how to solve your physiological needs on your own, I can teach you.”

Gu Ling: .

“As for your saying you like me, I believe you. I also know the cause and effect relationship between this and your wanting to sleep with me.” Su Liang’s expression was indifferent.

She was initially furious, mainly because of shock.

At this moment, Su Liang's reason returned, and looking back at tonight's events and her previous interactions with Gu Ling, she believed every word he said. He had liked her long ago, and because he liked her, he had desire, not the other way around.

However, the information was a bit too much for Su Liang to digest in a short time.

Gu Ling exhaled slightly. He was touched that Su Liang still believed in his character by now and felt some hope that this confession could be saved... However, in the next moment, Su Liang said, "Let's part ways."

Gu Ling's eyes narrowed, and he blurted out, "No."

"Anyway, you lied to me." Su Liang said, "I was the one who proposed marriage, but I thought you wanted the same thing as I did, just to solve unnecessary troubles. I never expected you to be serious. All along, the most important foundation for us to live together was honesty. In this fake marriage, you gave me what I wanted, but I can't give you what you want. It's not fair to you. Let's just call it off."

"I don't think it's unfair." Gu Ling shook his head, "I disagree with calling it off."

"Whatever, I don't care about the name, but I want to separate from you now." Su Liang finished talking and walked forward. When she passed Gu Ling, he reached out and grabbed her arm.

"Let go." Su Liang frowned. Gu Ling shook his head, "No."

"You're hurting me." Su Liang said.

Gu Ling loosened his grip, and Su Liang ran forward, as if eager to get away from him.

Watching Su Liang's figure disappear into the night, Gu Ling's heart sank further and further, stiff and motionless, his outstretched hand forgotten to be withdrawn...

Su Liang believed in him, but she was unwilling to accept... this recognition made Gu Ling's heart uncomfortable, as if suddenly missing a large piece, empty and cold, the cold wind pouring in, penetrating, so cold. For the second time in his life, he experienced what it was like to be heartbroken. The first time was when his mother died.

Finally coming back to his senses, Gu Ling's hand hanging in midair, silently made the Vulcan hand gesture that Su Liang had made to him tonight, and then slammed down, chasing after the direction Su Liang had disappeared in.

Even if he had to go, it should be him leaving, it was dangerous for Su Liang to go out late at night... This thought kept Gu Ling's heart hanging, but after leaving the Lian Mansion, he didn't know where to look for Su Liang. Gu Ling went back and searched the Lian Mansion up and down but couldn't find Su Liang's whereabouts.

Having experienced a disaster and returning home for the first night, Lian Shun, who had just fallen asleep, was awakened by Gu Ling's slap on his forehead.

“Who is it?” Lian Shun jumped up from the bed, looking like he had seen a ghost. When he recognized it was Gu Ling, he was simply speechless, “Gu Xiaoling, instead of hugging Su Xiaoliang in bed at night, you come to scare me dressed as a ghost?”

At this moment, Gu Ling, with his long black hair draped over him, wearing a large sleeping robe, pale as a ghost, and dark eyes, indeed looked a bit scary.

Gu Ling wanted to ask Lian Shun if he had arranged another place for Su Liang to stay, but seeing his appearance, it was clear that Su Liang hadn’t been there.

So, Gu Ling turned around and disappeared.

Lian Shun was left dumbfounded, and it took a moment for him to come back to his senses, convinced he had just had a dream, then shook his head repeatedly, “No way! It must be Gu Xiaoling dreaming! He’s sleepwalking!”

Lian Shun lay back down but still felt something was off, ‘Gu Xiaoling goes to bed with Su Xiaoliang, and when he sleepwalks, she doesn’t care or doesn’t notice? That’s too scary. I have to remind her tomorrow to always let Gu Xiaoling sleep on the inside at night...”

The Lian Mansion was empty, and Gu Ling went out again, walking through the dark streets and alleys, all of which were as empty as his lost heart.

After searching in vain, Gu Ling suddenly thought of the day when he and Su Liang had taken a boat ride. Had she left the city in anger and gone to the river to cool down?

So, Gu Ling hurriedly left the city and went to the place where he and Su Liang had disembarked during the day.

The guard troops of Jiaye City’s South Gate were wide awake tonight, highly alert and prepared for any possible attack from the Yin Country people.

On the city building, a patrolling soldier was vividly describing to others how Su Liang had made the Fan father and son pay for their crimes in blood during the day.

Two soldiers lamented their regret for not being among the first to witness Su Liang avenging General Yuan Ye and dealing a just punishment to the Fan father and son.

“General Su?”

“What General Su? Stop kidding.”

The soldiers turned around and saw a slender figure appeared not far away, silently watching them.

“Su... General Su!” Several soldiers quickly lined up and saluted with their fists.

Su Liang nodded slightly, “Hmm. You’ve worked hard. Continue, I can’t sleep, so I’m just taking a look.”

Several soldiers thought they were going to be scolded, but instead received an acknowledgment of their hard work, which warmed their hearts. What Su Liang meant by “continue” was, of course, to get back to their duties, not continue chatting.

Soon, the Junior Officer on duty at the South Gate that night came running to report to Su Liang. There was no abnormality.

“This is the most important checkpoint. Do not let your guard down.” Su Liang’s tone was not harsh. As she spoke, her thoughts drifted, wondering whether leaving Lian Mansion and running away would make Gu Ling worried... After a pause, Su Liang looked outside the South Gate and told the Junior Officer not to bother with her, and go back to doing his duties.

Walking around the city building, Su Liang saw the flagpole where Fan Tong had been hanged during the day, along with a large pool of blood on the ground. No one had cleaned up the bloodstains, which had been left on purpose as a consolation to General Yuan Ye’s spirit in heaven.

After another walk around, Su Liang decided to return to Lian Mansion. Being separated was one thing, but it was wrong to run away without saying anything. Since she didn’t run away, she should let Gu Ling know.

Halfway there, Su Liang hesitated again. If she went back and reported her whereabouts to Gu Ling, wouldn’t it be the same as before? Her mind was in turmoil and she couldn’t accept the sudden change in their relationship. It felt strange, especially when Gu Ling tried to seduce her with his good looks, which sent chills down her spine. Was that the aloof Great God she knew? At that moment, she only had one thought: she needed some time alone to calm down...

Visiting the South Gate to inspect the situation did not improve her mood, because she, who wanted to stay away from Gu Ling to calm down, couldn’t help but want to return to tell Gu Liang where she had been...

This troubled Su Liang. Was her dependence on Gu Ling so deep that she could no longer live independently?

No, she treated Gu Ling as a friend. Even as a friend, she had a responsibility to let Gu Ling know she was not in any danger.

With this in mind, Su Liang returned to Lian Mansion.

As she approached the courtyard Lian Shun had arranged for her and Gu Ling, Su Liang thought that the light had been on originally. If the light was still on, maybe Gu Ling was there, maybe not. But if the light was out, he must be asleep...

Thinking this way, Su Liang hid in a corner and peeked inside. She didn’t know why she had to be so sneaky, but she just didn’t want Gu Ling to know she had come back.

At a glance, she saw that the door was closed, and the light had been extinguished.

Su Liang tapped her forehead: Stay awake! Gu Ling had already gone to bed; what was she thinking?

When she left Lian Mansion again, Su Liang was even angrier. Damn it, even if they weren’t a couple anymore, they were still friends. Was Gu Ling not worried that she might get caught by the Yin Country people when she went out? She didn’t know him well enough; his aloofness was all an act, and he was just a repressed ghost!

As a second-rank Military Commander sent south by the Imperial Edict, Su Liang visited the South Gate twice that night, even joining the patrol team outside the city on the second visit, which deeply moved and impressed the guard troops at the gate.

On the other side, Gu Ling didn't know that the wind had blown out the light and left the door ajar, making Su Liang mistakenly think he was asleep.

When Gu Ling arrived at the bank of Liuxian River, where he and Su Liang had disembarked during the day, he couldn't find the small boat they had taken.

Could it be that Su Liang had really gone sailing to clear her mind... Gu Ling frowned, standing by the river, letting the cool wind mess up his hair. Su

Liang's first visit to Jiaye City, apart from the Lin's Family, she only knew Yuan Pei and a few other generals, but they were not close enough to warrant her barging into their homes in the middle of the night.

The more he thought, the more Gu Ling believed that Su Liang was drifting somewhere on the river on that small boat, and he had to find her. It would be very cold in the latter part of the night, and she was lightly dressed. She would freeze if she stayed outside.

With this thought in mind, Gu Ling used his lightness skill to sprint along the riverside, searching for Su Liang and the small boat.

He went eastward, even surpassing the furthest point where their boat had drifted while they slept the day before, but still found no trace of Su Liang.

When the sky began to turn pale, Gu Ling turned around with a dejected expression, feeling that maybe he had been searching in the wrong direction from the beginning...

By the time Gu Ling returned to his starting point with his back to the rising sun, the morning mist had dampened his hair. He didn't look for Su Liang along the western side of Liuxian River, but looked towards Jiaye City: Maybe Su Liang had already returned.

Gu Ling decided to return first to take a look.

Su Liang followed the patrol team to inspect various places outside the city until dawn and found no anomalies.

When entering the city, Su Liang met Yuan Pei, who also stopped in surprise.

"General Su." Yuan Pei bowed slightly as a gesture of courtesy to Su Liang.

"What brings you here, Young Master Yuan?" Su Liang looked at the wooden bowl Yuan Pei held with clear water inside, puzzled. Neither Lian Xuan nor Yuan Ye had asked their descendants to continue their legacy. Yuan Pei was a scholar but had not taken the Imperial examination and did not have a position in the military.

Yuan Pei said somberly, "I want to collect some of Fan Tong's blood and bring it back to offer in front of my grandfather's Spirit Tablet."

Su Liang thought of the bloodstain on the city building and sighed, "You go ahead."

"Thank you, General Su, for what happened yesterday," said Yuan Pei.

Su Liang shook her head, "It's my duty. Young Master Yuan, please show restraint in your grief."

With that, Su Liang bent down to pick up a piece of leaf stuck to her shoe, and Yuan Pei walked up to the city building with the wooden bowl.

Lian Shun was woken up by his mother.

“Mother, can’t I sleep a little longer since I’m injured?” Lian Shun closed his eyes and refused to open them.

Lin’s mother pulled Lian Shun’s uninjured arm, “Get up quickly. We have an esteemed guest, you have to entertain him.”

Lian Shun suddenly opened his eyes and sat up, “An esteemed guest... Gu Xiaoling, right? His sleepwalking last night scared me to death!”

His mother was startled, “Sleepwalking? Don’t talk nonsense. How could Marquis Gu sleepwalk? You must be dreaming.”

Lian Shun held his forehead, “Mother, I’m your real son.”

But thinking that he needed to tell Su Liang about Gu Ling’s sleepwalking last night, Lian Shun got up, planning to find them after getting ready. He also had to inform them about the tour around Jiaye City, which he had meticulously planned last night before going to sleep. He wouldn’t accept any refusal.

Su Liang left Lian Mansion in secret, and returned avoiding people, or she couldn’t explain her presence.

She had to go back to that courtyard, as her luggage was there, and she needed to change her clothes.

As she entered the courtyard, Su Liang thought that she still needed to keep her distance from Gu Ling for a while. She was too confused now, and she couldn’t figure out how their relationship should develop. She needed calmness, and that kind of calmness could only be achieved when she was not seeing Gu Ling...

At the door, Su Liang took a deep breath and knocked, “It’s me.”

After a while, the door finally opened.

Su Liang looked at Gu Ling, who appeared before her, and thought that she indeed didn’t misunderstand the situation last night. After she ran out, he went to sleep. Now his hair was bound up by a jade crown, and his clothes were neat and tidy – already changed! There was no apparent sadness on his face after being rejected! He was perfect from head to toe, but she really wanted to hit him...

“Come in.” Gu Ling glanced at Su Liang and turned around, his voice calm.

Su Liang entered the room, saw the bundle on the table missing from yesterday, and asked with a frown, “Where’s my luggage?”

“I put the clothes in the wardrobe. Half for each, yours are on the right.” Gu Ling sat down at the table, poured a cup of warm water, and motioned for Su Liang to sit down, placing the cup in front of her.

Su Liang felt something strange, but she was really thirsty. She picked up the cup and quickly drank the water, then her face suddenly changed, “Did you put something in the cup?”

Gu Ling's face darkened a bit, "I really want to ... but do you think I'm that kind of person?"

"You've done things like seducing me; who knows what kind of person you are?" Su Liang snorted lightly, put down the cup, picked up the teapot, and poured herself another cup, drinking it down.

Of course, she knew Gu Ling wouldn't drug her, but she couldn't help but vent her feelings...

"Let's talk." Gu Ling looked at Su Liang, who drank her third cup of water before he began to speak.

"Hmm," Su Liang nodded, "We must keep our distance. What happened last night makes me feel very uneasy, and I can't pretend it didn't happen."

The truth was, she couldn't look at Gu Ling as before while sitting across from him. Whenever she saw him, the scene of him seducing her last night would appear in her mind...

"No." Gu Ling's reply was very straightforward.

Su Liang frowned, "Great God, I thought you were a reasonable person. We had agreed on a fake marriage, but you had ulterior motives and kept me in the dark."

"I want to reason with you." Gu Ling said as he took something out of his chest and put it in front of Su Liang, "Please fulfill your promise."

As soon as Su Liang picked up the water cup, it suddenly shook, the water splashing on her hand and running down her fingers...

"You... are you... playing dirty!" Su Liang slammed her hand on the table, her face turning red with anger.

That's because there was a delicate wooden plaque on the table, with three characters etched on it: "Forgive You", signed by two water droplets.

The meaning was simple: Su Liang forgives Gu Ling.

"You gave this to me, and you promised that no matter why you were angry with me, you would unconditionally forgive me once." Gu Ling looked at Su

Liang, his expression serious, "I ask you to cash it out now."

Su Liang was infuriated and laughed, "Do you carry this trinket everywhere? Fine, I'll cash it, I'll forgive you for last night. But I still want to split up, it has nothing to do with last night, I don't want to live with you anymore! I'm done playing!"

"Not possible." Gu Ling's thin lips slightly opened, and he took out a second plaque from his chest, placing it in front of Su Liang, engraved with the words "At Your Service."

Staring blankly, Su Liang's mind flashed back to the moment when she held up the plaque and said to Gu Ling, "At your service. No matter when or where, as long as you present this plaque to me, I will have no second opinions on whatever request you make. One use only."

"I know you have a good memory and always keep your word." Gu Ling looked at Su Liang.

Su Liang grabbed the two plaques and wanted to smash them in Gu Ling's face,

"What do you want? Use this plaque to ask me to sleep with you?" Gu Ling shook his head, "I just want you to give me a chance, date me."

"I'll accept now, break up with you tomorrow, and that won't be breaking my promise." Su Liang scoffed.

Gu Ling just looked at her silently and did not speak.

The atmosphere went silent, and Su Liang's heart became even more restless. After a while, she slapped the two plaques on the table, "You have to pay back eventually when you're out and about! I only promise to try, if it doesn't work, so be it!"

"I will succeed." Gu Ling stood up and the depth of his ink-like eyes seemed to suddenly bloom a water lily, accompanied by a gentle shallow smirk, and his lips also lifted slightly.

Looking at Gu Ling, Su Liang lost her thoughts for a moment, then reacted by grabbing the 'At Your Service' plaque and smashing it in Gu Ling's chest, "Does being beautiful matter? What are you smiling about? Seductive again!" Gu Ling nodded, "My skills are still shallow, but I will practice hard until I succeed."

Su Liang turned and walked out, "I don't want to see you."

But Gu Ling walked in front of her, "I'll go tell someone to prepare bathwater."

As Su Liang watched Gu Ling's figure disappear at the door and the door close from the outside, she had an indescribable expression. Indeed, she wanted to take a bath and change her clothes immediately. But could it be that someone was really good at mind reading and had been hiding it from her all this time?

"Date... What a joke..." Su Liang lay on the table, resting her head on the two wooden plaques, sighing, "Bastard, you were prepared. What a trap!"

Gu Ling asked a servant in the Lian Mansion to fetch hot water. Then he dragged Lian Shun out of the corner where he was eavesdropping.

"Gu Xiaoling, what are you doing?" Lian Shun sneered, "Be nicer to me, or I'll expose your secret."

A beautiful frown appeared on Gu Ling's forehead, "What did you hear?"

Lian Shun let out a sly smile and said ambiguously, "I didn't hear it too clearly, just bits and pieces, but I already know what happened! Last night you didn't perform well, and you made Su Xiaoliang

run away, right? That's why you were searching for her, all distraught. I never thought that Gu Xiaoling, so beautiful, would... Never mind, I won't make fun of you. Su Xiaoliang has agreed to give you another try, and she's a doctor, so she'll definitely cure you..."

Before Lian Shun could finish, Gu Ling stepped back and then kicked Lian Shun, sending him flying.

Lian Shun drew a smooth parabola through the air, landing without pressing on his injured right arm...

Lian Shun sighed wistfully, "Gu Xiaoling, you actually calculated my landing position? With such skill and yet unable to conquer your own wife, it seems the heavens are fair, after all."

If Gu Ling heard Lian Shun's words, he would definitely kick him like a ball, sending him enjoying the freedom of flying back and forth without aggravating his injuries...

After sending away the noisy Lian Shun, Gu Ling turned and looked at the closed door, imagining how much Su Liang wanted to hit him right now.

However, when he returned to the city early in the morning and accidentally overheard someone saying that Su Liang had gone on patrol last night, he was relieved to return home and change clothes.. Seeing the two wooden plaques hidden in the luggage, he made up his mind: Su Liang wanted to run, but there was no door or window!

Chapter 306: 306. Su Xiaoliang's Self-Strategy

Last night, Su Liang, who hadn't closed her eyes, was pondering a question while bathing: when did Gu Ling start to like her?

Recalling the bits and pieces of their lives together, it was impossible for Su Liang to see when this might have happened. Gu Ling had always been good to her, but never revealed any emotions that would make her think about their relationship in a romantic sense. The physical contact between them was, at most, the level of intimacy that she had with her friends and family in her previous life. That was why she was shocked by Gu Ling's sudden confession last night, as well as his plans to take off his clothes and seduce her...

Prior to last night, Su Liang's most profound impression of Gu Ling was of his cold and aloof demeanor. This was the first and largest label she had given him in her heart.

The illusion of the cold and aloof man had now shattered for Su Liang. She felt that his sudden and unexpected change of character had left her blindsided...

Unable to figure out when Gu Ling had started to like her and still unable to think about her own feelings towards him, Su Liang fell asleep amidst the warmth and drowsiness of the bath.

Gu Ling was sitting in the courtyard.

Lin's servants brought breakfast, and Gu Ling ate first, knowing that if he waited for Su Liang, the food would become cold. He hadn't slept last night either and had been running around, so he was hungry.

Gu Ling, guessing the usual time Su Liang took to bath, put down his chopsticks and went to knock on the door, "Su Liang?"

There was no response from inside, and Gu Ling knew that Su Liang had once again fallen asleep while bathing.

Thinking that the water hadn't cooled yet, he decided to wait for another fifteen minutes before knocking again.

Su Liang was awakened by the knocking and responded subconsciously, "Oh, I'll be right out." It was only after she spoke that she realized she was still acting coy with Gu Ling...

Outside the door, Gu Ling heard Su Liang's submissive voice and could imagine her drowsy look. He smiled and spoke gently, "The water is getting cold. If you're still sleepy, get dressed, eat something, and then go back to sleep."

Su Liang snorted lightly, thinking that Gu Ling's sudden gentleness was just his desire to take advantage of her. Men...

Although Gu Ling's strange confession had colored her view of him, she had never genuinely questioned his character. Otherwise, she wouldn't have agreed to try dating him.

Those two wooden plaques had limited binding effect on Su Liang. In reality, they simply served to harmonize the inexplicable conflicts between the two of them, giving them an excuse to ease the embarrassment caused by the terrible confession that took place the night before.

In other words, those two wooden plaques were like "steps" that offered Gu Ling and Su Liang an opportunity to stand together, even after stepping down from the awkward "roof of embarrassment."

By the time Su Liang had finished her bath and dressed, the bowls and dishes on the stone table in the courtyard had been taken away.

"Where's my breakfast?" Su Liang asked. She had heard someone delivering breakfast earlier.

"It got cold and didn't taste very good," Gu Ling shook his head. "There's a breakfast shop in Jiaye City that makes good food."

"Alright, you lead the way." Su Liang walked out, feeling somewhat uncomfortable and finding it a bit hard to look directly at Gu Ling. The next moment, Gu Ling walked up to Su Liang and asked, "Shouldn't we hold hands if we are dating?"

Su Liang immediately dodged two steps to the side, "That's something that comes naturally. I'm not ready yet."

Gu Ling looked at the distance Su Liang had put between them and silently moved closer to her, "Oh, I was just asking. Why are you so afraid?"

Su Liang could no longer hold back her sarcasm, "What do you think I'm afraid of? Do you think your confession was normal? Just because you're exceptionally handsome and the most beautiful person in the world, does that mean I should feel honored if you say you want to sleep with me? Otherwise, I'm ungrateful and don't know how to appreciate your advances?" Gu Ling frowned, "No, that was really a misunderstanding..."

"I know that wasn't your intention, but the way you acted was too..." Su Liang couldn't find the right adjective for a moment, "For me, it was too horrifying! You've always been so cold and aloof, then suddenly you become so passionate, and so exaggerated. Who can handle that?!"

Gu Ling nodded slightly, "It's my fault." He fully understood and accepted Su Liang's complaints. At that time, things had happened too suddenly, and he hadn't expected that hiding his emotions for so long would lead to such an impulsive act and make the confession so chaotic. It was his first time confessing, and he had no experience; as soon as he opened his mouth, everything spiraled out of control...

However, Gu Ling picked up on another key point from Su Liang's complaints. He looked at Su Liang and asked, "If I had confessed properly last night, would you not be angry and accept me?"

Su Liang's expression visibly stiffened for a moment, as she hadn't had time to consider this question...

Gu Ling's eyes were filled with anticipation, waiting for Su Liang's answer.

Su Liang elbowed Gu Ling in the ribs and rolled her eyes at him, "Don't think that you can just erase what has happened. Unless you can make time flow backwards, back to the past."

Gu Ling: ...She didn't admit it, but it seems like she didn't deny it either? And she even hit him? Her rolling eyes were so cute! Was this the so-called "flirting by hitting and scolding"? He suddenly had the feeling that they were really dating and it was incredibly wonderful.

Just as Gu Ling was about to continue with their previous topic, a figure ran towards them, "Su Xiaoliang!"

Gu Ling: ... So annoying, I want to kick Lian Shun to the ends of the earth...

Lian Shun's right arm was fixed with a wooden board and tied to his neck, but it didn't stop him from running over and pulling Su Liang to one side, obviously wanting to whisper something to her behind Gu Ling's back.

Su Liang glanced at the distance and thought that Lian Shun really didn't understand Gu Ling. His hearing was extremely good, and with such a close distance, he could hear everything they said.

However, Su Liang didn't remind Lian Shun, thinking that he must be showing off his mysteriousness and that there couldn't be anything urgent.

Lian Shun looked at Gu Ling and asked Su Liang in a low voice, "Su Xiaoliang, do you know that Gu Xiaoling suffers from sleepwalking?"

Su Liang blinked and nodded, "I know." It was her suggestion, and he had "sleepwalked" in both Liang Country's Yao City and Qian Country's capital city. But how did Lian Shun know?

"Really?" Lian Shun frowned, "This kind of illness, even you can't cure it?"

Su Liang shook her head, "This is usually a psychological disease."

Lian Shun's eyes widened, looked at Gu Ling again, and said, "I understand now. "

Su Liang was confused, "What do you understand?"

Lian Shun sighed deeply, “I didn’t mean to eavesdrop on your conversation this morning. You and Gu Xiaoling are newlyweds. I didn’t expect there to be such a big problem. You must not abandon Gu Xiaoling. As a man, encountering this kind of problem puts a lot of pressure on him, he can’t sleep at night, and then gets sleepwalking, running to my room in the middle of the night, scaring me to death! You must provide him with good guidance. I believe in your medical skills, and I am sure you can cure him!”

Gu Ling: ... Heard it loud and clear, wanted to hang Lian Shun upside down on his citrus tree!

Su Liang initially felt strange, but as she listened, she remembered that Lian Shun only heard fragments of her conversation with Gu Ling, and combined with Gu Ling running to his room last night, made him think that Gu Ling couldn’t perform, and that’s why he sleepwalked?

“Su Xiaoliang, are you okay?” Seeing Su Liang not speaking, Lian Shun pulled her sleeve.

At the next moment, Su Liang burst into laughter, laughing while walking forward. She didn’t say a word to Lian Shun and showed no intention of helping Gu Ling clarify..

Too amusing! Su Liang couldn’t stop laughing every time she thought about how Lian Shun seriously said that Gu Ling couldn’t perform and sleepwalked due to pressure, thinking that she hadn’t encountered such a hilarious incident in a long time, haha!

Gu Ling stood there with a dark face.

Lian Shun found Su Liang’s reaction confusing. He walked over to Gu Ling, and the two of them watched Su Liane’s retreating figure. still able to hear her

laughter clearly.

Lian Shun asked “Is Su Xiaoliang using laughter to cover up her embarrassment? It was really none of my business, but I thought as a doctor, she wouldn’t mind too much, after all, I was thinking of your best interest.” At the next moment, Lian Shun was once again kicked away by Gu Ling, his landing posture exactly the same as last time...

Gu Ling caught up with Su Liang and asked with a frown, “He’s talking nonsense, why didn’t you help me explain?”

Su Liang countered, “Why didn’t you clarify it yourself?”

Gu Ling shook his head, “For this kind of thing, if I explain it myself, he might think I’m trying to cover up more. Unless I tell him the whole story.” But it involved too many secrets between him and Su Liang, and he didn’t want others to know.

Su Liang was still laughing, “Oh, you’re right. But sorry, I can’t help you explain either. After all, I don’t know anything about your situation.”

Gu Ling: ... Really wanted to carry Su Liang back to the room for a good “talk”...

After Lian Shun’s misunderstanding and amusement, Su Liang’s mood improved a lot, and the awkwardness between the two overnight due to their complicated relationship had abated somewhat.

As they left Lin’s Family, Su Liang directly asked the question that puzzled her,

“Great God, when did you start to like me?”

Gu Ling thought about it and said, “It seems there was no specific time. I just slowly realized that I can’t live without you.”

Su Liang’s footsteps faltered, her heart feeling like it was being gently teased by a feather, quivering slightly.

She thought that if Gu Ling had said to her while looking at the stars last night, “I can’t live without you”, she wouldn’t have been angry, and maybe she would have seriously considered being with him...

Seeing that Su Liang wasn’t talking, Gu Ling thought she was dissatisfied with his answer. But he had thought about this question before, and there really wasn’t any particular moment when their feelings deepened, growing stronger as they lived together and spent time together. At first, it was very light, so light that perhaps he hadn’t noticed it himself, but slowly it became more and more obvious.

If he had to pick a time, Gu Ling believed it was love at first sight with Su Liang. Because he could now clearly recall that night in Su Family Village, those clear eyes that looked at him when she lifted the veil. He loved every moment of Su Liang from their first meeting to the present, each one a precious gift from heaven.

But Gu Ling didn’t dare to say it, as Su Liang might think “love at first sight” was too fake. He also thought so himself. Feelings come from one’s own emotions.

Su Liang continued walking and replied to Gu Ling, “I’m not quite sure yet if I can live without you.”

Su Liang didn’t say she thought she could live without Gu Ling.

It’s different.

From a practical perspective, either of them could live without the other, as they were living separately before they met. Many of the problems she encountered after transmigration were resolved by Gu Ling, but without him, it might not have been as smooth, but she would have found a way to survive.

Now they were talking about the desire to spend the rest of their lives together.

And this was the reason Su Liang had originally planned to part with Gu Ling. Everything happened so suddenly last night, she didn’t have time to digest it and sort out her feelings for Gu Ling.

Her idea of separation was not breaking up completely, or she wouldn’t have thought of coming back to let Gu Ling know where she was going when she went to patrol the South City Building, so he wouldn’t worry about her. She just wanted to go to a place without Gu Ling to calm down.

Of course, Gu Ling’s two wooden plaques had disrupted her plan, causing the two of them to become “promised” lovers after three fake weddings.

If had not asked Su Liang to date him using those two plaques, perhaps Su Liang would have thought it through after cooling off for two days and decided to be with him.

But rivers won't flow backward, time can't go back, and Gu Ling will never know if those two plaques helped him or added obstacles to their relationship...

As for the present, Gu Ling was not disappointed when he heard Su Liang calmly saying that she was "not sure" about her feelings. He was willing to wait until she was sure.

The two of them walked side by side on the main street of Jiaye City.

Although the war had just ended, life in the city quickly returned to its former bustle.

As the southernmost city of Qian Country, the local customs and habits here were quite different from those in the capital city. The clothes worn by the common people were also more diverse, with many elements similar to the Yin Country that Su Liang had seen before.

People they encountered on the road gave both Su Liang and Gu Ling friendly and respectful looks. It was because of them that the people of Jiaye City could peacefully have their homes back and return to their normal lives.

Being liked always made one happy, as long as it wasn't through improper means...

Gu Ling brought Su Liang to a breakfast shop located in an inconspicuous alley, run by an old couple.

Since it was already late for breakfast, there were no customers. When Gu Ling and Su Liang entered, the old woman looked at them in surprise, "You're not locals, are you?"

Su Liang smiled and chose a table to sit at, "We're just visiting."

Gu Ling took a seat and ordered the shop's specialty without waiting for the old woman's introduction.

"Have you been here before or heard about it from someone else? If you had visited before, we wouldn't have forgotten such a handsome man. Wait a moment, your breakfast will be ready in no time!" The old woman said with a smile as she went into the kitchen.

Gu Ling asked Su Liang, "What do people do when they date where you come from?"

After thinking for a moment, Su Liang said, "Go to parks, watch movies, travel... There are no set rules, everyone has different preferences. As long as both parties are willing and it doesn't affect others, do whatever you like." Gu Ling then asked, "What do you want to do?"

Su Liang shook her head, "You don't need to ask me. You didn't give me time to think. I've never thought about what to do to date you. You can tell me directly what you want to do, and I'll consider it. But let me make it clear in advance, don't touch me without my consent, I don't like it. Our previous interactions were completely different from this."

Listening to Su Liang's words, Gu Ling suddenly felt a little regretful. Maybe he shouldn't have used the "anything you ask for" token to ask her... She used to be quite relaxed and carefree, and when he brought up the topic of dating, she didn't show any resistance or rejection, but seemed a bit indifferent and uninterested, was it because she was subconsciously unaccustomed to such a change?

To be honest, Gu Ling also felt that what he did these two days mostly backfired. He had imagined dating would come naturally, rather than being wrapped up in an agreement.

But things had already come to this point, they could only let it unfold naturally.

The freshly-made breakfast was served steaming hot, and since Gu Ling hadn't eaten much at Lin's place, the two of them enjoyed the delicious breakfast, but they were quieter than before, and rarely practiced the rule of "not talking while eating."

After breakfast, Su Liang asked Gu Ling if he had any plans for her today. If not, she wanted to visit the wounded soldiers in the military camp. naturally said he would go with Su Liang and help her out.

They went back to Lian Mansion first to get a medical kit and saw Lian Shun in their courtyard with a piece of paper, saying, "As a local-born and raised in Jiaye City, I have prepared a perfect and interesting travel plan for you!" Gu Ling took the paper, folding it and putting it in his sleeve, "Thanks."

Lian Shun told Gu Ling to take it out, "Why did you put it away? I want to explain it to Su Xiaoliang!"

"No need, if you tell her in advance, it won't be a surprise." Gu Ling shook his head, "We'll follow your plan. You should rest and heal."

Su Liang went past them to get the medical kit from the room.

Unexpectedly, Lian Shun's well-planned tour ended up with himself being abandoned. He immediately objected, saying, "My mother will blame me if I don't entertain you properly!"

"Tell your mother we don't like being disturbed by a third person." Gu Ling spoke his mind.

Lian Shun scoffed, "So that's how it is, Gu Xiaoling. You find me annoying, don't you? I remember you kicking me twice! If it weren't for considering the pressures you must have been under due to your poor health, I would have asked Su Xiaoliang to help me beat you up!"

Gu Ling's gaze was cold, and Lian Shun silently distanced himself to avoid being kicked again...

But when Su Liang came out with the medicine box, Lian Shun finally brought up what he had been thinking about since last night, "Su Xiaoliang, from now on, when you sleep at night, make sure Gu Xiaoling sleeps on the inside! Block him from sleepwalking, it's terrifying!"

Su Liang nodded casually, "Got it, I'll tie him up."

Lian Shun looked surprised, as if to say, "You two really know how to have fun," he sneered, "If that can really cure Gu Xiaoling, I totally approve! Have fun, I'm going back to heal!" As soon as he finished speaking, he ran off without a trace.

Gu Ling carried the medicine box, and together with Su Liang, they left Lin's Family for the Military Camp to treat the wounded soldiers. He liked doing this kind of thing.

However, on the way, Su Liang suddenly enlightened Gu Ling with the special knowledge about "tying up."

“Aren’t you interested in the affairs between men and women?” Su Liang asked with a calm face. “Some people have special preferences for being hit or abused in order to obtain real pleasure. When you blocked me last night, it looked like you wanted to be taken advantage of.”

Gu Ling coughed, subconsciously adjusting his collar, “That was an illusion, I’m not, I didn’t.”

“Really?” Su Liang looked Gu Ling up and down.

Gu Ling suddenly felt like he was being teased...

The next moment, Su Liang laughed, “You dared to seduce me, why pretend to be innocent? Honestly.”

Gu Ling: ... Sure enough, Su Liang was teasing him.

When Gu Ling silently moved next to Su Liang, he heard her ask, “Did you secretly read a lot of erotic books behind my back?”

The reason she said “behind my back” was because they lived together, and their books were shared.

Gu Ling immediately shook his head, “Can we not talk about this topic?”

Su Liang looked at Gu Ling’s suddenly reddened ears and smiled slightly, “Great God, if I had agreed when you tried to seduce me last night, would you really know how to do it?”

Gu Ling: .

“Alright, alright, I won’t tease you anymore.” Su Liang chuckled, “I just wanted you to experience what I felt like last night. If you feel embarrassed, then it’s right.”

“Can we call it even?” Gu Ling had a hint of pleading, sighed, “It was my fault last night.”

“How could you be wrong, Great God? You were absolutely right, imposingly so, even with a token targeting me.” Su Liang snorted lightly.

“You’ve forgiven me.” Gu Ling realized that he had said the wrong thing as soon as his words fell. He was forgiven because of the token.

“Just because you don’t look good enough today, I’m mad again. Is that okay?”

Su Liang said and kicked Gu Ling lightly.

Gu Ling nodded, “Of course it’s okay.”

Su Liang shook her head. She was too used to Gu Ling’s cold demeanor. When he suddenly became gentle and considerate, it felt so strange to her. She suddenly understood what it meant for an “idol’s image to collapse.” Her mind could not accept it for a while...

When they arrived at the Military Camp, Su Liang treated the wounded soldiers while Gu Ling assisted her. Their cooperation was naturally seamless. At this time, to outsiders, they really looked like a perfect couple.

By the time they left the Military Camp, it was already noon. Lian Shun, knowing that they hadn't had the carp from Liuxian River yesterday, specifically instructed his servants to catch some fish this morning and invited them to come back for lunch.

The carp was indeed delicious, and as Su Liang ate, she recalled her promise to let Gu Ling order food for three days. If she now asked Gu Ling to cook for three days, he would definitely agree.

After lunch, Su Liang yawned, and Gu Ling volunteered to accompany Lin's father to play chess. He asked her to go back and rest. He had already felt that being too clingy would backfire.

So, Su Liang returned to the guesthouse alone.

Having learned from Lian Shun that Gu Ling had gone to see him last night, Su Liang realized that she had misunderstood him. Gu Ling hadn't slept after she left.

The bed was neatly arranged, and it wasn't the way Gu Ling folded the quilt. He hadn't slept at all.

Su Liang took off her coat and lay down, looking at the delicate carvings on the bed frame, sighed, "How did the cold and lofty Great God turn into a gentle, smiling, and even blushing, pure awkward man overnight?"

As she thought about it, Su Liang closed her eyes, sleepiness had yet to completely overwhelm her brain when she suddenly opened her eyes again, speaking in a melancholy tone, "It's all my fault, I have to take responsibility...."

Chapter 307: 307. Fate only allows you to meet me.

Lian Shun came back from outside and found out that his father and Gu Ling were still playing chess, which was quite surprising, "Gu Xiaoling is really patient!"

When Lian Shun entered the study room, he saw his father, who usually didn't smile much, wearing a full smile on his face, looking at Gu Ling with even more affection than his own son.

The two of them had just finished a chess game and were now drinking tea.

"Father, did you actually win a game of chess against Gu Xiaoling?" Lian Shun was curious as he sat down beside Gu Ling.

His father smiled and shook his head, "Not a single victory."

Lian Shun felt bewildered, "Then why are you so happy?"

His father chuckled, "Xiaogu taught me two new chess techniques, very interesting. He's not like you kids, always restless."

The character of a person is visible through their chess skills. In Lian Shun's father's eyes, Gu Ling's personality was simply excellent rational, steady, calm, yet not rigid. Gu Ling didn't talk much, but he always managed to say exactly what was in his father's heart, never making him feel uncomfortable.

Before, Lian Shun's father thought Gu Ling was arrogant, which was understandable given his talents and looks.

But today, he discovered that Gu Ling had no arrogance in his bones, and he was in fact quite gentle. His true character was very similar to Su Liang's, only displayed differently on the outside. No wonder the two could come together and marry; they were truly birds of a feather.

Before Lian Shun came in, his father had already expressed his opinions to Gu Ling.

Gu Ling was inspired and could now answer Su Liang's doubts about his sudden change — he didn't pretend, it had all happened because of her. All the changes in him were her "fault."

Gu Ling decided that he needed to make Su Liang take responsibility...

"Uncle, I'll go back first. We can have another chess match next time." Gu Ling put down his teacup and stood up, wanting to see Su Liang immediately.

"Alright, alright." Lian Shun's father nodded with a smile, "Go back and rest.

Let Sunsun know if you have any preferences in food."

"I'll go as well, there's something I need to tell Su Xiaoliang." Lian Shun also stood up.

Gu Ling paused, "Just tell me."

Lian Shun's father hurriedly spoke, "Yes, General Su is so busy, don't disturb her all the time. Telling Xiaogu is the same."

Lian Shun scoffed, "I know you find me annoying. You really prioritize beauty over friendship! Just tell Su Xiaoliang that right now, there are many Yin

Country merchants trying to enter the city. Ask her if we should let them in. Previously, both sides frequently traded, but after the fight started, it stopped completely. I don't think it's time to reopen trade yet. Those people might have been intentionally arranged by Fan Gang for malicious purposes. We've already tried to drive them away verbally, but they refuse to leave."

Gu Ling's expression was indifferent, "Shoot arrows, but don't hurt people. Drive them away."

"Fine!" Lian Shun agreed, "We can't let the Yin Country people think that we, Qian Country, lack courage and just forget about everything as if nothing happened and go back to the way things were before!"

Lian Shun hurriedly left the mansion again. Gu Ling returned to his and Su Liang's residence. He reached the door and subconsciously lightened his footsteps. He stood outside for a moment, listening, and heard no noise inside.

"Su Liang?" Gu Ling called out softly.

"Wait a moment." Su Liang's voice quickly came from inside.

After a short while, Su Liang opened the door.

"Did I wake you up?" Gu Ling asked.

Su Liang shook her head, "No. I just woke up but haven't gotten up yet."

Seeing her slightly messy hair from sleep, Gu Ling said, "Let me comb your hair for you."

Su Liang instinctively frowned and showed a strange and somewhat rejecting expression, "I have my own hands."

Gu Ling: ...He knew that, of course. He just wanted to get closer to her, but obviously, Su Liang still wasn't used to it.

Hearing Gu Ling sigh, Su Liang helplessly explained, "Being in a relationship doesn't have to go to that extent, don't tell me you want to dress me and feed me too? That's too horrifying."

Gu Ling imagined that scene and shook his head, "I swear, I never thought about it." Indeed, it was quite terrifying, as if Su Liang was paralyzed. It wasn't necessary, really...

Thinking about it, Gu Ling specifically clarified why he wanted to comb Su Liang's hair just now, "Actually, I just wanted to touch your hair."

Su Liang wordlessly walked over and stood beside Gu Ling, "Touch it quickly, and then I need to go change."

Gu Ling silently reached out and rubbed the top of Su Liang's head, "Alright."

Su Liang immediately turned around and entered the inner room, "I'm changing, don't peek!"

Gu Ling: ...He wasn't that kind of person, but explaining now would just seem to be covering things up.

When Su Liang came out after changing, Gu Ling brought up the matter Lian Shun had mentioned.

"The war isn't over yet, we can't resume trade." Su Liang shook her head, "Let's wait and see what the emperor thinks."

Yin Country's actions were either trying to send spies into the city, or "morally kidnapping" Qian Country, with a face that said, "Everything's settled, I'm willing to come to your door, why are you still making a fuss? It's not good for anyone."

Ultimately, it was because Yin Country was sure that Qian Country didn't want to fight. Even if Yin Country started the war this time, Qian Country wouldn't strike back.

"I've asked Lian Ershan to drive them away." Gu Ling said, "There's one more thing."

"What?" Su Liang asked.

"You said you feel uncomfortable with my sudden change, right? I know the reason now." Gu Ling looked at Su Liang seriously.

Su Liang nodded, "Tell me."

Gu Ling's eyes shone brightly, "It's all because of you. If I hadn't met you and lived with you, I wouldn't have become what I am today. Su Liang, you changed me, making me unable to tolerate the loneliness and boredom of living alone anymore. Everything is because of you, and you need to take responsibility for me."

This was also what Su Liang thought before falling asleep...She frowned at Gu Ling, "Wait, I have a question for you, and you mustn't lie to me."

Gu Ling nodded, "Alright."

“Can you read minds, and have you been hiding it from me?” Su Liang snorted.

Gu Ling was stunned for a moment, then suddenly realized, a smile spreading in his eyes, “So what I said just now is the same as what you thought?” Su Liang: ...She was confessing without being asked...

Seeing her not speaking, Gu Ling looked serious, “I swear I can’t read minds, we’re just a naturally in-sync couple.”

Su Liang rubbed her forehead, “I know you’re very proud, stop laughing!” Even the phrase “naturally in-sync” was said; there wasn’t much for her to refute. She had traveled to this world and became Gu Ling’s bride – perhaps it was really fate that they would be together?

“Don’t you like me smiling?” Gu Ling asked back, “You always wanted me to smile before.”

“It looks good, very good, stunningly beautiful,” Su Liang said with a touch of melancholy, “I’ve thought about it. Even if I were to leave you, I might be able to live on my own and take care of myself, but I would never have a better life than being with you, and I won’t find a better man than you.”

This “good” not only referred to appearance and talent but also the compatibility of their personalities, mutual understanding, and the tacit understanding with just a glance. It also included their very similar principles in dealing with people and handling matters.

Gu Ling immediately said, “I feel the same. I’ve thought about it; without you, my life would lose its joy. There’s no other girl in this world who can make me laugh and who I’d want to spend my life with.”

Su Liang scoffed lightly, “If you had confessed like this the night before, I would have agreed.”

Gu Ling: ... Indeed, confessing itself isn’t difficult; it was his bizarre approach that added obstacles. How he wished to go back to two days ago...

“I have to admit, I’m not used to it. When I heard you softly saying you wanted to comb my hair, I thought, ‘Are you sick? Why are you being so cheesy? Go comb your own hair!’” Su Liang candidly told Gu Ling her thoughts. “We can be in a relationship; neither of us has experienced it before, but we don’t need to learn from anyone else. Let’s just go with the flow.”

Gu Ling nodded. In fact, the hair-combing thing was something he learned from Xing Yusheng. He had unintentionally seen Xing Yusheng combing Lin Xueqing’s hair...

“It’s not a problem with the combing itself. Maybe it’ll be fine later, but not right now, do you understand?” Su Liang asked Gu Ling.

“I understand.” Gu Ling expressed his full understanding: Physical contact should come gradually. They can’t just sleep together without even holding hands, hugging, or kissing. Combing hair is a quite intimate act; it should be placed after holding hands, hugging, and kissing, or perhaps after sleeping together?

So, the first step, holding hands... Gu Ling silently set a three-step strategy for getting closer to Su Liang in his heart.

He took out the carefully prepared tour plan of Jiaye City made by Lian Shun from his sleeve, "We'll wait for the imperial decree and follow Lian Ershan's plan to have fun in Jiaye City first."

"You keep it. Didn't you say if I knew in advance, there would be no surprises?"

Su Liang didn't look, "Let's treat it as our first official date."

Gu Ling immediately put the paper away and agreed, "All right." He knew what a date meant and could feel that Su Liang was taking their relationship seriously. That's great.

Gu Ling felt very fortunate that Su Liang was not an ordinary girl. Even after hearing his slightly rogue and bizarre confession the night before, she didn't misunderstand him or dislike him. It only seemed that his previous careful concealment of his feelings and reluctance to confess were just "overthinking". "There's one thing, let's sleep in separate rooms," Su Liang said to Gu Ling. Gu Ling instinctively shook his head, "No."

"It's for your own good," Su Liang explained, "At your age, it's normal to like me and have urges towards me. But we've just started dating and haven't progressed that far. It's not very convenient to be in the same room at night. If you want to do it but can't, it's not good for your body."

Gu Ling's ears turned red again. Although he was a little excited by Su Liang's straightforward words, he quickly grasped the key point, "You mean we don't have to wait until 18? As long as... you think it's okay, then... it's okay?"

Su Liang paused for a moment and saw Gu Ling's eager eyes full of expectations. Actually, when she said those words earlier, she didn't consider the age of 18 at all, because her mental age had long surpassed 18.

The atmosphere became silent.

Su Liang knew if she answered yes, it might mean that they would soon progress to that stage with Gu Ling. After all, they were already very familiar with each other, and she obviously liked him. Previously, she didn't consider that aspect just because they hadn't made it clear. In fact, they were now legitimately husband and wife.

Su Liang also knew that if she said no, Gu Ling would definitely accept it and be able to restrain his desires.

"I think..." Su Liang hesitated.

Gu Ling hung on every word, feeling his heart skip a beat with each sound. He liked Su Liang, and as a normal man, of course, he wanted to be close to her and do that kind of thing. But if Su Liang was unwilling, he could wait, even though two years would be too long and unbearable...

"Let's just go with the flow," Su Liang continued.

As soon as she finished speaking, Gu Ling visibly breathed a sigh of relief, "So it's possible." He said the last sentence with an upward intonation, specifically to avoid any ambiguity.

Initially, Su Liang only mentioned some rules from her previous world to Gu Ling, including that adulthood was at the age of 18, which was determined by many factors. Now living in a world where girls come of age at 15, she knew several friends who were already married and some even about to have children. She thought it was okay and not a big deal to do that kind of thing, and she knew explicitly telling Gu Ling what it meant...

But to say it was absolutely off-limits would have been too pretentious and unnecessary.

He had never felt this happy before; he could even laugh just from sitting quietly, feeling as though everything around him had brightened up a few notches, making the daylight even more beautiful.

Su Liang was going to the South City Gate to check on the situation. As the two of them stepped out, they ran into Che Yun face to face.

Che Yun still looked the same, his beard untrimmed for a few days, a bit messy, making him look even more rugged.

He was riding a horse, followed by a carriage.

Seeing Su Liang and Gu Ling walking out side by side, Che Yun got off the horse and bowed to Gu Ling, "Marquis."

"How is it?" Su Liang asked.

A trace of a smile appeared on Che Yun's tired face, "It's him! I brought him back! He's in the carriage with our parents!"

Not far away, Che's parents had already gotten off the carriage with a young man. It was Ling Yun, who Su Liang had met in the valley outside Qianhu City a few days ago.

Ling Yun also saw Su Liang, and bowed deeply to her, expressing his gratitude. "Congratulations," Su Liang smiled, "Your family is finally reunited."

"Thank you for everything," Che Yun said solemnly.

Su Liang shook her head, "What's the need for thanks? Hurry up and take them home. There's nothing urgent at work. Take care of your family."

The Che's house in Jiaye City was next to Lin's mansion. When Che Yun brought his parents last year, Lian Shun's wasn't around, but Father Lin and Mother Lin welcomed Che Yun's family and helped them arrange accommodation.

Che Yun nodded and saw Su Liang reaching out to take Gu Ling's arm, "Let's go."

Gu Ling was still thinking about when to hold Su Liang's hand when she took the initiative to come over, making him feel overjoyed.

The two walked over to the side, Su Liang let go of Gu Ling, and each got on their horse, heading towards the South City Gate.

Che Yun watched them leave before turning back to his parents, "Let's go home."

"I saw a black mist on Che Yun's forehead that day," Gu Ling suddenly remembered.

Su Liang nodded, "I gave him an antidote pill from my master. He's fine now. Let's ask Che Xiao what happened later."

Gu Ling shook his head slightly, “No need to ask. Lian Ershan will definitely find out and come tell us.’

Su Liang chuckled, “You know him so well, why don’t you go sleep at his place for the time being?”

“No.” Gu Ling could barely accept sleeping next to Su Liang; any further was unacceptable.

The two arrived at the South City Gate, where Lian Shun had already driven away the merchants from Yin Country gathered outside the city and was about to go home.

Upon hearing that Che Yun had brought his brother back, Lian Shun’s face lit up with joy, “Really? It’s Che Xiao? That’s great! It’s destiny that Su Xiaoliang came across him! I’ll go have a look!”

As soon as Lian Shun finished speaking, he ran off. Gu Ling lowered his head and whispered in Su Liang’s ear, “Destiny only brought you to me. Nobody else.”

Su Liang couldn’t help but smile, “Great God, you should have more confidence. You’re always hanging around me, how can I be interested in someone else? If only you had confessed earlier, it wouldn’t have been so complicated.”

With that, Su Liang once again took Gu Ling’s arm in full view, “There’s a mountain over there, let’s climb it and watch the sunset..”

Chapter 308: 308. Wait until the new clothes are ready

At the beginning of the climb, Su Liang let go of Gu Ling’s arm.

She had often seen couples holding hands in her previous life, so she wanted to give it a try. She found the intimate gesture to be quite pleasant and it didn’t make her feel uncomfortable.

As they walked side by side up the narrow mountain path, their hands accidentally brushed against each other for the first time, stirring something in Gu Ling’s heart.

From then on, their hands would frequently touch, appearing to be “accidental,” but in reality, it was deliberate on Gu Ling’s part.

Su Liang had noticed Gu Ling’s gaze constantly darting downwards and understood his intentions, but she didn’t call him out on it, curious to see what he would do.

It didn’t take long for her to realize that their tacit understanding occasionally faltered when it came to matters of romance.

She had thought Gu Ling would “unintentionally” take her hand, and even subconsciously-awaited his move, but that didn’t happen...

When they passed a steep section of the path, and their hands brushed against each other for the nth time, she felt a sudden impact from Gu Ling. Stumbling, she almost fell.

Gu Ling immediately reached out to catch her, hooking his arm around Su Liang’s slender waist and pulling her into his embrace. He looked at her earnestly and said, “Be careful.”

“Great God, your acting is full of holes,” Su Liang scoffed as she pushed Gu Ling, but failed to move him. His chest muscles felt firm to the touch, something she hadn’t noticed before.

Gu Ling nodded in agreement. “Yeah, I wanted to hold you.”

Without thinking, Su Liang blurted, “You could’ve just said so.”

“Then can I kiss you?” Gu Ling asked earnestly. They had already embraced, so there was no need to ask about hand-holding. Kissing seemed like the natural next step.

Su Liang’s eyes turned cold. “If I agree, do you plan on consummating the marriage tonight?” She thought he was getting ahead of himself.

“If you’re willing, of course,” Gu Ling didn’t try to hide his desire for Su Liang. Holding her close, he already felt his heart racing uncontrollably.

“Ah, I refuse,” Su Liang pushed Gu Ling again. “Have you held me long enough?”

“No,” Though Gu Ling answered, he still let Su Liang go and took her hand in his.

Su Liang tried to shake him off, but Gu Ling held firm. “You started by holding my arm without asking my permission first.”

Su Liang tried to shake him off once more. “I want to switch hands.”

Upon hearing this, Gu Ling let go. Instead of switching hands, Su Liang sprinted forward.

“Then, Gu Ling took the opportunity to leap forward in a few quick strides, landing in front of Su Liang, turning around, and opening his arms wide to receive her as she charged into his embrace.

Caught off guard, Su Liang ended up in Gu Ling’s arms once again. She blinked, voluntarily wrapping her arms around his waist, pressing her body against his. She could clearly feel him tense up.

Her hand gently caressed Gu Ling’s lower back as she asked softly, “Great God, have you held me long enough yet?”

Unable to withstand Su Liang’s teasing, Gu Ling let go and stepped back, putting some distance between them. “Let’s go. We don’t want to miss the sunset.”

“Great God, are you...?” Su Liang suspected Gu Ling might be experiencing a physiological reaction.

Gu Ling’s ears turned red. “No matter what you’re thinking, stop it.” “Oh,” Su Liang chuckled. “My bad.”

With that, she took Gu Ling’s hand on her own accord, focused on the path ahead and continued walking.

Gu Ling clasped Su Liang’s hand firmly, laughter in his eyes. “You like me.” He stated with certainty.

Su Liang nodded and readily admitted, “Yes, I do!”

“Can you say it one more time for me?” Gu Ling asked. This would be the first time Su Liang ever confessed her feelings to him. She had mentioned it before, but the context was different.

“Oh, you like me,” Su Liang said with a serious expression. Gu Ling: ...She must be doing this on purpose, definitely on purpose.

The setting sun painted half the sky red with its magnificent glow.

As the sunset disappeared over the horizon, the sky seemed to suddenly darken and the evening breeze picked up.

They sat on a large rock, overlooking the city of Jiaye below as evening descended. In the far distance, the winding Liuxian River disappeared into the misty mountains like a coiled dragon.

“Great God, we should go back.” Su Liang stood up.

Gu Ling walked in front of Su Liang and bowed slightly, “Come on.”

Su Liang raised her eyebrows slightly, “The mountain path is not easy. Are you sure you want to carry me on your back?”

Seeing Gu Ling nod, Su Liang approached him, lay on his back, hooked his neck, and wrapped her legs around his waist. “Let’s go. I’m actually a little tired.”

“If you’re tired, you can sleep.” Gu Ling turned his head and could see Su Liang’s side face resting on his shoulder, with her long eyelashes fluttering like butterfly wings.

Su Liang closed her eyes, “I’m not sure if I can fall asleep, but I’ll try.”

Gu Ling walked down the mountain path, which was steep and rugged, but his steps were always steady. Su Liang on his back was not heavy, but to him, she was the whole world.

The sky gradually darkened, but Gu Ling was not in a hurry to go back. Instead, he walked even slower, afraid that his unsteady steps would jolt Su Liang.

Halfway there, Su Liang moved, and Gu Ling immediately stopped, thinking she was going to wake up. But she just turned her head in another direction, muttered something, and continued sleeping.

Right by his ear, Gu Ling heard Su Liang clearly. She said, “Dating the Great God...” and then laughed.

She really loves me... This realization made Gu Ling’s heart blossomed, and even the dimming sky seemed beautiful to him.

He tilted his head slightly, gently kissing Su Liang’s smooth forehead like a dragonfly touching water before parting and curving his lips into a smile.

On the way down the mountain, Gu Ling recalled the past two dream-like days and couldn’t help but sigh. Su Liang had always been very tolerant and trusting of him.

His mood during these two days was like what Su Liang described as “riding a

roller coaster.” He felt very happy and content at that moment, no matter how the process had been.

By the time Gu Ling carried Su Liang down the mountain, the moon had already risen.

He didn’t wake up Su Liang but carried her straight back to the Lin’s Family.

In the rumors, it had always been Su Liang who pursued Gu Ling single-handedly. That day, many common people in Jiaye City saw the beautiful Gu Ling carrying his wife on his back, and they all exclaimed that he was an excellent husband.

Returning to the Lin’s Family, they heard from a servant that a guest had arrived, looking for Gu Ling.

“Who is it?” Su Liang finally woke up and patted Gu Ling’s shoulder, “Put me down.”

Upon landing, she looked at the Lin’s Family plaque, then the sky. She didn’t expect to actually fall asleep and sleep so soundly.

“I don’t know who he is, but the young master invited him in.” The guard answered Su Liang’s question.

Su Liang nodded, “Let’s go and take a look. Could it be my elder sister Yuan? It shouldn’t be. If she came, she would definitely say she was looking for me.”

When the two reached the flower hall outside the Lin’s Mansion, they heard laughter and a voice that was unfamiliar to Su Liang.

“It’s my master.” Gu Ling spoke.

Su Liang was somewhat surprised.

With Gu Ling’s remarkable martial arts, he naturally had a master, especially his Luoying Swordsmanship, which even the late Yanyun Building Master Yan Sui was astonished to see.

Su Liang had heard from Gu Ling that his master was Nangong Lin, the sworn brother of his mother Situ Ning, but he was not the adopted son of Situ Xie, but a friend of Situ Ning’s.

Gu Ling didn’t know much about Nangong Lin. He had been the one to actively seek Gu Ling and teach him martial arts, appeared and disappeared like a ghost, and hadn’t shown himself for four years.

“Gu Xiaoling, look who’s here!” Lin Shun smiled as he looked at Gu Ling and Su Liang, who appeared at the door.

Su Liang’s gaze fell on the only unfamiliar face, a middle-aged man who was obviously a martial artist. His figure and skin were well-maintained, his appearance handsome, with a not very obvious scar on his left face.

When their eyes met, Nangong Lin smiled brightly and stood up, “This must be Ling’er’s wife.”

“Master.” Gu Ling spoke.

Su Liang smiled and called out “Master” as well.

“There are no outsiders here, sit down quickly.” Lin Shun gestured for everyone to sit, “Let’s have dinner first, and then you can catch up. I wanted to invite Cai Beibei, but their family reunion today is not suitable for interruption.”

Lin Shun’s sister Lin Shan was also present, her head wrapped in white cloth, quietly eating her meal.

“Uncle Nangong, would you also accept me as your disciple? I am older than Gu Xiaoling, so I would be his senior martial brother!” Lian Shun excitedly suggested.

Nangong Lin laughed and said, “After your wound is healed, let’s have a friendly competition. ”

“So it seems that Uncle Nangong will be spending time with Gu Xiaoling soon?” Lian Shun chuckled and winked at Gu Ling. He knew Gu Ling only wanted to stay with Su Liang and could kick him, but surely couldn’t hit his own master, right?

Nangong Lin laughed heartily, “I am just coming to see Ling’er, my disciple who I haven’t seen for a long time.”

Su Liang intuitively felt that Nangong Lin must have a purpose for seeking Gu Ling after four years.

After dinner, Nangong Lin followed Su Liang and Gu Ling back to their courtyard.

Gu Ling gestured for Su Liang to go back to their room first, and he sat in the courtyard talking to Nangong Lin.

Moonlight poured down like water.

Nangong Lin looked at the room with the light on, and then at Gu Ling, his expression gratified, “Seeing you living so well now, I, as your master, can be at ease.”

“Master, what brings you to me?” Gu Ling’s attitude seemed a bit indifferent.

“Can’t I come and see you without any reason?” Nangong Lin sighed softly, “You kid, you’ve been cold since you were young, and I thought you would become better after getting married. ”

Gu Ling remained silent.

“Well, being married is good enough.” Nangong Lin laughed again, “To be honest, I used to think you would become a monk or live alone all your life. This time I’m looking for you, there is indeed something I want to ask for your help with.”

Gu Ling nodded, “Master, please go on.”

“Actually, it’s not asking for your help, but your wife’s.” Nangong Lin looked at the room with the light on again, “She is a divine doctor who emerged out of nowhere, and maybe she can cure my daughter’s illness.”

“I didn’t know that Master had a daughter.” Gu Ling’s expression was calm.

Nangong Lin glared at Gu Ling, "You think that everyone is like you, who likes living alone? Seriously! Even if you have a beautiful wife now, can't I, as your master, have a child? I haven't mentioned it, and you never asked either. Every time we had a conversation before, you seemed disinterested!"

"Master, bring her here." Gu Ling ignored Nangong Lin's teasing.

In fact, his change was only in front of Su Liang. To others, he was still the silent, cold and handsome man.

"If I could bring her, I wouldn't have come alone to find you today." Nangong Lin shook his head, "She can't leave the house, let alone travel such a long distance."

"Su Liang has received the Imperial Edict and cannot leave easily." Gu Ling said.

Nangong Lin nodded, "I know. Last year, I had already heard of the reputation of the Divine Doctor Su from Qian Country, but I didn't go to her at that time, because I guessed that I would be rejected, and also because Qianqian's condition had improved. Last month, Qianqian's condition suddenly worsened, so when I heard that the rumored Divine Doctor Su became your wife, I decided to come and find you both."

"Where is Master's family living now?" Gu Ling asked.

"Near Xiangyue City of Yin Country." Nangong Lin said.

"I understand. I will discuss it with her and ask Master to wait here for a while." Gu Ling got up and went back to his room, hearing Nangong Lin's deep sigh from behind.

As soon as Gu Ling entered the room, Su Liang asked, "What's the matter with your master coming to find you?"

"Actually, it's for you." Gu Ling told Su Liang about Nangong Lin's intention.

"He wants me to treat his daughter?" Su Liang was surprised, "But I can't leave my post without permission, especially to go to Yin Country at this time. By the way, where is Xiangyue City in Yin Country?"

"Not far from the imperial city of Yin Country." Gu Ling said.

Su Liang frowned, "That's not easy to handle. Even if I want to go, I have to ask the emperor for permission first, and it would take a long time to go back and forth. Moreover, the emperor might not agree. Is your master trustworthy?"

Gu Ling shook his head, "Actually, I don't know his true background. He once expressed his admiration for my mother, and my mother trusted him very much. He taught me martial arts and has been my master, so if he asks me for help, I will agree. But since it's for you, it's your decision."

"Since we are family and it's a matter concerning your master, I am willing to help." Su Liang sighed softly, "It's just that the timing is not right. First, let's learn about the situation, and if it's not urgent, I will send someone to ask the Emperor for

permission to go to Yin Country. If it's really a matter of life and death and extremely urgent, then let's look for other ways."

Gu Ling held Su Liang in his arms and gave a slight sigh, "Thank you." "Thank me for this? Don't be so polite." Su Liang smiled softly.

"Mm, actually I just wanted to take the opportunity to hug you." Gu Ling ruffled Su Liang's hair.

Su Liang pushed Gu Ling away, "Don't be so mushy. I'm going to talk to your master. If we go, I need to find out who he is first."

Nangong Lin watched Gu Ling and Su Liang come out together and sit down in front of him.

His eyes were gentle as he looked at Su Liang, "I never thought the rumored divine doctor would be so young. You're just like Linger, both of you are geniuses."

"Master, you're too kind." Su Liang smiled, "May I know the age of the patient Master mentioned? And what kind of illness?"

Nangong Lin sighed, "She is a bit older than Ling'er, her name is Nangong Qian, my daughter, but not by blood. She is an orphan left by a good friend, whom I raised. She has congenital weakness, is often sick, and cannot bear a bit of cold. That's why we have been living in Yin Country, where there is no winter. Before I left, Qianqian could no longer get up, coughing non-stop, and her sputum was bloody."

As he spoke, Nangong Lin paused. After a moment of silence, he spoke again, looking at Gu Ling, "Qianqian's biological mother is your mother's sister Situ Xiang. I don't know if you've heard this name."

Su Liang was stunned and immediately thought of the letter she and Gu Ling had found in King Yue's mansion in Yao City last year. Could it be, that the letter from Situ Xiang was written to Nangong Lin?

"If it weren't for the tragic events back then, Qianqian should have been your sister."

Nangong Lin smiled bitterly, "Her mother was the adopted daughter of King Yue of Liang Country. She grew up with your mother since childhood, their relationship was deep. Unfortunately, her fate was not good."

"Who's her father?" Gu Ling asked.

Nangong Lin's eyes turned cold, "It's not a secret. Qianqian's father is Emperor Situ Han of Liang Country. Situ Xiang was raped by that beast. When she found herself pregnant, she fled from Yao City to escape him. When I found her, Qianqian had already been born. After leaving the child in my care, she soon passed away."

What Nangong Lin mentioned corresponds to the handwritten letter of Situ Xiang in Liang Country's King Yue Mansion and the blood-stained hairpin found in the Imperial Palace where Su Liang had been searching.

It seemed to be a love triangle. Situ Xiang was in love with Nangong Lin, but Nangong Lin was in love with Situ Ning. Now both sisters were gone, Nangong Lin was protecting their children in his own way, wasn't he?

"I know it's quite abrupt asking you guys, but I'm really out of options." Nangong Lin sighed deeply, 'Qianqian said that it might be a relief for both her and me if she passed away. But I can't forget Situ Xiang's entrustment. If she was still alive, she would have tried her best to save the child."

"I understand." Su Liang nodded, "Is Master originally from Yin Country?"

Nangong Lin nodded, "I'm from Yin Country. My family deals with medicinal materials. When I was young, I traveled all over and visited many places. That's when I met Ling'er's mother and Qianqian's mother."

"Did Master know my father? He was also in the medicinal materials business before his death." Su Liang asked.

Nangong Lin shook his head, "I heard of Su Family of Qian Country. Your grandfather's medical skills were excellent, but I never met your father."

"We will discuss it more. Master, you should rest first." Su Liang said. For both emotional and rational reasons, it was hard for her to refuse outright. "Alright, thank you." Nangong Lin stood up and left for the guesthouse arranged by Lian Shun.

'Great God, what should we do? If she's really Situ Xiang's daughter, then she's indeed your sister." Su Liang asked Gu Ling, "Should I accompany him to Yin Country while you stay in Jiaye City, and also write a letter to the emperor? As long as there are no issues, the emperor shouldn't mind." "No," Gu Ling shook his head, "We should go together."

Su Liang shrugged, "You figure it out, I'll listen to you."

Gu Ling insisted on sleeping in the same room as Su Liang. She slept on the bed, and he slept on the floor.

After turning off the lights, moonlight poured in like mercury.

Gu Ling heard Su Liang turn over in bed, knowing that she hadn't fallen asleep, so he silently grabbed her hand that was on the edge of the bed.

"Great God, I can't sleep like this," Su Liang said.

"Then, should I get up?" Gu Ling asked.

Su Liang tossed a pillow at him, "Calm down and sleep."

"Alright," Gu Ling let out an almost inaudible sigh, "How much longer do I have to wait?"

Su Liang recalled their wedding in Liang Country, where she complained that the wedding dress was too cumbersome and decided to make herself a qipao for when they got married for real. She said, "At least, wait until I finish making a new dress."

Gu Ling didn't understand, "What new dress?"

Su Liang laughed softly, "It's a secret, but you'll definitely like it.."

Chapter 309: If I knew it was so sweet earlier, why wait until today?

Dawn was approaching.

Su Liang opened her eyes and heard Gu Ling's voice ringing in her ears,

"Morning."

Turning her head, she saw Gu Ling sitting cross-legged at the edge of the bed, smiling at her with the corners of his lips. His sleeping robe was wide open, revealing a tempting collarbone that she desperately wanted to touch...

Moving as her heart desired, Su Liang gently traced her finger along the contour of Gu Ling's collarbone, marveling once again at how even his bones were so incredibly beautiful.

Looking up, she saw Gu Ling's eyes deep and mysterious, his thin lips slightly pursed as he leaned towards her.

He wants to kiss me... Su Liang suddenly snapped back to her senses, pushing Gu Ling away firmly and saying, "No!"

Gu Ling, who had been sitting on the ground, didn't get up after being pushed. Instead, he lay on his side facing Su Liang, his gaze filled with confusion and a touch of grievance, "Why not? You touched me first."

Su Liang: ...This man is seducing her again! No, she's been seduced since she opened her eyes and saw him!

"Su Xiaoliang, tell me, why not?" Gu Ling insisted on an answer.

Su Liang told the truth, "You should brush your teeth and rinse your mouth first thing in the morning." That was indeed her thought when she pushed Gu Ling away. If it wasn't for the fact that it was early morning and she hadn't freshened up yet, it would have been really hard for her to resist under such an intimate atmosphere...

Gu Ling's gaze faltered slightly, and he sat up, staring at Su Liang intently.

Then, with a light chuckle, he touched his forehead and said, "Oh, you agreed." It's just that it's not the right time now.

Su Liang: ...Though he's not good at expressing his affection, he's skilled at accurately grasping what he wants.

“Stop teasing, I need to get ready for a run. I’m not a master like you; I can’t afford to slack off on my training.” Su Liang looked towards the gradually brightening window, recalling the events of last night, “Have you figured out what you’re going to do?”

“Hmm, we’ll talk about it later.” Gu Ling got up and left the room, allowing Su Liang to change her clothes in the inner chamber.

After a simple wash, Su Liang went out for a run, asking Gu Ling if he wanted to join, but he declined.

So Su Liang ran alone to Lin’s Family garden, beginning her morning exercise while thinking that Gu Ling might be going to talk to his master.

After running two laps around the lotus pond in the Lin’s Family garden, Su Liang noticed someone nearby, slowed down, and saw a slender and handsome middle-aged man walking out of a bluestone path. It was Nangong Lin, whom she had just met last night.

“Master,” Su Liang greeted Nangong Lin with a smile.

Nangong Lin nodded slightly, his smile gentle, “I almost forgot that your initial rise to fame was due to winning Qian Country’s Martial Arts Champion. With such diligence, you can accomplish anything you put your mind to. You may continue; I got up early and came out for a walk.”

Su Liang continued her morning exercise and returned to her room when she was done.

After she had showered, dressed, and came out of her room refreshed, Gu Ling had already prepared breakfast with his own hands and set it on the stone table under the tree in the courtyard.

The rising sun illuminated the ground with golden light, and a refreshing breeze brought the sweet scent of flowers and plants.

Su Liang sat across from Gu Ling, looking at the carefully prepared home-cooked breakfast, clapping her hands in appreciation, “This is perfect, I wanted to eat exactly these.”

Earlier, Su Liang had told Lian Shun that if she had time, she might want to cook her own meals. So, their courtyard came with a small, fully-equipped kitchen.

Gu Ling’s cooking skills couldn’t be described as superb because he hadn’t cooked many different dishes himself, mostly just what Su Liang had made. But, no matter what he cooked personally, even if it was his first time, he always managed to do it well.

Not only was it talent, Su Liang always believed that the most important thing when cooking was putting your heart into it.

And Gu Ling was someone who put his heart into anything he did.

The two of them sat across from each other eating breakfast, just like when they were in Su Family Village. The biggest difference was that, in Su Liang’s presence, Gu Ling seemed more gentle and often showed a smile.

“How are we going to deal with that matter?” Su Liang brought up Nangong Lin once more, “I think we need to go to Yin Country anyway, but if we act first and report later, we must have a reason that the Emperor will accept.”

With Fan Tong dead, Su Liang thought that there would probably be a high likelihood that Yin Country would change its commander. They wouldn't let a fool like Fan Gang take charge, so the chances of another attack in the short term were extremely slim, especially since Qian Country had already sent more troops to Jiaye City, and Nian Jincheng should be arriving soon.

Kidnapping hostages to force the retreat and surrender of the city is not an orthodox approach to warfare. It's a strategy that can be used by both sides.

After Gu Ling single-handedly broke through the enemy lines, and Su Liang publicly executed Fan Tong on the South City Tower of Jiaye City, the commanding officer of Yin Country would have to think twice before kidnapping anyone else, no matter who he was.

Therefore, Su Liang believed that there would be no problem for her and Gu Ling to leave Jiaye City at this time.

However, the key point was that they were on an imperial mission, and if they left their posts immediately after the battle was over, they would need to provide a reasonable explanation to Duanmu Yi, or they would encounter trouble.

"We've received information on the whereabouts of the secret scroll left by the descendants of the Mu Family," Gu Ling said.

Su Liang's eyes lit up, "This could work. If we can retrieve the other half of the secret scroll and deliver it to the emperor without any accidents, he'll definitely be satisfied. But do we really intend to hand over the complete secret scroll?"

If they managed to create the legendary divine weapon of the Mu Family, it might not significantly impact the war, but it might also fuel Duanmu Yi's ambition and lead him to launch a war proactively.

Su Liang understood the principle that the world would unite after prolonged division. Still, any consequences resulting from the "killing machine" they handed over would be their responsibility.

"Give him the previous half," Gu Ling suggested.

"The emperor will be disappointed," Su Liang shrugged, "But after this experience, I don't think he'll blame talents like you and me too much."

After deciding, Su Liang wrote a letter after breakfast and sent someone to secretly deliver it back to the capital city.

The letter's content was that she and Gu Ling received information that the secret scroll of the Mu Family's mechanisms might have fallen into the hands of the Yin Country's royal family, but they were not sure whether the scroll was complete or fragmented. If Yin Country and Liang Country worked together, sharing the secret scrolls they had obtained, and pieced together the complete secret scroll, the situation would greatly disadvantage Qian Country. Thus, she and Gu Ling would secretly head to Yin Country to confirm the secret scroll's whereabouts and investigate any possible collusion between Yin Country and Liang Country after Nian Jincheng arrived in Jiaye City.

When they met Nangong Lin again, he asked about Gu Ling and Su Liang's decision.

“Tell me the exact location,” Gu Ling told Nangong Lin, “Master will go back first, and we will catch up later.”

Nangong Lin hesitated for a moment, then expressed his joy, “Great! It’s fantastic that you two can go!” Then he frowned, “Won’t it be troublesome for you to leave Jiaye City and go to Yin Country at this time?”

“Master, do not worry,” Gu Ling did not explain further.

Nangong Lin sighed, “Fine. I know you two are smart, so I won’t ask too many questions. I’ve been away from home for too long. I don’t know how Qianqian is doing, so I’ll go back today.”

After telling Gu Ling the exact address, Nangong Lin bid farewell to the Lin Family members and left shortly after.

Lian Shun approached Gu Ling and Su Liang, asking, “Why did Uncle Nangong leave in such a hurry?”

“He has matters to attend to at home,” Su Liang replied, “If you want to exchange pointers, you can find Gu Ling.”

Lian Shun coughed lightly, “Maybe after my injuries heal.” In fact, he was only interested in being Gu Ling’s senior brother, and it was mostly a joke.

Lian Shun asked where Gu Ling and Su Liang were planning to go today.

Su Liang shook her head, “We are here to handle official business. First, we’ll visit the wounded soldiers, and then inspect the city’s defenses.”

Gu Ling’s expression was faint, “Do you know anything besides playing?” Lian Shun was speechless, “Then return the sightseeing guide I gave you!” “I threw it away,” Gu Ling replied.

“I don’t believe you,” Lian Shun huffed, “But official business is important, so go ahead with your duties. Come back early for dinner tonight. Cai Beibei and her family are coming over!”

“Alright,” Su Liang agreed, and then she and Gu Ling left with the medicine box.

Originally, the two of them wanted to have a good time in Jiaye City, especially Su Liang, who was visiting for the first time.

However, due to Nangong Lin’s visit, they decided to go to Yin Country. It was expected that Nian Jincheng would arrive in two or three days, and they had to finish what they were doing before leaving.

After visiting the injured soldiers and approaching noon, the two didn’t return to Lin’s house and went to a restaurant for a meal instead.

They chose a private room with a street-side window. With the window open, the hustle and bustle outside was full of life.

Su Liang was checking the medicine box when she suddenly heard Gu Ling ask, “What kind of clothes were you talking about last night?”

“Ah? Oh, that, I said it was a secret and not to ask.” Su Liang shook her head.

However, Gu Ling, who had been baffled by this, insisted on getting an explanation. “What does our sleep have to do with clothes? At that time, we have to take off whatever we are wearing.”

Su Liang looked at Gu Ling’s ears, which weren’t red this time, and teased, “Great God, I’ve corrupted you. You can say such things without blushing or skipping a beat.”

Gu Ling grabbed one of Su Liang’s hands and put it on his chest. “My heart is beating.”

Su Liang took her hand back, “If it wasn’t beating, I’d be a widow.”

“Why did you say that I would like it?” Gu Ling asked further, “Are you going to make me new clothes? Does my appearance need clothes to enhance it in order to arouse you... that kind of... desire?”

Su Liang laughed at the last two awkward words from Gu Ling and collapsed on the table, “Great God, you are so cute.”

Hearing that, Gu Ling pushed the medicine box aside, leaned over with blazing eyes, clearly intending to continue what had not been completed in the morning...

Su Liang blinked, realizing what was happening. She closed her eyes, smiled, and tilted her head slightly upward. Her heart raced. This would be her first kiss in both lifetimes. She wondered how it would feel and whether he would...

Seeing Su Liang looking so willing, Gu Ling’s ears turned slightly red again. He leaned closer and closer...

Just when Gu Ling was about to kiss her, there was a sudden knock on the door, interrupting the ambiguous atmosphere in the room.

Su Liang instinctively opened her eyes and saw Gu Ling’s stunningly beautiful face close to her. Then she couldn’t help but laugh...

Gu Ling’s beautiful eyebrows furrowed slightly, intending to continue, but the knocking didn’t stop and grew louder.

Smiling, Su Liang held Gu Ling’s face, gave him a kiss on the cheek, and then pushed him away. “Let’s eat first, I’m so hungry.” With that, she got up to open the door.

Gu Ling thought: ...After eating, Su Liang would definitely say no because she hadn’t brushed her teeth or rinsed her mouth...

The waiter came in to serve the food, glanced at Gu Ling, shrank his neck, and had an inexplicable feeling that the amazingly beautiful Marquis Chang Xin was dissatisfied and seemed to want to hit him...

He was sure that Mr. Gu was angry, but why? Everything was fine when they arrived...

Su Liang filled a bowl of soup and handed it to Gu Ling. Seeing him sitting quietly without moving, she laughed. “Great God, please don’t act like someone stole your candy, alright? Let’s talk about it when we get home.”

“No.” Gu Ling saw Su Liang about to drink the soup and suddenly had an idea, “Stop!”

Su Liang was puzzled, but before she could react, Gu Ling had already taken her spoon away. He went over to lock the door and closed the window, all in one breath.

“Hey, Great God, what are you doing...” Before Su Liang could finish her sentence, she was pulled to her feet by Gu Ling and embraced by him.

They looked into each other’s eyes, their breaths audible.

By now, Su Liang knew what Gu Ling was doing. She couldn’t help but laugh and asked softly, “Do you know how to do it?”

“Don’t talk.” Gu Ling lowered his head and kissed Su Liang’s delicate cherry lips. Only after experiencing it did he realize that it was an indescribably sweet and wonderful feeling.

Her first kiss made Su Liang aware of two things: First, men had natural talent in certain matters and could learn on their own. Second, some things could be addictive and hard to stop...

When Su Liang, with a bashful red face and watery eyes, finally pushed Gu Ling away, the food had already gone cold.

“Great God, I’m starving to death.” Su Liang spoke, feeling that her voice had taken on a few notes of coquetry. It must be the hormones, she thought.

“Do you think I know how to do it?” Gu Ling still didn’t let go of Su Liang. Resting on her forehead, his eyes looked deeply into hers and asked.

Su Liang chuckled softly and praised, “Great God, you’re really good at it.” It felt wonderful.

“But I feel inexperienced and need more practice.” Gu Ling said, capturing Su Liang’s lips once more.

Finally, when they sat down to eat, the once steaming hot soup had lost all its warmth.

“Don’t waste it. Let’s just eat it like this.” Su Liang said.

Gu Ling picked up the spoon and sighed.

“What’s wrong?” Su Liang was puzzled.

“I’m so foolish.” Gu Ling looked regretful. “If I had known it would be so sweet, why wait until today?”

As Su Liang took a sip of the cold soup, she almost choked, coughed twice, and cleared her throat. Looking at Gu Ling, she said, “Great God, I like the aloof, abstinent male god version of you. Don’t be like this. I’m scared.”

Gu Ling shook his head, “I can be aloof, but I won’t abstain.”

Su Liang nodded, “Yes. I totally understand your needs as a normal man. In fact, I also like it. But there should be a limit to everything, right?”

Gu Ling frowned, "Su Xiaoliang, today is my first time kissing you, and you want me to restrain myself?"

Su Liang: ...

"I like it, you like it too, so why not?" Gu Ling continued to ask with confidence.

Ever since he confirmed that Su Liang liked him and didn't reject his closeness, Gu Ling had become more and more unrestrained in certain matters.

Su Liang rubbed her forehead, "I didn't say no. You just need to be clear-headed. This is a restaurant, and there are people everywhere outside. Look at what you've done to my lips. How am I supposed to go out and face people later?"

Gu Ling hesitated for a moment, looking at Su Liang's lips, which were now even plumper and more lustrous than before. He swallowed, his voice deepening. "They look so good."

Su Liang: ...You can't fight a lustful man...

Finally, after they finished their meal and were about to leave, Gu Ling said there was something he wanted to ask Su Liang.

"What is it?" Su Liang thought it was something serious.

"Just now... when we were kissing... I..." Gu Ling didn't look at Su Liang, staring at the carved table instead, and spoke softly, "I had that kind of reaction. Is it normal?"

Su Liang held back her laughter, "Yes, it's a normal physiological response."

"Didn't you say that wanting to do it, but not being able to, is bad for your health?"

Gu Ling looked up at Su Liang and resumed his "I'm so beautiful, don't you want me?" expression, his seduction skills becoming more and more refined...

Su Liang: ...She knew it, he would definitely try to push the boundaries with this kind of thing.

"If Nian Jincheng doesn't arrive today and we still stay in Jiaye City, let's sleep together." Su Liang decided not to care about the clothes anymore. The beautiful man was tempting and clingy. If she couldn't refuse, then she wouldn't. She was also a normal person.

Laughter spread in Gu Ling's eyes as he stood up and embraced Su Liang. Before he could say anything, however, they heard a rapid rush of horses' hooves outside.

The two walked to the window, opened it, and saw a swarm of soldiers slowly passing through the street below.

"Aling!" Nian Jincheng, wearing armor and riding a horse, waved cheerfully to Gu Ling with a smile on his face..

Chapter 310:310. Boy-girl Twins

Receiving the sudden Imperial Edict to lead his soldiers to Jiaye City, Nian Jincheng was reluctant to leave Yang Yu and felt a sense of helplessness. He remained in a bad mood throughout the journey. Only when he saw Gu Ling and Su Liang did he cheer up, as if reuniting with his family.

From the beginning, he was someone who longed for a family and disliked loneliness.

However, what Nian Jincheng didn't expect was as he joyfully called out to Gu Ling, the response he received was Gu Ling's cold gaze before shutting the window, blocking his view?!

Nian Jincheng was confused. The last time they parted was on the day Gu Ling got married to Su Liang, while he was accompanying Gu Ling to the Su Mansion.

He ordered his troops to carry on and got off his horse to enter the restaurant alone. He quickly met up with them.

Su Liang had a smile on her face, while Gu Ling was expressionless.

"I travelled here from Nanshan City and already know the overall situation. If I had known earlier, I wouldn't have brought the army as reinforcements," Nian Jincheng sat down and said.

Su Liang asked, "Did the Emperor have any other instructions?"

Nian Jincheng shook his head, "No, I was commanded by the Emperor to come to Jiaye City and follow your orders upon arrival. Since the fighting has ceased, I'm worried about Xiaoyu and want to return home earlier. That should be fine, right? With you two here, nothing will go wrong."

"No, it can't," Gu Ling objected.

This time, Nian Jincheng was certain that Gu Ling spoke ill-temperedly, as if he was upset with him? It was too strange, they were obviously reuniting as good friends, where could he have offended him?

Su Liang gently patted Gu Ling's arm to comfort him.

Feeling stranger than ever, Nian Jincheng asked Gu Ling with a puzzled expression, "Aling, what's wrong with you?"

"He's fine," Su Liang shook her head, "But since you've come all the way here, it wouldn't be right to leave immediately. We've been waiting for you, we have something to discuss."

Nian Jincheng nodded, "Speak."

Su Liang then brought up the matter of Gu Ling's master, Nangong Lin, inviting her to Yin Country.

"I know Aling's master, but I haven't seen him for many years. I didn't know he had a daughter," Nian Jincheng frowned, "Since it's a rescue mission, and it's Aling's senior, you can't refuse. But the Emperor sent you here to take charge, it wouldn't be easy to explain if you leave abruptly, especially to Yin Country."

"I've thought about how to explain it to the Emperor," Su Liang replied, "Since General Beiyuan has passed, Che Yun was previously injured and poisoned. He also just found

his younger brother, so he needs to take care of his family for the time being. You stay in Jiaye City temporarily to defend against potential attacks from Yin Country until we return.”

Nian Jincheng initially nodded slightly, until he heard the last sentence and paused, “You two? It should be enough if you go, what is Aling going there for?”

If Gu Ling’s gaze were a knife, Nian Jincheng would have been shredded a long time ago...

Su Liang patted Gu Ling’s arm again, smiling as she said to Nian Jincheng, “Of course, he’s going to protect me. This trip to Yin Country isn’t without risks.”

“With Aling’s master there, I think it’s better for him to stay in Jiaye City. It makes it easier to explain to the Emperor,” Nian Jincheng said seriously.

“His master has already left first,” Su Liang replied.

Nian Jincheng glanced at Gu Ling, then coughed lightly, “I understand. You two take off for Yin Country once I arrive. So, why does Aling look like he wants to kill me?”

Su Liang stood up with Gu Ling, chuckled and said, “That’s just your imagination, in fact, he was very happy to see you.” She couldn’t say that someone was frustrated with desire...

Nian Jincheng:... He knew his intuition was correct, but it seemed even stranger, what was going on that Gu Ling wouldn’t say, and even Su Liang was covering for him?

The three of them finished their discussion and left together, with Su Liang leading and Nian Jincheng trailing behind.

Just as Su Liang was about to leave, she heard Nian Jincheng whisper to Gu Ling, “The wedding day was disrupted but you managed to complete the ceremony. So after settling the situation here for two to three days, you two should have consummated the marriage, right?”

Su Liang understood that Nian Jincheng and Yang Yu were always concerned about the progress of her relationship with Gu Ling, so it made sense that Nian Jincheng would ask about it when they reunited. A long time ago, Nian

Jincheng had been thinking about getting Gu Ling to settle down quickly with Su Liang, fearing unexpected events. The completion of the wedding ceremony only gave them the title of being a married couple, only the consummation of the marriage would truly make them husband and wife.

However, at this moment, Nian Jincheng mentioning this to Gu Ling really added fuel to the fire...

Su Liang turned around, just in time to see a smooth parabola traced across her vision as Nian Jincheng was hurled out through the window...

Gu Ling extended his hand and circled it around Su Liang’s waist, “Let’s go.”

Outside, Nian Jincheng landed steadily, turned towards the stunned onlookers, and, regaining his composure, announced, “I have urgent business!” With that, he jumped on a horse nearby and swiftly rode away, escaping the awkward situation.

The instant he was propelled out of the window, Nian Jincheng’s mind became

exceedingly clear. He finally guessed what was going on: the conflict had settled for only a couple of days, could it be that Gu Ling originally intended to consummate his marriage with Su Liang tonight? Because of his arrival, they had to set off for Yin Country today...

No wonder Su Liang found it amusing and even comforted Gu Ling.

If that's the case, Nian Jincheng completely understood and accepted Gu Ling's desire to beat him up. It was all his fault for arriving too early and definitely not intentional; God knows he had always wanted Gu Ling and Su Liang to genuinely be together.

"Great God, don't be like this." Su Liang spoke with a smile, "Don't blame

Xiaonian, he doesn't know. But he probably has a hunch now."

Gu Ling grumbled, "I feel really let down."

"Don't think about that anymore. Let's go back quickly and pack up, then we'll leave."
Su Liang said.

Actually, if they really wanted to postpone leaving until tomorrow, as long as they didn't say anything, Nangong Lin wouldn't know.

But there are priorities in everything.

They had to wait for Nian Jincheng to arrive before they could go. Not only was this a promise to Nangong Lin, but it was also the most reliable choice.

If Nian Jincheng was to arrive tomorrow, and there is nothing to worry about this evening, both of them would be happy, and they could do whatever they wanted.

But under the current circumstances, were they going to stay an extra night in Jiaye city just to consummate their marriage?

Without even discussing it, they both knew the answer; they wouldn't.

"Actually, this is better." Su Liang whispered, "If we were to consummate our marriage tonight and then set off on a long journey tomorrow, you might be even more irritated."

The truth is, once they would succumb to their desires, it would be hard to control themselves. But they had to rush to rescue someone and couldn't afford any further delay. Although they didn't know Nangong Qian, since they had promised Nangong Lin, they had to do their utmost.

"I know." Gu Ling sighed somewhat, "I just want to pull you into a corner where no one can see us and kiss you."

Su Liang: .

Upon returning to Lian Mansion, they ran into Lian Shun, who was about to go out.

"Hey, you guys are back just in time! Gu Xiaoling, your best friend Nian Jincheng is here!" Lian Shun said with a smile.

“We have already met.” Su Liang told Lian Shun, “You and Che Yun and Nian Jincheng should take good care of Jiaye City.”

Lian Shun looked puzzled, “Did the Emperor ask both of you to return to the capital? So soon?”

Su Liang shook her head, “Not the Capital, we have other matters to handle. We will come back here again.”

Lian Shun adjusted his expression, “A secret mission? Then I won’t ask. Are you leaving today? Tonight, we have a banquet at home, we have invited the entire Beibei family; they insisted on thanking you.”

“We will pack up a bit and depart.” Su Liang said, “Tell them not to worry, I didn’t do much. By the way, was the father of Ling Yun who just passed away, the one who kidnapped him back then?”

Lian Shun nodded, “Yes. That man is utterly despicable; his child died, and upon accidentally seeing resemblance between Che Xiao and his son in their younger days, he stole him away and settled in the south. Luckily, he just wanted a son, so he didn’t make Che Xiao suffer; in fact, he even allowed him to study properly. When he became fatally ill, he rediscovered his conscience, intending to return Che Xiao to his family. He wanted to take him to Xuanbei City to find his family, but he could not travel far.”

“How did you know about his son’s death?” an intrigued Su Liang asked.

“He knew his time was short, so he left a letter for Che Xiao, letting him know Chen Qingyuan’s true intentions, and asking Che Xiao not to hate him. He probably found out that Che Yun was a military commander and thought that if Che Xiao returned home, there would be someone to protect him, and he would have a better life,” Lian Shun said indignantly. “He stole someone else’s child, so he won’t be alone anymore, but he’s brought so many years of suffering to Che Yun’s family. His death serves him right!”

Su Liang sighed lightly, “I understand. Go find Nian Jincheng and familiarize him with the situation in Jiaye City. We’re going to set off soon.”

“So soon?” Lian Shun shook his head, “Alright, alright, you two go and take care of the serious matters. Gu Xiaoling, don’t worry, I’ll take good care of your brother!”

With a faint look on her face, Gu Ling said, “You don’t have to, we’ve severed our ties.”

Lian Shun was stunned as Su Liang had already dragged Gu Ling away.

When Lian Shun found Nian Jincheng, Che Yun was already briefing him on the situation here.

“What did you do to upset Gu Xiaoling?” Lian Shun asked Nian Jincheng curiously, “He said he has severed ties with you and asked me not to treat you well.”

Nian Jincheng rubbed his forehead, “I did do something wrong to him.”

Lian Shun was even more confused, “You don’t have feelings for Su Xiaoliang, what could you possibly have done wrong to him?”

Clearing his throat lightly, Nian Jincheng said, “It’s not appropriate for me to divulge anything. But my best friend is no longer him, it’s Su Liang.”

Lian Shun laughed, “Well, then for the sake of Su Xiaoliang, I’ll be a good host to you!”

Su Liang and Gu Ling packed their bags, and Su Liang also prepared numerous Disguise Medicines for their journey.

“All set, let’s go.” Su Liang checked and made sure they had everything they needed.

Just as she was about to get up, Gu Ling pulled her in for a long kiss.

“Great God, I think I need to remind you that we have to avoid any romantic moments,” Su Liang said, her face turning red as she poked Gu Ling’s chest. Gu Ling’s eyes were deep with emotion, “Don’t you want to?”

Su Liang coughed lightly, “We are in our honeymoon period, so of course I also want to... but we have important matters at hand.”

“Alright.” A hint of amusement flickered in Gu Ling’s eyes, “If you don’t admit it, I’ll keep kissing you until you do.”

Su Liang hastily pushed Gu Ling away, “I’ve admitted it already. Let’s go!”

Without any delay, the dried food prepared by Lian Shun’s servants was delivered just in time.

The South City Gate of Jiaye City was still tightly shut. Su Liang didn’t want anyone to know she was leaving. Even though people from Yin Country would eventually find out, the later, the better.

The disguised duo secretly left Jiaye City and entered Yin Country territory at midnight.

The image that Su Liang had disguised herself to look like had slight resemblances to Nian Jincheng, which left Gu Ling speechless. Su Liang earnestly stated that it was for his good.

Of course, Gu Ling understood her intention. Looking at the face that resembled Nian Jincheng’s, his only urge was to punch it...

Back in Jiaye City.

The Che family of four returned to their mansion from the Lian Mansion rather late.

Che Xiao, previously known as Ling Yun, adapted quite quickly to his new identity. He was well-read and knew how to behave properly in front of his parents, and also behaved politely when visiting the Lian’s. Moreover, he admired his elder brother, Che Yun, a lot.

As for his foster father who had kidnapped him, Che Xiao said he couldn’t bring himself to hate him, but he also wouldn’t consider him as his father anymore.

When they entered the mansion, his parents surrounded Che Xiao, one on each side, as they continued to chat. It seemed like they had so much to say to each other.

Che Yun trailed behind them alone. He slowed his pace, watching them gradually fade into the distance.

Suddenly, Che Xiao stopped, turned around, and called out to him. "Big brother!"

"Your big brother must be thinking about serious matters, don't disturb him." Che's mother's gentle voice resounded in Che Yun's ears. He slowed down his pace even further.

Eventually, the three figures disappeared from his sight. He slowly walked along the small path and entered the garden.

After sitting alone by the pond for a while, Che Yun heard footsteps behind him. His eyes hardened, and his hand instantly clasped the hilt of his sword.

"It's me."

A tall, slender figure appeared in the moonlight, causing Che Yun to pause, a frown on his face, "I thought Master had left earlier."

If Su Liang and Gu Ling were here, they could immediately recognize that the "Master" Che Yun referred to was Gu Ling's master, Nangong Lin.

Nangong Lin approached and patted Che Yun's shoulder, "I was so close to Jiaye City, how could I not visit you? However, because you didn't allow me to reveal your true identity to Gu Ling, I had no other option but to avoid them." "Is their departure today related to Master?" Che Yun asked.

Nangong Lin nodded, "Qianqian is seriously ill. I came specifically to invite Su Liang to treat her."

With a frown on his face, Che Yun asked, "Didn't Master say her health had improved the last time?"

Nangong Lin let out a deep sigh, "That was last year's story. Her health deteriorated after the New Year and when she heard about Gu Ling and Su

Liang's marriage, I decided to come."

"I haven't seen her yet..." Che Yun murmured.

Nangong Lin sighed again, "I've always wanted you to reunite with your sister, but you couldn't leave and she couldn't move. After I meet you, I must leave right away to avoid arousing Gu Ling and Su Liang's suspicion. They're both very smart people. Even though I taught Gu Ling martial arts, he doesn't fully trust me. Are you alright?"

Staring at the dark water surface, Che Yun gave a self-mocking laugh, "What does being alright mean?"

"I've asked you many times before, now I'll ask you again. You can come with me and get out of Situ Xie's control, are you still not willing?" Nangong Lin asked with a furrowed brow.

"Leave? And go where?" Che Yun asked softly.

Nangong Lin sighed, "Go to Yin Country, or anywhere. You can be with Qianqian. Don't you want to see her? You both were born together, you were taken away by Situ Xie, and your mother handed

Qianqian over to me before she leaves. I made a vow to your mother that I would find you and protect you.”

“I want to but I can’t right now,” Che Yun shook his head, “Situ Xie is my grandfather and Situ Han is my father. To this day, I still don’t know what Situ Xie’s ultimate goal is for using me. He suddenly allowed Che Xiao to return home, but the real Che Yun is still in his hands.’

Nangong Lin shook his head repeatedly, “None of this is your fault. You haven’t done anything wrong to the Che family, so why do you have to torment yourself?”

With a faint smile, Che Yun said, “Master, there’s no need to say any more. The

Che family has raised me. Until the real Che Yun returns, I won’t leave.”

“What if Situ Xie asks you to betray Qian Country? What if he asks you to do things that are morally reprehensible? Will you still listen to him?” Nangong Lin asked.

However, it seemed as if Che Yun hadn’t heard Nangong Lin’s question and suddenly said, “I’m really envious of Gu Ling.”

Nangong Lin was taken aback, “You… you can’t possibly like Su Liang, too?”

It seemed like Che Yun was only momentarily insensible. His gaze soon regained its tranquility.

“Master is overthinking, I’m just envious that Gu Ling isn’t controlled by Situ Xie.”

“If I tell him that you two are supposed to be siblings because your mother gave birth to twins, he will definitely help you, ” Nan Gong Lin stated.

“Master should leave,” Che Yun turned his back, “Please tell my sister to take care of herself. I assure you I’ll meet her..”