

Three-Time 61

Chapter 61: 061. Nian Jincheng Is Questioning (Second Update)

The day after leaving the capital.

During a break, Nian Ye asks, “The emperor won’t let you stay in the north for too long, will he?”

Nian Jincheng puts down his water bottle, slightly tilts his head back, and looks at the rising sun in the eastern sky. A faint smile appears on his handsome and resolute face, which disappears as soon as it emerges, “Guarding a mine is not bad either.”

Nian Ye frowns, “Didn’t you want to become a great general and gallop across the battlefield?”

Nian Jincheng, silent, takes another two sips of water, and lets out a slight sigh, “Indeed.”

But the burning enthusiasm of his youth has grown cold over these last two years.

He has been busy doing what others deem necessary. He is very harsh on himself, always striving for perfection, and thus receives a lot of praise. But when he is alone, he still feels a void in his heart.

He increasingly doesn’t know why he does those things. It would seem that no matter how hard he tries, no one cares...

Unexpectedly, he recalls the day when he first met Xing Yusheng at the Qin Mansion. Xing Yusheng had joked that Gu, the Crown Prince, is rumored to only have one friend, and that is Nian Jincheng.

Since the incident with the Gu Family, many have hypocritically ridiculed Nian Jincheng for being ordered by the emperor to hunt Gu Ling. Xing Yusheng’s words were insignificant in comparison. The fact that he sought out Nian Jincheng again suggested that he did not believe that Nian Jincheng genuinely wished to kill Gu Ling.

Nian Jincheng has heard harsher words before, even from his own family. His older brother and even his sister Nian Ruxue, who he thought was the only person who cared for him.

Of course, Nian Jinxing doesn’t care about Gu Ling’s life or death. He’d simply never miss an opportunity to ridicule and humiliate Nian Jincheng.

But there was something Nian Jincheng had wanted to say to Xing Yusheng that day, something he didn’t dare say, “Gu Ling was also my only friend.”

He had requested to be the one to hunt Gu Ling. He’d traveled thousands of miles, but found nothing.

But no one knew that that night, in Su Village, monitored closely by Han Gonggong, the emperor’s trusted eunuch, he was prepared to kill anyone who discovered something amiss.

Nian Jincheng, of course, knew that the person in Su Village was not the real Ning Jing. The seventh son of the Ning family in Xunyang had died long ago, right in front of him. In fact, he was the one who buried him...

Su Village.

Ning Jing is currently cleaning and polishing a pair of slim blades.

These were the ninth weapons he and Su Liang had “picked up” from the assassins at Yanyun Building in recent days.

The first was Yan Sui's long sword, which was hanging in Ning Jing's room. After cleaning the twin blades, Ning Jing hands them to Su Liang, “You try.”

Su Liang puts down the medical book, grabs one with one hand, and swings a few times, “Not very coordinated.”

She is used to using her right hand, and hadn't tried a two-handed weapon before. Suddenly interested, she invites Ning Jing for some practice.

But mimicking from memory, there are bound to be mistakes and many weaknesses exposed.

Ning Jing patiently feeds Su Liang moves and enlightens her through their sparring.

At first, their movements were very slow. At times, Su Liang would change her mind and start over after a move if she felt her posture was incorrect.

Eventually, she became more proficient and the speed increased. Su Liang found the twin blades handle quite smoothly. The power of having a weapon in both hands exceeded that of having just one weapon.

After the practice, Su Liang hides the twin blades in her lower legs, one blade on each side. They fit perfectly, replacing her original ordinary daggers and becoming her new weapons.

“Not everyone at Yanyun Building can be a great master, right?” Su Liang asks, “The people who came later were not as good as the ones before. If, in the end, even the minions come to snatch the lord's ring, then they are truly courting death.”

Every night, alert and unable to sleep well, waiting for assassins' arrival, was thrilling at first. Now, Su Liang is starting to feel the strain, mostly due to a lack of sleep.

Ning Jing shakes his head, “There are many masters, but only a few will truly want to steal the jade ring.”

Those who are truly strong and clever wouldn't fixate on the jade ring, a dead object.

Although it is supposedly a symbol of the master of the building, the rules are defined by people and can be changed. As long as one is powerful, ruthless, and able to control the situation, they could become the new master of Yanyun Building.

Even Yan Sui died in Su Village. There may be others in Yanyun Building who are more powerful than Yan Sui, but such people do not need the ring.

As for the assassins who need the thumb guard, if they really come to snatch it, it would be a foolhardy and suicidal act for them.

“So, you're saying that aside from Yan Sui, none of the truly powerful people from Yanyun Building have come, nor will they?” Su Liang asked.

Ning Jing nodded.

Su Liang sighed faintly, "I've overthought things, assuming that the ones who came recently were the strongest from Yanyun Building. Turns out they lack both power and brains."

However, they were perfect for her to practice on.

Should a master like Yan Sui appear, Su Liang would only have the option to hide or flee.

Thinking of this, she bent down to draw her twin blades again, pointing them at Ning Jing, "I still have a long way to go, let's keep practicing!"

As the days went by, it couldn't be said that Su Liang's abilities had made a huge leap forward, but her progress was indeed rapid.

She believed that a large portion of the credit should go to her excellent master, Ning Jing.

High-intensity, highly efficient, one-on-one guidance, custom "training", strict but patient.

The physical foundation of Su Liang's transmigrated body was average, but her talent, comprehension, diligence, and perseverance were all top-notch, and her body could be transformed.

After their chat that day, people from Yanyun Building came again, but then they stopped coming.

Together, Ning Jing and Su Liang had killed thirteen Yanyun Building assassins, including Yan Sui, and confiscated thirteen weapons.

Yan Sui's long sword was taken by Ning Jing, the twin blades by Su Liang, and the rest of the weapons were used by both Ning Jing and Su Liang for sparring.

As the end of September approached, the weather grew increasingly colder.

Early that day, Ning Jing drove to the county town to buy medicine for Su Liang, purchased some fresh ingredients, a sack of aluminium wire charcoal, and two boxes of osmanthus cake from Mingxiang Building. By the time he returned home with the carriage, the sun had set.

During dinner, Su Liang again asked Ning Jing when they planned to leave for the provincial city.

The provincial exam was starting on the fifteenth of October and would last for three days.

Last time they discussed it, Ning Jing said they would leave five days before, but Su Liang felt that was too rushed. Any slight delay on the road could make them miss the exam.

"On the eighth of October," Ning Jing said.

"How about the fifth?" Su Liang suggested, "This way we can take our time on the road and enjoy the scenery."

"Ok." Ning Jing nodded.

"We only have ten days left." Su Liang calculated, "The carriage that I asked Hu Er to find someone to make should be delivered soon. We'll take turns riding the carriage. While riding, we can read. While resting, we can practice martial arts. Nothing will be delayed."

Considering that they have a long journey ahead, Su Liang planned to take all her books with her, as well as bedding and winter clothes. They had a lot of luggage and their old carriage was too small.

It so happened that Hu Er had visited a few days ago and had mentioned that he knew an artisan who was good at making carriages.

Su Liang had drawn a diagram of the interior structure of a carriage according to her needs and had given it to Hu Er to have it made by the artisan. She insisted that only the best materials be used, money was not an issue.

The shoes and clothes that Aunt Bai had been hired to make were also ready.

“I’ve never seen you read any books related to the imperial examination. Are you that confident?” Su Liang asked Ning Jing.

He spent every day instructing Su Liang in martial arts, cooking meals, doing laundry, cleaning, and spending a lot of time in the woodworking shop. Even when he reads, it’s medical books that Su Liang has finished reading.

“I don’t know what will be on the exam, so there’s not much to prepare for.” Ning Jing said.

Su Liang coughed lightly, “If you say that out loud, someone might hit you.”

However, Su Liang had never considering that Ning Jing would fail the provincial exam, or that they wouldn’t go to the capital city.

In Su Liang’s eyes, Ning Jing was like a god. He might not know something, but as long as he had an interest in it, he could master it to a profound level.

“It’s been several days since we’ve seen Chang’an. I wonder how his case investigation is going.” Su Liang mentioned offhand.

Ning Jing didn’t care about Mai Fei and Chang’an’s matters at all, he asked Su Liang what kind of pattern she wanted to carve on the pen holder.

It all started the day before yesterday when Su Liang saw a new pen holder on Ning Jing’s table. It was made of wood, with relief carvings of mountains and rivers that were quite interesting.

Su Liang asked Ning Jing if he could make one for her, and Ning Jing agreed, on the condition that he got to choose the dishes for the day’s meal.

Su Liang returned to her room and carefully sketched out her former home. It was a mountain villa left by her grandmother, where she would stay during each vacation.

After handing it over to Ning Jing, he took a look and asked Su Liang, “Your former home?”

Su Liang nodded, “Sometimes I feel like you can read minds.”

Just last night they were saying how Chang’an and Mai Fei hadn’t appeared recently, and the next morning, Chang’an came.

“Master will be going to the mine today, and he asked me to ask if Miss Su would like to come?” Chang’an asked.

Su Liang originally planned to avoid Chang’an if he had anything to do, but she didn’t expect that Mai Fei had invited her to visit the mine.

This was something Su Liang had wanted to do for a while but never had the chance.

She immediately agreed, then called to Ning Jing.

Ning Jing was in the room, holding a pen holder in his hand, engrossed in carving. Without raising his head, he replied, "I'm not going."

In broad daylight, with Su Liang out, Ning Jing had no intention of following. He had secretly been to the mine before, to deal with Su Daqiang's family.

"It works out then. I probably won't be back by noon. You bring some meat and go eat at Little Tiger's house." Su Liang then told Chang'an to wait, went back to her room to change clothes, hid her twin blades by her calves, then led her horse from the backyard and left.

As the two of them left Su Family Village, Su Liang asked Chang'an, "Where is your master?"

"Master is waiting in town, we should hurry." Chang'an replied.

Visiting the mine today was not a spontaneous idea for Mai Fei, but inviting Su Liang was a decision he made after arriving at Feiyan Town.

Su Liang knew that if Mai Fei was being friendly, he must have a request. However, since it was not mentioned at first, there was room for discussion no matter what it was.

The two of them swiftly rode their horses to town. Mai Fei had been waiting impatiently, but was still polite to Su Liang, "Miss Su, would you like to share a carriage with me? Riding a horse is too tiring."

"The weather is nice today, and I rarely ride horses, so I won't trouble Mr. Mai." Su Liang politely refused.

Mai Fei didn't insist, he lowered the carriage curtains and ordered to set off.

At this moment, Nian Jincheng and his servant, who had been hurrying day and night from the capital city, had just arrived at Bei'an County. When they went to check with the county government, they were informed that Mai Fei had gone to the mine.

Nian Jincheng was specifically assigned to guard the mine, so he and his attendant, Nian Ye, left the county town and galloped towards the mine.

On their way passing through Feiyan Town, Nian Ye mentioned the matter that Xing Yusheng had entrusted to Nian Jincheng.

Nian Jincheng glanced in the direction of Su family's village, but did not stop,

"First meet with the fourth prince, settle the official affairs, then help Prince Xing deliver things."

At noon, the caravan paused at the doorstep of the sealed Wu Family's entrance. The mine was not far from this place.

Mai Fei got out of the carriage, wanting to pay a visit to the Wu Family and have lunch there, before proceeding to the mine.

Su Liang followed him into the Wu Mansion.

The mansion, once known for its ornate architecture, now bore witness to several excavations, with most of the walls and buildings torn down, in a state of disrepair and chaos.

“Miss Su, are you interested in treasure hunting?” Mai Fei asked.

Su Liang shook her head, “If there was a treasure in this haunted place, Mr. Mai would have found it long ago.”

Mai Fei sighed, “I’m starting to suspect if there really was an account book.” Su Liang didn’t pick up the conversation.

Servants set up tables and chairs, along with food and refreshments by the lake in the back garden. After all, Mai Fei was the fourth prince, and no matter where he went, he still kept his noble style.

“Mr. Mai truly has a knack for selecting locations.” Su Liang withdraws her gaze.

Mai Fei chuckles, “After all, Miss Su and I joined forces to fight for justice for them, what is there to fear?” Saying this, he raises his glass, “I should have invited Miss Su for a drink long ago.”

“I merely sought to save myself, I dare not claim any credit.” Su Liang says as she sips the wine slightly spicy. In her previous life, she rarely drank alcohol, and after coming here, she and Ning Jing drank together once. She did not dislike it, nor was she particularly fond of it. It wasn’t something she would take the initiative to drink.

“You are too polite, always on guard against me, afraid that I might scheme against you?” Mai Fei asks with a laugh.

Su Liang shakes her head, “Mr. Mai jokes, if you have any instructions, please say them directly.”

“The thing we discussed initially, let’s discuss it again once we’re back in the capital. At the moment, there really isn’t anything else, I just thought that maybe you would be willing to check out the mine.” Mai Fei hints.

Su Liang feigns ignorance to the words “you helped me several times before”, and merely thanks Mai Fei.

Mai Fei asks when she and Ning Jing plan to depart for the provincial city, Su Liang answers truthfully.

“What a pity, I can’t return to the capital for now, otherwise traveling with the two of you would definitely be interesting.” Mai Fei smiles, “Once you pass the provincial exam, you’re heading to the capital, right?”

Before Su Liang could reply, she suddenly hears someone announce loudly,

“Master, General Nian is here!”

Looking over as soon as she hears the voice, Su Liang sees a tall, robust figure walking towards them against the light. It reminds her of the scene where Nian Jincheng broke into the bridal chamber on the night..

It's not a coincidence, the one who has arrived is indeed Nian Jincheng.

He's wearing dark sturdy attire and looks somewhat haggard from his journey. Compared to the last time they met, he seems even more lean, yet his eyes are firm as always.

Nian Jincheng also sees Su Liang.

But there is no familiar sensation. He subconsciously assumes that she is Mai Fei's lady companion, barely glances her way, and then retracts his gaze.

Mai Fei stands up and, with a full face of smiles, goes to meet him, "Jincheng, you are finally here!"

Nian Jincheng tries to kneel to pay his respects, but Mai Fei stops him, "There's no need for such formalities. We're not in the capital. I had sent a letter stating an urgent need for assistance, fearing the emperor would not permit you to come. Now that you are here, I am at ease."

Nian Jincheng looks respectful, "As per the emperor's command, I will do my best to assist the Crown Prince."

"That's good to know," Mai Fei orders Chang'an to add a chair. He introduces Nian Jincheng to Su Liang first, "This is Nian Jincheng, the General appointed by His Imperial Majesty to take over Gai Yun's duties. The previous Martial Arts Champion, he's one of the most outstanding generals among the younger generation in Qian Country."

"You flatter me, Crown Prince. I'm really not deserving of your praise." Nian Jincheng feels that there is no need for Mai Fei to introduce him to Su Liang.

"General Nian," Su Liang nods.

Then, Mai Fei introduces Su Liang to Nian Jincheng, "This is Miss Su, originally from the capital, the granddaughter of the famous doctor Su Yuanzhou, currently residing in Su Family Village in Feiyan Town. Her medical skills are extraordinary and she is exceptionally intelligent. If it were not for Miss Su, the scandalous actions of father and son Gai Yun would not have been exposed."

On hearing the words "Miss Su," Nian Jincheng's eyes sharpen. He is incredibly surprised and confused. He cannot connect the young woman before him with the Su Liang he had met in the past.

They seem like two entirely different people.

In front of Mai Fei, Nian Jincheng does not reveal that he has met Su Liang before and simply nods slightly, saying, "Miss Su."

Mai Fei starts chatting with Nian Jincheng, "Have you seen Crown Prince Bei Jingwang since he arrived in the capital?"

Nian Jincheng nods, "I've met Young Master Xing at a poetry meeting in the Qin Mansion."

“I’m surprised, you actually attended a poetry meeting.” Mai Fei looks like he knows Nian Jincheng very well, “Young Master Xing used to live in Bei’an County, Miss Su knows him as well.”

Nian Jincheng does not continue the conversation, nor does he bring out the item that Xing Yusheng had asked him to deliver to Su Liang.

Chang’an leaves for a while and comes back, giving Mai Fei a look.

Mai Fei then stands up and leaves, saying that he will be back shortly.

Only Su Liang and Nian Jincheng are left by the lake. Nian Ye has been arranged by Chang’an to go elsewhere to rest and drink water.

“We meet again, Miss Su.” Nian Jincheng looks at Su Liang expressionlessly.

She’s become fairer and more beautiful, her temperament has completely changed from his memories.

Su Liang keeps her face calm, “General Nian, nice to see you again.”

“If I’m not mistaken, you are a married woman. Yet, you go out with men in broad daylight, chatting and laughing merrily..” Nian Jincheng speaks coldly, “What is your relationship with Xing Yusheng? What is your relationship with

Crown Prince? Does your husband Ning Jing know?”

Chapter 62: 062. Are you teaching me what to do? (First update)

Su Liang closed her eyes slightly, gently swirling the cup of wine in her hands. The corners of her mouth curled into an inscrutable smile, “General Nian, why didn’t you ask the fourth prince about his relationship with me in his presence earlier? Do you think the fourth prince would assume that you’re concerned about me, or are you worried about Ning Jing?”

Nian Jincheng’s face darkened, and he instinctively looked around lowering his voice, “What are you talking about?”

Su Liang laughed lightly, “It was General Nian who started rambling first.” Nian Jincheng stared at Su Liang, his voice cold, “You were pretending, back then!”

Su Liang looked at the person who appeared not far away, her voice light and indifferent, “Here’s a piece of advice for General Nian, my affairs with Ning Jing have nothing to do with you. Keep away from us.”

Mai Fei came by with a laugh, “What are you talking about?”

“About Xing Crown prince. I wonder if his health has improved after he arrived in the capital city.” Su Liang’s face was as usual.

Nian Jincheng spoke up, “I didn’t expect to meet Miss Su here. I almost forgot,

Xing Crown prince asked me to bring a few books for her.”

Just then, Nian Ye came by and Nian Jincheng instructed him to bring the bundle of cloth given by Xing Yusheng.

Su Liang guessed, Nian Jincheng didn't mention it at first, he probably intended to secretly go to the Su family village to find them?

After dealing with the previous two things, even though there was no evidence, Mai Fei had always suspected that Ning Jing was the mysterious person hiding his true capabilities.

But right now, Ning Jing's identity was perfect, and Mai Fei was only speculating that he was hiding his abilities, not linking him to the missing Gu Ling.

However, if it was discovered that Nian Jincheng, who was rumored to be the only friend of Gu Ling, had an unusual relationship with Jing, Mai Fei, with his shrewdness, couldn't possibly not have suspicions.

Now that Nian Jincheng took out the books in front of Mai Fei, showed him that he had known that Xing Yusheng and Su Liang were friends, and would not think about it. He once saw Xing Yu send Qi Yan to Su Liang to deliver gifts.

The cloth bag Nian Jincheng handed to Su Liang was intercepted by Mai Fei. He smiled and asked, "Miss Su wouldn't mind me having a look, would she?" Su Liang shook her head, indicating that he could go ahead and look.

The things Xing Yusheng sent to her through someone else, there would be no letters inside. Even if there were, Mai Fei wouldn't be intrusive enough to ask to open and read it.

"These must be treasures from Old Master Qin. He cherishes many ancient books, and is reluctant to lend them to people casually." Mai Fei flipped through them, picked up the sachet in the cloth bag, and looked surprised, "This, is it also a gift from Xing Crown Prince to Miss Su?"

Nian Jincheng shook his head, "No, this is a gift from Xing Crown prince's cousin, Miss Qin, to Miss Su. She said she made it herself."

"I see, otherwise I would suspect that Xing Crown prince was courting Miss Su." Mai Fei joked halfway.

Nian Jincheng thought it was strange when he heard this, why did it seem like Su Liang was not yet married? Why do they all call her "Miss"?

Mai Fei then asked Nian Jincheng, "Do you know Ning Jing, the seventh son of the Ning family from Xunyang?"

Nian Jincheng shook his head, "I've heard of him, but I don't know him."

"He is Su Liang's sworn brother, and he is currently living in Bei'an County.

Ning Jing is quite talented. He previously participated in the Court Examination using Xing Crown Prince's token and became the case leader." Mai Fei said.

The word "sworn brother" confused Nian Jincheng for a moment, but he quickly realized that he had misunderstood.

He had seen Ning Jing and Su Liang's wedding ceremony with his own eyes, and Su Liang had said that she was willing to marry Ning Jing.

Nian Jincheng thought that, even if the wedding was a sham, they would either continue living as a couple, or vanish and settle down somewhere else.

Before coming to Bei'an County, knowing that Su Liang was still at Su Family Village, Nian Jincheng assumed that she and Ning Jing had truly become husband and wife. So when he saw her with Mai Fei, he questioned her.

He never expected to hear from Mai Fei's mouth that Ning Jing and Su Liang had become sworn siblings!

Nian Jincheng realized that he was rash in what he said, and Su Liang's warning was absolutely correct.

Some things can be thought, but should not be said out loud.

Some people, no matter how close they are, can only pretend to not know each other.

Su Liang picked up the sachet given by Qin Yujin. The light fragrance smelled good, the embroidery was also very delicate.

But for a moment, she wasn't sure what the significance of Xing Yusheng's cousin sending her a sachet was, so she put it aside, picked up the books that Xing Yusheng had sent, and saw that one of them was a treatise on poison, her eyes lighting up a little.

Su Liang really liked Xing Yusheng's gift, and felt that this was a friend worth making.

Nian Jincheng saw Su Liang browsing through the books that Xing Yusheng had given her, holding them as if they were precious, and he felt strange.

Her appearance, demeanor, and way of speaking, everything about her surprised him. Their brief encounter from the past didn't count as truly knowing each other.

"Jincheng, you must be tired from your journey. I'll have Chang'an arrange a place for you to rest. We'll discuss other matters tomorrow." Mai Fei said, "I meant to visit the mine today. I've been here so long and haven't done so."

"I'm not tired. The emperor assigned me to guard this mine, I have to get to know the situation as soon as possible." Nian Jincheng said.

"That's good, then let's go together." Mai Fei stood up.

As Nian Jincheng was wondering whether "together" included Su Liang, he saw her pack up the books and also put in the sachet, picked up the whole thing and stood up.

"Is Miss Su also going?" Nian Jincheng asked. As he was about to be appointed guard general for this place and the mine didn't allow ordinary people to enter, this question was not inappropriate.

"Hehe, don't be so serious, Su Liang is my friend. She made a great contribution to the Gai Yun case earlier on, I promised to take her to see the mine, I cannot go back

on my word just because you're here, right? You can consider that you will take office tomorrow, today just relax." Mai Fei patted Nian Jincheng's shoulder, "Let's go."

Fate plays tricks on people.

When Su Liang arrived, it was a bright and clear day.

But as soon as they left the abandoned Wu estate, the sky was overcast, a huge wind rose, and rain was about to come.

Chang'an suggested that Mai Fei, might as well go another day.

But Mai Fei said that they were already here, the rain might not come after all, and asked Su Liang to ride with him.

"Do you have a raincoat?" Su Liang asked.

Chang'an gave Su Liang a raincoat, "Master, Miss Su also thinks it's going to rain."

Su Liang didn't wear it, but wrapped the cloth bag containing the books with the raincoat, tying it to the horse's back, mounting neatly, and said to Mai Fei, "Mai Fei, the weather is not good, I have to go home to collect clothes, I won't go today."

For some reason, when she saw the impending weather just now, she felt a bad premonition. And she didn't want to have too much interaction with Nian Jincheng, fearing that Mai Fei would suspect, so she planned to go home. She was merely curious about the mine,

Mai Fei's mouth twitched, "Collect clothes? Doesn't Ning Jing have hands?"

Su Liang laughed, "Mai Fei and General Nian are here for official business, I, an idle person, won't cause disruption."

Mai Fei looked displeased as he pulled down the carriage curtain, "Chang'an, assign two people to escort Miss Su home."

"Yes." Chang'an responded and called two guards over, Su Liang didn't refuse.

"Mai Fei, General Nian, farewell." With that, Su Liang turned her horse around and left.

Nian Jincheng glanced at Su Liang's retreating figure on horseback, retracted his gaze, and followed Mai Fei's carriage in the direction of the mine.

Su Liang had not walked far when she suddenly heard a shocked exclamatory call, "Master!" from behind.

Turning back, she saw Mai Fei's carriage suddenly falling into a pit with a myriad of arrows flying towards him! Su Liang hesitated for a moment.

The sudden incident happened, but there were many people protecting Mai Fei, and Nian Jincheng was nearby as well, so she was not needed.

However, if she were to leave like this, it would seem too cold-blooded, and she might even be suspected of knowing about the assassins in advance because of her abrupt departure.

Su Liang never dared to underestimate the suspicion of a sharp-minded prince.

So Su Liang decided to stay where she was, maintaining a distance to observe the situation. If anyone got injured, she could lend a hand.

Mai Fei was pulled out of the carriage by Nian Jincheng.

In the chaos, Nian Jincheng blocked an arrow for Mai Fei. He got hit in his left arm, and changed the long sword to his right hand.

It was certain that they couldn't reach the mine. The assassins had pre-set an ambush and were waiting in the shadows.

Su Liang suspected that someone in Mai Fei's entourage had betrayed him.

Whoever was behind the smuggling of the iron might not be a small character and could possibly do anything for wealth or power.

A few people escorted Mai Fei back to the Wu Family compound, the gate was firmly shut.

Su Liang had a bad feeling! If there really was a spy among the people around Mai Fei, this would be the perfect opportunity for murder!

Unfortunately, Ning Jing was not around. He had not seen Mai Fei in the past three days, otherwise, he might have been able to figure something out.

Su Liang no longer hesitated, she urged her horse forward, and while on the move, quickly tied-up the book given to her by Xing Yusheng on her back. It was very important and couldn't be lost.

Nian Jincheng, who was injured, was still battling with assassins. He'd thought that Su Liang had already left. But when he heard the sound of horseshoes and turned his head, he saw her riding back, standing up on her horse when she came near the gate of the Wu Family compound, jumping over the tall fence, and disappearing from sight.

Her agile and robust movements were done in one go, indicating that Su Liang was not a weak woman.

Despite that, Nian Jincheng still wore a grave expression. He quickly took care of the two assassins who were pestering him, then also rushed towards the Wu Family compound!

As soon as Su Liang entered, she heard Mai Fei's roar, "You dare to betray me?!"

Following the sound, she saw two of Mai Fei's secret guards lying on the ground. He was holding a bloody long sword in his hand to defend himself while the other hand was pressed against the wound on his chest, constantly retreating.

Among Mai Fei's subordinates, Su Liang only recognized one, Chang'an. The one who was trying to kill him now, she hadn't met before; he was probably a master protecting him from the shadows.

Having insiders bought over was terrifying, as it was hard to guard against such betrayals.

With the wind blowing and the sound everywhere, Su Liang moved lightly. The traitor, with his back toward her, didn't notice her for a while.

Mai Fei saw Su Liang and gasped, trying to hide his surprise.

He also thought that Su Liang had left. Even if she hadn't, with the way she often kept a respectful distance from Mai Fei, she was likely not to interfere. He had never imagined that Su Liang would come back to save him!

"It looks like I will definitely die today..." Mai Fei laughed bitterly, "Can you at least let me die knowing who your current master is?"

"I wouldn't mind telling you, but unfortunately, I also don't know who the real master is." The traitor was apparently complacent, thinking he had the upper hand, "Why should you stand high above when we were all born the same? My esteemed Fourth Prince, don't blame me. I just don't want to serve as a servant my whole life, and I also aspire to stand above the rest one day!" As his words fell, the traitor swung his sword towards Mai Fei!

Mai Fei hit a rock and fell onto the ground. Seeing Su Liang without any weapon, he was very worried. Then, he saw her pull out two dazzling knives from her leg, emotionlessly piercing through the traitor's kneecaps! A terrible scream split the sky, and large raindrops began to fall.

The traitor fell to the ground in extreme pain, writhing.

Quickly, Su Liang dropped the knives, took off the bundle on her back, held it in her arms, and ran into the nearby house.

When Nian Jincheng rushed in, he saw Mai Fei lying miserably in the rain, the traitor heavily injured and no longer a threat, two knives lying on the ground, and Su Liang was in a nearby room, wiping a book that had gotten slightly wet from the rain...

"Su Liang!" shouted Mai Fei angrily, "Immediately come and save me!"

He even suspected that if it rained a little bit earlier, Su Liang couldn't care less about his life and would save her book first, it was preposterous!

Su Liang came out, saw Nian Jincheng picking up her knives, and reached out to take them, "Thank you."

Nian Jincheng handed over the knives, and Su Liang retreated back under the eaves to shield herself from the rain as if she had only come out to take the knives.

The injured Nian Jincheng went to help the injured Mai Fei, and Chang'an rushed in with his men. The assassins outside had been taken care of.

Seeing the traitor on the ground, Chang'an's face changed dramatically, "Master!"

"Don't let him die!" commanded Mai Fei sharply.

Earlier, he had purged those in the Bei'an County government who had been bought over, but he had never thought that there would also be spies among his own people.

The spy hadn't had a chance to take action before as he wasn't the highest-ranking covert guard around Mai Fei, so there was no opportunity for him to get close under normal circumstances. Today's chaos of assassination seemed to be well-designed.

Chang'an had the man whose knees were pierced caught, bound hands and feet, and his mouth stuffed to prevent him from committing suicide.

Nian Jincheng and Mai Fei both entered the room where Su Liang stored her books.

What used to be the front hall of the Wu Family was now in total disarray.

Su Liang didn't bring her full medical kit when she went out today, but she did bring a simple medical pouch she had sewn herself.

"How lucky we are to have Ms. Su here! Quickly attend to my master's wounds!" Chang'an's tone was urgent.

Mai Fei was sitting on the only intact chair left in the room, with two guards standing beside him.

Meanwhile, Nian Jincheng, with his arm bleeding profusely, sat on the ground, starting to tear his own clothes to bandage his wound, performing the actions adeptly.

It seemed as if everyone, including Nian Jincheng, assumed that Su Liang should give priority to treat Mai Fei.

Even though Mai Fei only had minor injuries, while Nian Jincheng, a military commander who wielded his sword with his left hand, would be ruined if his left arm was incapacitated.

Su Liang came to Mai Fei, took a glance at his wound, and carelessly said two words, "It's fine." Then she turned and walked towards Nian Jincheng...

Mai Fei's face darkened, but he didn't feel appropriate to complain. After all, in the critical situation just now, it was Su Liang who saved his life, and it was Nian Jincheng who took the arrow for him.

However, because of his status, Mai Fei still felt quite unhappy. His high and mighty Fourth Prince's status seemed to mean nothing to Su Liang.

Being a close servant and a follower of Mai Fei, Chang'an knew some simple wound treatment techniques. Seeing Mai Fei with a dark face but not saying anything, he couldn't order Su Liang and hurriedly came forward to stop the bleeding for Mai Fei.

At this time, Nian Jincheng's attendant, Nian Ye, finally rushed in. He was also injured. Seeing Nian Jincheng's left arm hanging down, half of his body covered in blood, his expression tensed, "Master!"

"I'm fine." Nian Jincheng frowned, looking at Su Liang who arrived, "You go treat the Fourth Prince's wound."

Su Liang squatted down beside him and opened her medical bag, emotionless, "I am a doctor.. Is General Nian trying to instruct me?"

Chapter 63: 063. If I Take a Fancy to Him (Part 2)

The doors and windows were all open. Outside, the wind and rain were mixed, and the cold was gradually intensifying.

Su Liang had just finished treating Nian Jincheng's wound and stood up, only to sneeze.

“Thank you, Miss Su.” Nian Jincheng lowered his head and didn’t look at Su Liang.

He was thinking. Did Su Liang insist on treating him first, disregarding Mai Fei, solely due to a doctor’s duty, or because of his relationship with Ning Jing?

Chang’an’s voice interrupted Nian Jincheng’s thoughts,” Miss Su, please check my master again!”

“No need.” Mai Fei shook his head. He had calmed down. “It’s a minor injury. Why worry? However, it is Jincheng’s arm. He blocked an arrow for me. Can it heal completely?”

Su Liang’s expression was bland, “Don’t exercise it for a month. I will prescribe a formula for General Nian, drink a few doses of medicine.”

As soon as Su Liang finished speaking, she went to treat Nian Ye, Nian Jincheng’s subordinate, but he repeatedly waved his hands, saying it was no big deal.

In the rain, Chang’an brought back Nian Jincheng’s carriage and the corpse of the outside assassin to the Wu Family, and took out the Four Treasures of the Study from the carriage for Su Liang.

Su Liang wrote a prescription and handed it to Nian Jincheng.

He saw Su Liang’s handwriting and was stunned for a moment. He had seen this handwriting before.

“With such heavy rain, Miss Su wouldn’t be able to go home for a while. Why not sit down and chat?” Mai Fei moved a chair from elsewhere and said as his subordinate did so.

Like their previous meeting in the back garden, the three sat at the same table again.

Mai Fei actively started telling Nian Jincheng about how the scandal of the Wu Yun father and son was exposed. Many of the details were things that Nian Jincheng, who had been in the capital city before, didn’t know.

“If it weren’t for Su Liang’s bravery and quick thinking, who knows how many innocent women Wu Yun and Gai Huaian would have secretly harmed.” Mai Fei sighed.

Nian Jincheng had some doubts in his heart. Since Su Liang lived with Ning Jing, how could she be captured so easily by Wu Yun?

Mai Fei immediately asked Su Liang, “Didn’t Ning Jing notice anything on the night you were captured by Wu Yun?”

Su Liang realized that while Mai Fei seemed to be sharing the case with Nian Jincheng, he was actually trying to probe Ning Jing’s background from her.

Su Liang shook her head, “I asked him when I got back. He said that he couldn’t sleep at night and went to the back mountain to look at the moon. When he came back, he didn’t notice my disappearance. The next day, he realized something was wrong when he called me and no one answered. However, there were no clues, so he stayed at home and waited.”

“So that’s how it was.” Mai Fei flashed his usual smile, obviously not too convinced by Su Liang’s words.

But it didn’t matter. Su Liang was just perfunctory him, and there were some things she couldn’t say.

As soon as Mai Fei mentioned that a mysterious expert had secretly helped expose the evidence of Wu Yun and Gai Huai’an’s evil deeds, Nian Jincheng guessed who that person was.

Therefore, Nian Jincheng realized the hidden probe in Mai Fei and Su Liang’s conversation. Su Liang responded calmly without revealing anything.

Chang’an brought the chessboard, and Mai Fei and Nian Jincheng started playing to kill time.

Su Liang then opened the cloth bag and took out the poison scripture, focusing on reading it.

Every time Mai Fei dropped a piece, his eyes swept towards Su Liang.

Nian Jincheng focused on the game, not looking elsewhere.

One game finished, and Mai Fei lost.

“Let’s make it best two out of three, and make a wager to make it more interesting.” Mai Fei again looked at Su Liang, “Does Miss Su have any good suggestions?”

Su Liang looked up to ask, “What did Lord Mai just say?”

Mai Fei smiled, “Jincheng and I are playing a game and we want to make a bet. The loser has to pay. Why don’t you come up with a bet?”

Nian Jincheng thought, she would surely decline.

Who knew that Su Liang agreed readily, “Okay. Whoever loses, give me 3,000 silver taels.”

Chang’an was dumbfounded: Miss Su really was a master at taking advantage of people; she didn’t miss any opportunity to extort his master!

Nian Jincheng’s lips twitched as he lowered his head to clean up the chess pieces, thinking that she was really weird, she didn’t do anything by the book.

Mai Fei’s face darkened a bit, “Such a young girl, and all you think about all day is money. Don’t you have other pursuits?”

Su Liang chuckled lightly, “Lord Mai asked me to come up with the bet. I did, but you’re not happy. Why ask me then? I love money. My dream is to sleep on money one day. It’s superficial, but wealthy.”

Mai Fei’s eyes flickered slightly, “If I give you enough money, would you leave Ning Jing?”

Nian Jincheng’s hand paused slightly.

Su Liang’s face was still calm, “That, I’m afraid Lord Mai can’t afford.”

“Yes, you had mentioned that you liked him. I knew it. You’re robbing me to support Ning Jing. He’s really mature.” Mai Fei couldn’t help but start to make scornful comments.

Actually, the statement that Su Liang robbed money to support Ning Jing was originally from Chang'an. Now that Mai Fei mentioned it, it seemed to have a hint of mockery.

But to Nian Jincheng, it was almost unbelievable. Ever since he met Su Liang again this time, everything seemed strange and he didn't quite understand...

Su Liang continued reading her book, not caring about the chess game between the two men.

When she heard Chang'an say that the rain had stopped, she then closed the book and put it back into her cloth bag.

Mai Fei raised the corners of his lips slightly, "Miss Su, don't forget, Jincheng owes you 3,000 taels."

"It's not right to make General Nian pay on our first meeting, let's forget it." Su Liang said.

Mai Fei snorted, "Would you write it off if I was the one who lost?"

"I believe that even if I don't ask for it, Lord Mai will definitely give it." Su Liang smiled.

Mai Fei:

Su Liang was about to leave, and Mai Fei had to return to the county town. He wanted Nian Jincheng to go with him. After discussing the mine issue, they would decide how to arrange it.

After leaving the house, Mai Fei asked Su Liang to ride in his carriage with him for the third time today. Su Liang politely declined for the third time, "I'm not injured, it's okay to ride a horse."

Mai Fei looked at the injured Nian Jincheng. "Jincheng, get in the car." He lowered the curtain of the carriage after he finished speaking, leaving no room for refusal.

Nian Jincheng said to Su Liang, "The 3,000 taels of silver bills will be delivered to Miss Su another day. Thank you, Miss Su, for treating me today."

"All right." As soon as Su Liang finished speaking, she rode her horse forward.

Nian Jincheng got into the carriage and sat up straight. Mai Fei told him to relax a bit and rest.

The carriage slowly started to move. Suddenly, Mai Fei asked Nian Jincheng in a low voice, "What do you think of Su Liang?"

Nian Jincheng paused for a moment, "Miss Su, is very capable."

"Very unique, isn't she?" Mai Fei had a smile on his face. "Unfortunately, no matter how I show her goodwill, she doesn't appreciate it. Otherwise, I would want to take her as a concubine."

Nian Jincheng remained silent, only listening as Mai Fei laughed and said, "She said she likes Ning Jing, but he only treats her like a sister despite her affections. I always feel that she's lying. Why don't you, Jincheng, give it a try?" Nian Jincheng frowned, "I don't understand what his highness means."

"What I mean is, if you're interested in her, why not try courting her?" Mai Fei said with interest, "In the capital city, there are many girls who fancy you, even the sixth

princess is smitten with you, perhaps Su Liang might also like someone like you. She risked offending me to heal you first, I think she has a pretty good impression of you.”

Nian Jincheng shook his head, “I’m here on an Imperial Edict, I won’t be distracted by other matters.”

“Don’t be so rigid. Are you daring to say that you have absolutely no interest in Su Liang?” Mai Fei stared into Nian Jincheng’s eyes.

Nian Jincheng shook his head, “I have never thought about such things.”

Mai Fei gave a half-smile-half-smirk, “No wonder the crown prince says you’re such a boring fellow. But there’s nothing wrong with being focused that’s how one achieves great things. Now that you’re here, I have a plan to deal with Gai Yun and Gai Huai’an, I need your assistance.”

“Your Highness, just give your orders.” Nian Jincheng respectfully replied.

Since they had met, Mai Fei addressed him by his name, showing familiarity and ease, but Nian Jincheng always maintained a respectful distance and never let his guard down.

Nian Jincheng knew that Mai Fei’s attempt to coax him into courting Su Liang was to test his character, and also probe the relationship between Ning Jing and Su Liang.

In the short half-day, Mai Fei maintained a good temper, but many of the words he said had ulterior motives.

“My lord, we’ve reached Feiyan Town.” Changan’s voice came from outside the carriage.

Mai Fei and Nian Jincheng, who had been pretending to sleep with their eyes closed, both opened their eyes.

“Changan, you send Miss Su home.” Mai Fei lifted the carriage curtain.

From Nian Jincheng’s angle, he could only see a part of Su Liang’s skirt.

“Master Mai, General Nian, I’ll take my leave now.” As soon as Su Liang finished her sentence, she spurred her horse towards Su Family’s village, with Changan following behind on his horse.

“Let’s go.” Mai Fei ordered, and the group continued on their journey.

On the way back to the village, the sun came out again.

By the time Su Liang arrived home, the evening sun was setting, and golden light sprinkled across the land.

The door was locked from the outside, and Ning Jing wasn’t home.

“Has Master Ning gone out?” As soon as Changan asked, he heard a child shouting from a distance, “Sister Su Liang! Elder Brother Ning is at my house!”

Changan remembered that when they left in the morning, Su Liang had asked Ning Jing to take a piece of meat and go to Neighbor Bails house for lunch.

Su Liang rode towards the Bails house, and Changan took his leave.

Bai Xiaohu and Zhuzi both excitedly greeted her, and Su Liang, seeing the two young boys looking up expectantly at the horse, asked if they wanted to ride it?

“Really?” Bai Xiaohu jumped excitedly.

Zhuzi was a little timid, “But I can’t!”

“Don’t be afraid, give it a try.” Su Liang said as she dismounted, first hoisting Zhuzi onto the horse’s back and instructing him to hold the reins and stay in place, then she helped Bai Xiaohu climb up too, and he held onto Zhuzi.

“Is it high?” Su Liang asked with a smile.

Bai Xiaohu and Zhuzi both nodded, it’s so high!

Su Liang leading the horse around the flat open space outside Bai Family’s door, walking slowly.

The two children gradually relaxed, their little faces lighting up with excitement again.

Bai’s grandmother, hearing Bai Xiaohu calling for Su Liang and the sound of the horse’s hooves, repeatedly peered out from the kitchen but didn’t see the two boys or Su Liang come in, so she went out to check.

Seeing Su Liang leading the horse, with the two boys happily seated on top, she quickly called them to stop, “Hurry down! Liang girl, you can’t always cater to them!”

“Grandma, I can ride a horse now!”

“I can too!”

Seeing the two grandsons grinning ear to ear, Bai’s grandmother couldn’t help but laugh, “The dumplings are almost ready, come inside soon!”

Last time they got meat dumplings from Su Liang’s house, Bai’s family found them incredibly delicious. Bai’s grandmother went to learn how to make them from Su Liang and quickly picked up the skills.

It wasn’t until Liu Shi came out to call for them that the two children dismounted and ran back home.

Su Liang tethered the horse to a tree outside and went in to see Ning Jing sitting with Old man Bai under the eaves, with a lot of evenly split bamboo strips beside them. He had a half-woven small bamboo basket in his hands.

Old man Bai was skilled in bamboo-weaving, and he would weave some bamboo baskets and nets to sell during his leisure time. Today, Ning Jing came to mooch a meal, it started to rain in the afternoon and didn’t leave, so when Old man Bai was weaving bamboo baskets, Ning Jing joined to learn, and he had been learning for half a day.

Su Liang came in and Ning Jing didn't even look up at her, just busy with his work.

She went to wash her hands, the dumplings were already in the pot.

Bai's grandmother prepared two kinds of fillings, one meat and one vegetarian. The vegetarian filling was her own concoction, vegetable egg, for the first time.

This wasn't the first time Su Liang and Ning Jing had eaten at Bai's house. Bai's living conditions had improved greatly recently, and the family was warm and lively. "Heartbroken" Bai He went to work in the county town and hadn't returned home for several days.

Ning Jing, who was typically silent, praised the vegetarian dumplings made by Bai's grandmother, she was delighted and told Ning Jing anytime he wants to eat, he just needs to tell her.

After dinner, Su Liang took her cloth bag, and Ning Jing led the horse, slowly walking home.

"We didn't make it to the mine today, not because of the rain, but because we encountered an assassin on the way." Su Liang said.

"Hmm." Ning Jing responded.

"The military commander sent from the capital to replace Gai Yun's position has arrived. Xing Yusheng gave him three books to bring to me, two medical books, and one book on poison."

"Good."

"There's also a scented sachet. It was given to me by Xing Yusheng's cousin, she said she made it herself. It was kind of strange. Do you know Miss Qin?"

"I don't."

"Then it shouldn't be sent to you. Maybe she heard something from Xing Yusheng and wanted to get to know me?"

"Hmm." "You probably know the new military commander, Nian Jincheng."

"Hmm."

In the darkness of the night, Ning Jing's footsteps didn't falter, the side of his face was cold and indifferent, his voice as tranquil as ever.

Su Liang sighed, "Nian Jincheng was hit by a poisoned arrow protecting Duanmu Chen today, and I couldn't do anything to help him. Duanmu Chen took him away to find a famous doctor, I wonder how he's doing now. Should we go visit him?"

Ning Jing looked at Su Liang, "You're lying. If someone was in trouble and you couldn't save them, you wouldn't wait until the end to mention it. Do you fancy Nian Jincheng?"

Su Liang blinked, "If I do, what do you think?"

Ning Jing stopped walking, standing still in the deep night like a statue.

After a moment, he said, "Not good. His family, they all have problems in their heads.."

After a day, Nian Jincheng's subordinate Nian Ye came to the village to give Su Liang a banknote worth three thousand taels of silver.

Su Liang did not let him in, just talking at the front door for a while.

"How is his injury?" Su Liang asked.

Nian Ye said, "Young master's wound is better now."

"That's good. If there is any problem, you can come to me," Su Liang said.

Nian Ye clasped his hands, "Thank you, Miss Su Liang!"

Then he left in a hurry.

Su Liang closed the door and turned around, seeing Ning Jing standing under the eaves. She mentioned the origin of the three thousand taels to him. After listening to her, Ning Jing asked, "Why not five thousand taels?"

Su Liang coughed lightly, "I just said that casually."

Since getting the poisonous scripture, she has temporarily put the medical book aside. There were some ready-made poison recipes in it, and she wanted to try them out, asking Ning Jing when he would go to the county town again, to help buy the medicinal materials back.

"Fine," Ning Jing agreed, going today.

Su Liang wrote down the list of medicinal materials and handed it to Ning Jing, asking him to buy some rice paper as well. As for ingredients, he could decide what to buy.

Then Ning Jing left by himself, driving the carriage.

Today was sunny, and it was warm outside. Su Liang closed the front door, holding the book and sitting in the courtyard, reading.

The pen holder Ning Jing made for her was placed in front of her, in sight.

It was different from the relief landscape penholder that Ning Jing made for himself. After he got Su Liang's drawing, he made a wooden, pocket-sized villa according to the proportions. Each small room's door and window could be opened, delicate and exquisite.

The pen holder was just a part of the small house.

Su Liang liked it very much, thinking it was a lovely piece of art.

The weather was good, and Su Dakuan, who had recovered, brought his grandson to Su Liang's house to thank her, carrying a wild rabbit which he had caught in a trap on the mountain.

Su Liang invited the grandfather and grandson in, pouring water and offering desserts for them.

Since Ning Jing was not at home, Su Dakuan noticed the book Su Liang was reading, sat down for a moment, then got up to leave, saying he would visit Old Bail's house.

Su Liang smiled and nodded, "That's good. Erniu, go play with Little Tiger."

After sending away Su Dakuan and his grandson, Su Liang tied the legs of the still -living wild rabbit and put it in the kitchen, planning to let Ning Jing kill it when he returned.

After receiving two more patients from neighboring villages for follow-up treatment, Su Liang continued reading.

Ning Jing arrived at the county town and, as usual, went to the largest pharmacy first to buy the medicinal materials Su Liang needed.

The carriage was parked outside the pharmacy. Ning Jing carried a bamboo basket he had woven himself, filled with many well-packed medicinal materials. When he walked out of the pharmacy, he bumped into Nian Ye, Nian Jincheng's subordinate.

Nian Ye had come to get the medicine for Nian Jincheng with Su Liang's prescription- Although he had been to Sli Family Village. he hadn't seen Ning

Jing before and didn't recognize him. He only thought this young man was quite outstanding in appearance and temperament, so he glanced at him and walked straight past.

Ning Jing walked out of the pharmacy and saw a person standing with his back to him under a big tree.

It was Nian Jincheng.

He had been staying in the county government to recuperate from his injury for the past two days.

Early in the morning, Nian Ye went to Su Family Village. After returning, he had to go out again to get the medicine, so Nian Jincheng joined him for a walk.

He looked at the bustling street, which was far less lively and prosperous than the capital city's.

But he enjoyed the feeling of not being watched by anyone even while standing in the noisy streets.

Although there were young ladies who noticed this handsome young man, they only stole glances at him, not a group of people who knew his identity peering closely at his every move and gesture.

There was a carriage parked not far away, with a young apprentice of the pharmacy standing beside it. Nian Jincheng saw it but didn't pay attention. "Young Master Ning, have you finished shopping? Have a safe trip!"

The enthusiastic voice of the young apprentice reached Nian Jincheng's ears.

He turned his head and saw a familiar figure walking to the side of the carriage. Ning Jing gave the young apprentice a few rewards, put the basket in the carriage, jumped in, picked up the whip and drove away.

Nian Jincheng froze.

He had imagined many scenarios of meeting "Ning Jing" again but never thought they would unexpectedly encounter each other here.

He only saw Ning Jing's silhouette, and he thought Ning Jing must have seen him and recognized him.

They were like strangers on the street, appearing in the same space and time, silently brushing past each other and parting ways.

While Nian Jincheng was lost in thought, the carriage disappeared from sight.

He walked into the pharmacy, and Nian Ye was taking the medicine from the counter, "Young master, it will be ready soon."

"Hmm." Nian Jincheng came in intending to ask the apprentice what Ning Jing had bought.

But the words stuck in his throat when he suddenly recalled Su Liang's previous words to him, "Stay away from us..."

"Young master, let's go." Nian Ye found it strange that Nian Jincheng seemed to be lost in thought.

As soon as the master and servant left the pharmacy, Nian Jincheng saw a carriage parked across the street. Ning Jing had come back.

She didn't deliberately avoid him when he left just now. She just went to buy something else.

Nian Jincheng sighed silently in his heart, turned back his gaze, and returned to the county government office with Nian Ye, where Chang'an informed him that Mai Fei was looking for him.

As soon as he saw Nian Jincheng, Mai Fei asked, "Has the 3000 taels been delivered?"

Nian Jincheng nodded.

"What did Su Liang say?" Mai Fei asked.

Nian Jincheng told the truth, "Miss Su asked about my injuries and said that if there was any problem, she could be invited over."

Mai Fei laughed softly, "She usually doesn't see patients, but she seems to care a lot about your injuries."

Nian Jincheng frowned, "Your Highness..."

"I'm just joking. Although I wouldn't be surprised if Su Liang truly had a crush on you, it shouldn't happen so soon." Mai Fei shook his head, "Let's talk about business. The plan I mentioned to you was carried out last night, and it went smoothly so far."

Mai Fei was referring to the matter of Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an.

After being arrested, no one had come to the prison to break in or silence them. The father and son remained unyielding, claiming they knew nothing and had no involvement, and that they were framed and set up.

As a result, Mai Fei's real investigation into the iron mine smuggling case had come to a deadlock, with the clues stopping at Wu Family father and son. If they don't open up and confess, all of Mai Fei's previous efforts would have been in vain.

The traitor who was stabbed in both knees by Su Liang at the deserted Wu family residence is still alive. After Mai Fei brought him back, he came up with a plan.

The traitor, greedy for wealth and status, naturally did not want to die. So, he confessed everything he knew truthfully.

The mastermind behind everything was very good at controlling spies. These small players were in contact with their handlers separately and simply followed orders after being bribed heavily, having no idea who their real master is.

After questioning, Mai Fei did not find the person who bribed the traitor. The assassin had long fled since the mission failed.

Although no important information was obtained, there was still something useful about the situation.

Mai Fei initially wanted Nian Jincheng to take action, but Nian Jincheng was injured blocking an arrow for him, and Su Liang said he couldn't use martial arts for a month. So, Mai Fei arranged for another master among his subordinates who was similar in physique to the traitor to take people and act.

The plan was to "save" Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an and try to gain their trust.

It was, of course, impossible to have Gai Yun hand over the account books directly. But as long as they believe it's their own people, anything said or done would be progress.

By now, the person had been "saved," and things were going smoothly, but there was a problem.

Mai Fei sighed, "I told you before that Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an fell into disgrace because they offended Miss Su Liang, otherwise I wouldn't have had the opportunity to deal with them."

Upon hearing Mai Fei, Nian Jincheng had a feeling that it had something to do with Su Liang.

"That madman Gai Huai'an said that as long as Su Liang was captured and brought to him, he would believe that their own people were there. Otherwise, the father and son would not say a word and await their fate, whether they would be killed or mutilated." Mai Fei sighed again.

Nian Jincheng frowned, "Of course, we can't let Miss Su go. They will definitely push harder and make more outrageous demands."

Mai Fei was not surprised by Nian Jincheng's reaction. The reason why he sought the help of someone obviously from the crown prince's side was that he understood Nian Jincheng's character. He was genuinely upright and principled in his work.

"Don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to sacrifice Su Liang." Mai Fei shook his head, "It's just that without her appearance, there would be no progress in the matter. I think we can let her try and see the reaction of Gai Yun and Gai

Huai'an."

"Pretend to be captured, and if they make unreasonable demands, we back off?" Nian Jincheng asked.

Mai Fei shook his head, "Of course we can't just let it be. If the father and son want to harm Su Liang, let her fight back."

Nian Jincheng's eyes narrowed, "Your Highness means to have Miss Su pretend to be captured, and if the father and son make excessive demands, let her regain consciousness and fight back against Your Highness's men?"

Mai Fei nodded, "To put on a show, it has to be the full package. If one tactic doesn't work, change course. As long as the father and son see with their own eyes Su Liang fighting for life and death with my people, they will naturally believe that those people are really trying to save them. Don't reveal any flaws in the middle, let Su Liang escape in the end, leaving one or two survivors among my men to continue fleeing with Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an, then the show succeeds!"

Nian Jincheng frowned, "Is Your Highness planning to sacrifice subordinates for the sake of the investigation?"

Mai Fei laughed, "As I said from the beginning, it's all an act. Leaving only one or two survivors is also part of the act."

"But fooling Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an won't be easy." Nian Jincheng said.

Mai Fei sighed deeply, "Yes, especially Gai Yun, who is old and cunning. If he senses something wrong, all our previous efforts will be wasted. Therefore, it is essential for Su Liang to go, and only she can give us a chance of success. Not only is she the one Gai Huai'an specifically wants, but she is also skilled in martial arts and medical skills. I suppose she knows very well how to beat someone so severely that they appear to be on the verge of death, but who won't actually die."

"This is too difficult." Nian Jincheng's gaze was serious, "Your Highness should put on a vivid act to the extent of severe injuries and near death. They must do their utmost to attack the enemy, especially Your Highness's subordinates, who must try their best to kill Miss Su so that Gai Yun may believe it. However, the premise is that Miss Su's martial arts should be able to deal with them and not be completely overwhelmed, otherwise, you will not be able to fool Gai Yun."

Mai Fei nodded, "You have identified the problem. I don't know how strong Su Liang's martial arts are. But this is not the biggest problem. The key is whether she is willing to help. She is very smart, and as long as she is willing to help us, there must be a way."

Nian Jincheng shook his head, "Your Highness has thought things through carefully, but I do not agree with this plan. This is something we should do and has nothing to do with Miss Su, and she has already helped us a lot before. We shouldn't make her take on such a great risk again."

Mai Fei snorted lightly, "I know you're a man of integrity who doesn't want to use women, but I'm not the kind to stop at nothing to achieve my goals, and I don't intend to force her. Otherwise, I wouldn't have come to you." "What does Your Highness want me to do?" Nian Jincheng asked.

"You and I both know that this case is of great importance, and it's not a matter of whether you or I can make a merit!" Mai Fei said seriously, "If we don't get to the bottom of this as soon as possible, it poses a huge threat to the Qian Country!"

Nian Jincheng fell silent, and Mai Fei continued, “Su Liang has already been involved from the beginning, and there is no alternative. I think you should know what is more important.”

Nian Jincheng was silent as he heard Mai Fei say, “At the very beginning, I tried to test Ning Jing, which caused Su Liang to have prejudice against me. This matter is up to you. Coerce her, bribe her, and seduce her. Use any means necessary to make her agree to help, and don’t delay. At the latest, by tomorrow, I want to see results!”

Nian Jincheng’s face darkened slightly, “I think that precisely because this matter is of great importance, we shouldn’t rely on a young lady and put her in danger. If this plan fails, we should think of other ways.”

Mai Fei’s face changed instantly, “Nian Jincheng, I’m not discussing this with you. It’s an order! You must accomplish it! If the mission fails, are you going to tell the Emperor that Su Liang’s safety is more important than the safety of Qian Country? Do you think the Emperor will cut your head off?”

As his words fell, Mai Fei took the tea to see the guest out, “You are a smart man, I don’t need to say anything more. Go, I’ll await your good news.”

After Nian Jincheng left, Mai Fei called for Chang’an.

“You follow Nian Jincheng.” Mai Fei instructed.

Chang’an knew what Mai Fei wanted to do and frowned, “I believe that no matter who goes to persuade her, Miss Su will not agree.”

Mai Fei’s expression was mild, “I’ve tried everything I can think of.

Chapter 65: 065. Unexpected Outcome (Revision 2)

“Young Master, the medicine is ready, drink it while it’s hot.” Nian Ye brought a bowl of dark medicine, the rising steam smelling bitter.

Nian Jincheng picked up the bowl and drank it all.

“Is there something wrong, Young Master?” Nian Ye had attended Nian Jincheng for many years and noticed his bad mood, although it didn’t show on his face.

Nian Jincheng shook his head and went to change his clothes.

Nian Ye took the bowl out and saw Chang’an coming.

“My master asked me to accompany General Nian to Su Family Village and wait for his orders.” Chang’an stood outside the door and said.

Nian Jincheng’s face darkened inside the house!

He knew that Mai Fei had sent Chang’an to watch him.

It was not because he suspected any relationship between Nian Jincheng and Ning Jing.

But to see if Nian Jincheng would try his best to complete the tasks Mai Fei had assigned.

If he said anything wrong, and the outcome was not as Mai Fei wished, he would be reported.

Chang'an didn't hear an answer from Nian Jincheng and asked again, "General Nian, are you ready to leave?"

Nian Jincheng fastened his belt, took his waist sword, and opened the door to come out, still with his usual cold appearance, "Let's go, thank you for showing me the way."

"It's my duty." Chang'an nodded.

Nian Ye did not know what Nian Jincheng was going to do and wanted to follow him but was left behind. Nian Jincheng asked him to rest in the county government as he was injured as well.

The carriage was prepared, and after helping Nian Jincheng get on, Chang'an drove away from the county town, heading towards Feiyan Town.

Through the carriage curtain, Nian Jincheng asked Chang'an, "The crown prince said that he once designed a test to probe Su Liang's sworn brother Ning Jing. What happened?"

Chang'an laughed, "That's all in the past."

About Bei'an County's Court Examination fraud case, actually, Su Liang and

Ning Jing knew nothing about one of the masterminds behind the curtain Mai Fei. Authorities taking bribes to frame Ning Jing had been bought at a high price by the Ning Family from Xunyang before receiving Mai Fei's orders.

Chang'an didn't want to say more, and Nian Jincheng didn't ask further. He just asked Chang'an to tell him what he knew about Su Liang, to better understand the situation and make it easier for the upcoming task.

Chang'an didn't suspect anything, so he started talking about Su Liang.

When Mai Fei first arrived in Bei'an County, he asked Chang'an to secretly investigate Ning Jing and Su Liang, so he also knew some of the things that had happened before.

For example, Su Liang was locked up by Su Daqiang's family to embroider for money. She cooperated with high-interest loan lender Hu Er to send Su Daqiang's family to the mine. She went to the county government to sue the rich girl Huang Wanwan of the former County Magistrate, etc.

Chang'an said, "But then again, she was just a teenage girl who had lost her family and came to an unfamiliar place. She thought those relatives could be relied upon, but it turned out to be a trap. No one in the village had ever seen her leave the house. We guessed that for most of that time, her hands and feet had been chained and she was treated like a slave, earning money for them. What use was her martial arts?"

Nian Jincheng's eyes narrowed, recalling Su Liang's appearance when they first met – her heavy makeup failing to hide her thinness and frailty.

"In order to make money, that family planned to marry Miss Su to Young Master Ning. It's said that they choked her unconscious and sent her into the bridal sedan, thinking she was dead. They planned to go to Young Master Ning the next day to demand all his money with her as a threat." Chang'an said with a deep sigh,

“Fortunately, Miss Su’s life was spared. Otherwise, she would have really been killed by that family’s evil plan.”

Nian Jincheng thought of the faint red mark on Su Liang’s neck that he had seen that night; he hadn’t paid attention to it before, but now it coincided with what Chang’an was saying.

“Young Master Ning and Miss Su are both poor orphans with no family. After a fake marriage, they became sworn siblings to have someone to rely on,” Chang’an continued.

Only then did Nian Jincheng understand how the wedding he had witnessed came about. There were many things behind the scenes that he didn’t know, and they were unimaginable to him.

“Although what the master has asked is difficult for Miss Su and may be dangerous, I hope General Nian will consider the overall situation and explain the pros and cons of it to her,” Chang’an sighed.

He was a subordinate of Mai Fei, and his words and actions represented Mai Fei’s will. Compassion for Su Liang was not fake, but he wouldn’t abandon the ongoing plan because of it.

Nian Jincheng didn’t say anything more.

Chang’an sped up towards Su Family Village.

After coming back from the county town with shopping, Ning Jing killed and cleaned the rabbit in the backyard.

Last time, Su Liang asked Ning Jing to find the blacksmith in town to make a charcoal grill. She placed it in the ventilated area of the courtyard and added red-hot charcoal.

The rabbit was skewered, brushed with oil, and placed on the grill.

Thin slices of pork belly were cut and skewered as well.

In addition, all the vegetables in the house were washed, cut, and skewered, placed in a bamboo basket, and taken out for grilling.

The rabbit gradually turned golden brown, and the aroma filled the air.

Ning Jing brushed the sauce prepared by Su Liang onto the rabbit, turned it over, and continued grilling.

Su Liang grilled other ingredients at the side.

Rib and radish soup simmered on the kitchen stove.

The rabbit was almost done, and the other skewers Su Liang had grilled were ready to eat soon. She laughed, “If Mai Fei came now and we had to share this meal with him, how much would we charge?”

Ning Jing turned the rabbit over and calmly said, “Let him get lost.”

Su Liang chuckled, and in the next moment, she heard a knock on the door followed by a familiar male voice, “Miss Su!”

Who else could it be but Chang'an, who always visited them?

Su Liang thought Mai Fei might have come as well, so she pretended not to hear.

Meanwhile, Ning Jing was focused on grilling the perfect rabbit, not showing any intention to open the door.

As the aroma of grilled meat wafted outside the courtyard, Chang'an took a deep breath, "They must be at home. Maybe they think my master is here and don't want to invite him to dinner, so they're ignoring us?"

Nian Jincheng had heard from Chang'an about the exorbitant price of the meal Su Liang had sold to Mai Fei. It was clear that Su Liang and Mai Fei were not friends and didn't want to be friends.

"Miss Su, my master is not here!" Chang'an said loudly.

Su Liang heard but still didn't respond. If Mai Fei was not here, Chang'an could wait outside if he had any business. Who would invite someone to their house without prior notice in the middle of the day?

Then Chang'an said, 'General Nian is here too! He has important business with Miss Su! Please open the door!'

Ning Jing divided the grilled rabbit into two halves, and Su Liang was about to check on the rib and radish soup in the kitchen.

"Nian Jincheng is here." Su Liang looked at Ning Jing.

Ning Jing's expression was indifferent. "We should eat the meat while it's hot." They could talk about other things later.

Su Liang went to the kitchen to get the soup, and they began to eat. Their staple was the roasted tender buns.

The sun was shining, and the two sat under the tree, eating delicious roasted rabbit meat and sipping rib soup, feeling comfortable and content.

Chang'an said he and Nian Jincheng would wait outside, so he didn't knock on the door again.

He sat on a stone outside the door, inhaling the aroma coming from the house, and his empty stomach growled. He sighed and muttered to himself, "They won't even let us in, so it seems that there's no chance for that matter..."

Nian Jincheng walked to the edge of the stream. It was not his first time here, but it was his first time appreciating the scenery of this small rural village.

The hare wasn't big, but the meat was very tender.

After finishing the meal and taking a sip of the hot soup, Su Liang felt extremely comfortable.

"Nian Jincheng's attendant just sent the silver bills this morning, what is he doing here again?" Su Liang was somewhat puzzled.

Ning Jing was eating the meat earnestly, not interested in discussing the matter with her.

Su Liang had long been accustomed to Ning Jing's reticence and didn't care. She stirred the soup in the bowl thoughtfully, "Whatever it is, Nian Jincheng and Chang'an coming together probably has something to do with Duanmu Chen's intentions."

Su Liang thought that Nian Jincheng questioned her that day at Wu's abandoned house because he was unfamiliar with the situation and cared too much about Ning Jing.

However, Su Liang had clearly warned Nian Jincheng to stay away from them. Mai Fei was always watching, and it was easy to arouse suspicion.

Later, Nian Jincheng cautiously kept his distance from Su Liang, so he couldn't have come to see her in broad daylight, especially when he was with Chang'an, which was equivalent to being watched by Mai Fei's spies in every move.

"I wonder what it could be..." Su Liang couldn't think of it, but she felt that nothing good could come of it.

If it were a good thing, Mai Fei would definitely come in person with his temperament.

Thinking of this, although she didn't know the purpose of Nian Jincheng's visit,

Su Liang already had some clues in her heart. She asked Ning Jing solemnly, "If

Nian Jincheng wants me to help him with something, should I agree?"

Ning Jing was putting away the bowls and dishes, his expression indifferent, "It's your matter, you decide." With those words, he went into the kitchen to clean up.

Su Liang got up to open the door.

Seeing the door open, Chang'an hurried to his feet, just as Nian Jincheng returned from the creek side.

"I didn't expect that we would have visitors at this time. I thought I heard it wrong." Su Liang smiled.

Chang'an's mouth twitched, "It's our fault for barging in uninvited." Nian Jincheng saluted, "Miss Su, we apologize for the intrusion."

"Please come in." Su Liang turned around, "Have you two had lunch yet?" Chang'an blurted out, "Not yet!"

"Well, that's unfortunate. We just finished eating." Su Liang said with a smile.

Chang'an: ... He thought Su Liang was going to invite them to eat, he was overthinking!

"Please have a seat." Su Liang pointed to the spots under the tree.

The table Ning Jing had wiped was very clean.

Nian Jincheng heard movement in the kitchen but couldn't see what Ning Jing was doing.

Su Liang brought the tea and poured it for them. While doing so, she asked, "Are you two here for me to treat an ailment or does the Fourth Prince have any orders?"

Chang'an's expression turned serious, "General Nian has something to ask of

Miss Su, and our Master asked me to accompany him.”

Deliberately leaving Mai Fei out, Su Liang felt even more certain that it must not be a good thing.

“General Nian, please have some tea.” Su Liang placed a cup of hot tea in front of Nian Jincheng, “Please speak directly if there’s a matter.”

“Thank you.” Nian Jincheng held the tea cup with both hands, but the actual heat made him lose his composure for a moment, not knowing how to start speaking.

Chang’an reminded Nian Jincheng, “General Nian, Miss Su is always busy. Let’s get to the point.”

Nian Jincheng nodded subconsciously, his hesitation lasted only a moment before he spoke, “I came here today because there is a matter in which I seek Miss Su’s help.”

Su Liang nodded, “Please elaborate.”

“Miss Su should know that Wu Yun and Wu Huai’an father and son are suspected of smuggling iron mines. When they were caught, it was Miss Su’s credit.” Nian Jincheng lowered his gaze and chose his words carefully.

“Yes, the Fourth Prince mentioned it before.” Su Liang said.

“The case has been at a standstill, and the Emperor has sent me to guard the mine and assist the Fourth Prince in the investigation.” Nian Jincheng said, “Now we have a plan to send our own people to ‘rescue’ Wu Yun and Wu

Huai’an. As long as we can gain their trust, we can break through the deadlock.”

Chang’an was relieved to hear that Nian Jincheng had referred to the plan as “ours,” thinking he was quite clever. If Nian Jincheng had attributed everything to Mai Fei and left himself out, even if it were true, Mai Fei would not let him get away with it afterwards.

And Chang’an was here to relay every word Nian Jincheng said to Mai Fei.

Regardless of whether Nian Jincheng belonged to the Crown Prince’s faction or not, now that he had arrived in Bei’an County, his future and fate were held in Mai Fei’s hands. One misstep and Mai Fei could easily ruin him.

Su Liang nodded and simply said, “Brilliant.”

However, she knew that such a plan was not easy to succeed, and the most difficult part was gaining Wu Yun and Wu Huai’an’s trust.

At this moment, Su Liang had already guessed why Nian Jincheng had come to her.

Mai Fei had mentioned before that during the interrogation, the Wu father and son had repeatedly demanded that Mai Fei capture Su Liang.

To some extent, they were brought down by Su Liang and must hate her deeply, especially Wu Huai’an.

What Nian Jincheng said next confirmed Su Liang’s suspicions, “Wu Yun and Wu Huai’an have been ‘rescued’ by our people, but Wu Huai’an asks to have

Miss Su captured before he can trust that they are his allies.”

Having said that, Nian Jincheng sighed and laid out Mai Fei’s plan for Su Liang, but he kept referring to it as “our plan.”

Nian Jincheng knew very well that this would cause Su Liang’s resentment, but it wasn’t just for his own career.

As a loyal military commander to Qian Country, Nian Jincheng’s priority should indeed be the greater good. But he knew very well that he had ulterior motives in this matter, and that he couldn’t afford to let Mai Fei see these intentions.

After finishing, Nian Jincheng looked at Su Liang, “Please consider it carefully, as the matter is of great importance.”

Chang’an was surprised, thinking that Nian Jincheng wasn’t as rigid as he had imagined and cared about his career.

However, he didn’t think Su Liang would agree.

Unexpectedly, Su Liang did not simply refuse, but asked, “If I agree to help and take such a big risk, what’s in it for me?”

Nian Jincheng was stunned, “Miss Su, are you willing to help? This is not a simple matter. You may be seriously injured...”

It was his instinctive reaction, and for a moment, he forgot that Chang’an was watching him closely.

Su Liang snorted coldly, interrupting Nian Jincheng’s words, “General Nian, since you’re here, you don’t need to pretend to care about my safety!”

Nian Jincheng’s face stiffened, and he didn’t want to deal with Su Liang anymore. He turned his head to look at Chang’an, “There is room for negotiation in this matter. I think the Fourth Prince would be the one to make the decision, and I want to see his sincerity first.”

Chang’an’s expression brightened and he said hurriedly, “Miss Su, if you have any requests, just mention them. I will report back to the Master!”

At some point, Ning Jing had come out of the kitchen and was standing not far away, watching them.

Nian Jincheng noticed it, glanced back, and immediately turned his attention back to his tea.

“I have a lot of things I need.” Ning Jing spoke up.

Su Liang rubbed her forehead.

Chang’an showed a meaningful smile, “As long as Miss Su is willing to help, once the matter is settled, everything can be negotiated for Young Master

Ning!”

That Su Liang agreed was unexpected.

When Chang’an heard Ning Jing speak up, he foresaw that Mai Fei was going to be swindled again....

Chapter 66: 066. To give is to gain (An update)

Mai Fei didn't show up himself and let Nian Jincheng come, not because he wanted Su Liang to believe that everything was Nian Jincheng's idea.

The decision maker is surely Mai Fei. No matter who passed the plan on to Su Liang, this is clear, and Mai Fei himself knows it.

Nian Jincheng, referring to Mai Fei's plan as "our plan", doesn't change anything about the matter itself. However, Mai Fei cares about Nian Jincheng's attitude.

What Mai Fei really wants Nian Jincheng to do, by commanding him to come forward, is not to inform Su Liang, but to convince her to act.

Anyone could deliver the former information.

The latter, which is the key, can offend people and has a very high possibility of failure.

If the action fails, Nian Jincheng will bear the consequences.

After Nian Jincheng met Su Liang, following Mai Fei's instructions, he completed the first step of informing her.

He thought that Su Liang would refuse next, and he would need to find a way to change her mind and get her to help.

Unexpectedly, Su Liang didn't give Nian Jincheng any chance and directly agreed.

Thus, sort of achieving what Mai Fei wanted, Nian Jincheng didn't make any mistakes from start to finish.

"Su Liang."

Hearing Ning Jing calling her from within the room, Su Liang got up and went in.

Chang'an sighed in sorrow, "It's over! The young master Ning said he was going to write down what he wanted, and he's been writing for so long. Now he's also called Miss Su in, how much stuff do they plan to ask from our master?"

Nian Jincheng remained silent, suddenly feeling a bit like laughing.

Today, after seeing Mai Fei, his mood had been very terrible, and he was somewhat anxious on the way here. When facing Su Liang, he felt even more embarrassed.

But the result was unexpected.

Nian Jincheng seriously contemplated that he believed Su Liang agreed to act out of a sense of justice, not to help them.

Even if Su Liang interrupted Nian Jincheng and spoke to him rudely, he would accept it, even if she really resents him.

Although he doesn't know what Su Liang and Ning Jing plan to ask from Mai Fei, Nian Jincheng wanted to say: ask for more, don't be polite...

In the room, Su Liang took the thick stack of paper handed to her by Ning Jing.

“I copied the medicinal ingredients in the Poison Scripture in no particular order.” Ning Jing said.

Su Liang smirked at the corner of her lips, “That’s exactly what I wanted.” Ning Jing had also written on the list:

Various precious medicinal ingredients such as ginseng and lingzhi;

A mansion in the capital city that requires a garden and a pond, with ten different fruit trees and ten different flowers planted in it;

Hundred ancient books;

Two BMWs;

One catty of tribute Dahongpao tea;

Five kinds of rare wood;

Seven precious jades;

Nine kinds of fine fabrics;

Looking at the last item, Su Liang sighed faintly, “If someone breaks the agreement and eliminates us in order not to provide these things, I wouldn’t be too surprised.”

Even Mai Fei, as a prince, may not have so many treasures himself. Ning Jing handed over the pen, lips slightly parting, “Just write whatever you want.”

Su Liang thought so too, but realized that Ning Jing had already written down everything she wanted...

Without Ning Jing coming out, Su Liang handed over the completed list to Chang’an.

The thickness of the list made Chang’an’s hands tremble for a moment. After seeing that the many pages at the front were all medicinal ingredients, he breathed a small sigh of relief.

But when he saw the ginseng and lingzhi, Chang’an’s mouth began to twitch.

When he saw “a catty of the tribute Dahongpao tea”, he was dumbfounded, “Dahongpao is a tribute tea whose yearly production is just one catty! My master got a reward last year, and it was just a liang(two)! Young master Ning, as the largest tea trader in Qian country, should be very clear about this!”

Su Liang shrugged, “Last time I made tea-flavored chicken, he complained that the tea was not good, maybe he wants to try Dahongpao tea. After all, his family is a tea trader, and he has very picky tastes.” Chang’an stared speechlessly at the sky.

Nian Jincheng stared speechlessly at the ground.

“That’s all.” Su Liang said very calmly, “It doesn’t need the fourth prince to give it now. After all, circumstances are urgent and we can’t delay. It also takes time to prepare these things. As long as the fourth prince agrees, we can sign a contract, and after the matter is accomplished, he can redeem them. If I fail, let’s forget about it.”

With that, Su Liang looked at Nian Jincheng, “At that time, General Nian can be the witness.”

Nian Jincheng nodded silently.

“Both of you may go back. Come to me after the fourth prince has made up his mind.” Su Liang said.

Chang’an collected the stack of paper and asked, “Can Miss Su’s martial arts handle it?”

“I don’t know either, let’s just try.” Su Liang said casually.

Chang’an coughed lightly, “I suppose, Miss Su wouldn’t dare to take it on unless she was confident. I’ll report back to my master immediately and we’ll get back to you.”

Mai Fei was immensely pleased to hear from Chang’an that Su Liang was willing to help.

However, as he held the list Chang’an brought back, reading from the front to the back, his face turned darker the more he read.

Nian Jincheng had returned to his own quarters, and only Mai Fei and Chang’an were left in the room.

Chang’an narrated every detail of the incident and every sentence between Nian Jincheng and Su Liang to Mai Fei.

Mai Fei stared at the “one catty of tribute Dahongpao tea” on the last paper and bit his teeth, “You mean to say, Nian Jincheng did nothing?”

“It’s Miss Su who didn’t give General Nian a chance. No one expected that she would agree so readily!” Chang’an said.

Mai Fei slapped the list on the table, glared at Chang’an and said, “You call this...readily agreeing?”

Chang’an weakly replied, “They do ask for a lot.... I knew Miss Su loves money, but I didn’t expect...”

“Loves money? She is enthusiastic about blackmailing me!” Mai Fei snorted coldly, “Does she really think I depend on her for success and wouldn’t do anything to her?”

Chang’an didn’t dare to retort.

After a while, Mai Fei calmed down from the rage the list had sparked within him, “I believe she agreed because of her inherent sense of justice. She wants to expose the crimes of Gai Yun and his father, Gai Huai’an, to the world.” Chang’an was shocked, “It must be so!”

“In other words, whether Nian Jincheng goes or not, it doesn’t matter much,” Mai Fei sneered.

“Actually, it does have some impact,” Chang’an sighed, “General Nian’s visit made Miss Su’s impression of him a lot worse, and she hardly paid him any attention afterwards.”

Mai Fei shook his head, “That’s not important. Since Su Liang is willing to help anyway, will she still step in if I do not give her what’s on this list?”

Mai Fei knew that since Su Liang had asked, if he did not agree, the outcome might not be good.

“What’s the use of Nian Jincheng? Why didn’t he persuade Su Liang to help for free?”
Mai Fei said angrily, “Go and call him over!”

So Chang’an went to find Nian Jincheng.

As soon as Nian Jincheng entered, he heard Mai Fei say, “Su Liang wants so many things, you didn’t refuse at the time, you pay!” Nian Jincheng frowned, “Your Highness, I can’t afford it.”

Mai Fei snorted coldly, “How do you know I can afford it?”

Nian Jincheng shook his head, “I do not know. This all according to Miss Su’s wishes. It was a pleasant surprise that she agreed to help, I dared not haggle lest it annoyed her, and lose big because of small.” Mai Fei was furious at his words.

Put simply, Su Liang was clearly blackmailing him.

The hot potato that he originally wanted to toss to Nian Jincheng, has now bounced back into his own hand, and Su Liang has added fuel to the fire. If he accepts, he would lose his valuable possessions! Many of the items on that list can’t be acquired simply by throwing money at it!

“Damn woman!” Mai Fei cursed,

If he refuses, then it would appear as if he was not considering the overall situation. This case is extremely important to him, and he cannot give up because of some material goods, but the more he thinks about it, the angrier he gets. The always lofty prince is for the first time in his life being so beat down, it is utterly depressing!

Nian Jincheng, who was completely left out of the matter, sighed, “I have some ideas about that one jin of Da Hong Pao tea.”

Mai Fei’s eyes narrowed slightly, “Speak!”

“The tribute Da Hong Pao tea is offered every year on time by the Ning family in Xunyang. We just need to steal it from the Ning Family, then we will naturally have one jin,” Nian Jincheng solemnly said.

Mai Fei looked coldly at Nian Jincheng, “Do you know the crime of stealing tribute?”

Nian Jincheng nodded, “I do know. But it is not counted as tribute before it leaves the Ning Family. If it gets lost, it’s entirely the Ning Family’s responsibility. It was said that when Ning Jing was expelled from his family, it was because he had gotten drunk and set fire to a batch of tribute tea.”

Mai Fei’s expression shifted, “I see! It’s highly likely that Ning Jing was framed by those bastards in the Ning Family. He doesn’t just want this one jin of tea now, he wants to make things difficult for the Ning Family!”

In the evening, while Ning Jing was making fire and Su Liang was kneading dough, he said, “You’ve never made me tea-flavored chicken.”

This was his response to Su Liang’s nonsense in front of Chang’an during the day.

Su Liang laughed lightly, “When there really is one jin of Da Hong Pao, I’ll make it for you.”

The next day, just as dawn was breaking and Su Liang was out for a run, she heard Chang'an knocking at the door.

"My master has agreed to the conditions that Miss Su proposed," Chang'an said, "Please go to the county town with us, sign the contract in person, have General Nian as the witness. We also need to further plan out the details of what's to come, to prevent any mistakes."

"Alright. Give me a moment," Su Liang went back to her room to change her clothes, picked up a book she had been reading, and left.

"Ning Jing, are you coming?"

Chang'an: ...his master is going to blow a fuse...

Upon arriving in Feiyan Town, Chang'an bought breakfast for Su Liang and Ning Jing, and they continued towards the county town.

Nian Ye sensed that his master was in a better mood after he went out yesterday, and he didn't know what happened in between. He even asked him if he had ever heard of a dish called "tea-flavored chicken".

Nian Ye had never heard of it. Making chicken using tea leaves was too extravagant. Tea leaves are precious.

At that time, Nian Jincheng said, "I would like to taste the tea-flavored chicken made with the tribute Da Hong Pao."

Nian Ye felt that his master must have a fever, why else would he start talking nonsense? Tribute Da Hong Pao is only enjoyed by the royal family. Using it to cook is simply wasteful and whimsical!

When Mai Fei sent for them again, Ning Jing and Su Liang had arrived.

Nian Jincheng walked into Mai Fei's courtyard. Just as he approached the door, he heard Mai Fei yelling furiously, "Don't get greedy!"

Nian Jincheng paused at his steps. He had already seen Ning Jing, sitting next to Su Liang, his expression cool.

Their eyes met, and Ning Jing still looked as calm as ever. Nian Jincheng was feeling mixed, he lowered his head to adjust his cuffs a bit, "May I come in?"

"Come in!" Mai Fei's voice was still full of anger. Nian Jincheng entered, bowed respectfully.

"Sit!" Mai Fei said darkly.

Nian Jincheng sat down in the empty space, facing Ning Jing.

"Jincheng, Prince Ning asked for so many things and still isn't satisfied. Now he wants my Feiyan Bow. What do you think of this?" Mai Fei asked coldly.

Nian Jincheng was taken aback, “The Feiyun Bow is your cherished possession, Your Highness. However, we can’t delay the important matter. Everything is up to Your Highness’s decision, I dare not make inappropriate comments.”

“Su Liang, it’s you who need to do the things and the contract is between you and me. What do you mean by this?” Mai Fei snorted.

Su Liang sighed, “It’s indeed not gentlemanly to seize what others love. But one has to let go to gain something. Your Highness can weigh it in. Ning Jing’s intention is my intention, if Your Highness is not willing, that’s also okay, let’s just forget about today.”

Mai Fei clenched his back teeth, “What a great justification about to let go to gain! Such a big tone, seems you are very confident about the upcoming matter, great!”

Su Liang shook his head, “It is hard to say about the certainty for now, just stating the situation in advance to avoid any unhappiness later. The contract has conditions. If my venture fails, I don’t need any compensation from Your Highness. If it succeeds, then I would need Your Highness to honor your promise. I believe, Your Highness will not make a losing deal.”

Hearing Su Liang’s last sentence with deep meaning, Nian Jincheng nodded quietly.

Mai Fei could be angry, but as long as he did not chase Su Liang and Ning Jing away, it means that he can bear this.

That he would take a loss is of course impossible.

As a prince who has not been made the crown prince yet, once Mai Fei breaks the iron mine smuggling case, all the credit will be his. His identity, status, reputation, prospects will all greatly elevate!

So this is why he has left the capital to live a life of leisure, willingly come to Bei’an County, tirelessly working so much.

After a moment of silence, Mai Fei said coldly, “Alright, the Feiyun Bow is yours! Su Liang, you had better not ruin my plan. Otherwise, the consequences are something you cannot afford!”

The written contract was sealed and stamped by Mai Fei. The other party was

Llang ana Ning Jing.

Nian Jincheng, who served as the witness, also signed and stamped it.

Mai Fei stood up and looked at Su Liang, “Now, it’s time for you to show me your strength.”

Su Liang nodded calmly, “Alright..”

Chapter 67: 067. Found a Good Home (Second Update)

“Master, don’t you think there are too many people? Gai Yun has only arranged six...” Chang’an asked in a low voice.

At the moment, ten tall men surrounded Su Liang.

Compared to them, Su Liang seemed petite and fragile.

Mai Fei sat under a tree, his eyes slightly narrowed, "Don't underestimate Miss Su. She has signed the contract and said nothing. She must have some real skills."

Why couldn't Chang'an hear the sarcasm in Mai Fei's tone?

Since meeting Su Liang and Ning Jing, Mai Fei had lost his composure more than once.

Chang'an knew that Mai Fei arranged this to teach Su Liang a lesson, so he didn't say anything.

Nian Jincheng was standing not far away, with his attendant Nian Ye behind him.

"Where is he?" Mai Fei frowned.

The reason they hadn't started yet was that Ning Jing had smeared ink on his hands while adding the "Feiyun Bow" to the contract. He said he was going to wash it off and that they should wait for him to come before they started.

Mai Fei was unhappy, but he didn't say anything. However, they had been waiting for a quarter of an hour.

Just as Chang'an was about to go looking for him, he saw Ning Jing coming with a dessert box from Mingxiang Building. He chose a place where the sun was shining and started eating Osmanthus Cake.

It must have been freshly baked, as Chang'an could smell the enticing fragrance from afar.

The Mingxiang Building's Osmanthus Cakes were known for being exquisite and sold in limited quantities daily.

Chang'an strongly suspected that Ning Jing had timed his arrival deliberately.

Nian Ye couldn't help but say, "Ning's seventh son doesn't look like the down-and-out person rumored to have been expelled from his family. He seems to be living a comfortable and leisurely life!"

Nian Jincheng watched the peaceful and beautiful man eating Osmanthus Cake, nodding slightly, "You're right."

Mai Fei glanced at Ning Jing with a slightly dark expression, "He really sees himself as a gigolo!"

Chang'an coughed lightly, "It can't be helped. Miss Su spoils him, and being a gigolo is also one of Ning's skills."

Nian Jincheng, who overheard the conversation: ... Although he didn't agree, it really did seem that way.

Mai Fei shot a glance at Chang'an and asked loudly, "Is Miss Su ready?"

"Just a moment," Su Liang said, walking out of the circle, picking up a piece of Osmanthus Cake next to Ning Jing. She finished eating it, and when Mai Fei's subordinates were unprepared, she suddenly launched her attack!

Mai Fei abruptly straightened up, snorting coldly, "Is she trying to cheat?" Chang'an hurriedly said, "Master, it's up to Miss Su to decide when to start acting. Our people can't always be gathered around her like this!"

Mai Fei wasn't blind to what Su Liang was doing; he just didn't like her today.

Chang'an gave a serious analysis, only to get a cold glance from Mai Fei,

"Enough nonsense! Go and buy Osmanthus Cakes!"

Chang'an weakly requested, "This subordinate wants to see Miss Su's strength for myself. There won't be another chance. If Master wants to eat Osmanthus Cake, may I ask Ning for a piece?"

Mai Fei's gaze was fixed on the battle, "Go ahead. If he asks for money, you pay."

Chang'an:...It suddenly felt painful, foreseeing he's about to be slaughtered...

However, he still boldly approached Ning Jing.

Unexpectedly, Ning Jing was unusually generous, signaling Chang'an to take the remaining two pieces of Osmanthus Cake, "Please give these to Mai and

General Nian."

He didn't mention money.

Delighted, Chang'an quickly grabbed the cakes, fearing Ning Jing would change his mind, "Thank you, Ning!"

Thinking it would be best to put the box in front of Mai Fei, Chang'an passed him and ran to deliver the cakes to Nian Jincheng first.

Nian Jincheng rarely had sweets and desserts from his childhood, concentrating on the battle, and did not notice Chang'an fetching the Osmanthus Cake. Suddenly hearing Chang'an mention Ning Jing inviting him for dessert, he was slightly astonished. He reached out, took the box, and said, "Thank you!"

Chang'an hurriedly said that Nian Jincheng could have one piece, and the remaining one was for Mai Fei.

Nian Jincheng took a piece out with a handkerchief, and returned the box to Chang'an.

When Chang'an placed the dessert box in front of Mai Fei and respectfully said, "Master, please help yourself," Mai Fei did not pay attention to him. But it was not because of the Osmanthus Cake, but because he was staring at the ten-to-one combat situation in front of him with astonishment.

Chang'an stood up straight and stared in shock!

In the time it took for him to share the Osmanthus Cake, Su Liang had knocked down three of the opponents!

Although Su Liang's confidence before the match made Mai Fei and Chang'an suspect that she was hiding her true abilities,

based on their past understanding of Su Liang and their inherent prejudice towards a young and seemingly helpless girl, they actually felt that Su Liang was overconfident in challenging their opponents without having faced Mai Fei's subordinates before.

Mai Fei's dissatisfaction and anger were because he had unconsciously dragged Su Liang into his plan, but deep down, he didn't really believe that Su Liang's strength could be that powerful.

Therefore, the always proud Mai Fei found Su Liang's request to be provoking and underestimating herself!

In fact, in Mai Fei's original plan, Su Liang was incapable of controlling the situation. It was only because of her enmity with the Wu family father and son that she was irreplaceable.

Mai Fei planned to ask his subordinates not to be too harsh on Su Liang during the match, to create opportunities for her to counterattack and escape, and even thought about how to instruct them to make the fight more realistic.

In short, while Mai Fei insisted on involving Su Liang, he only regarded her as a tool. Although there were reasons he would not let her die, he originally thought that she would only be able to complete the mission under his command and control.

As a result, Mai Fei was proven wrong.

Nian Jincheng was deeply shocked.

The vulnerable village girl from his memory had suddenly become a beautiful, cold-hearted young woman, which was already a great surprise to him.

When he saw that Su Liang could ride a horse, saved Mai Fei in the nick of time, and demonstrated superb medical skills, Nian Jincheng began to reassess her abilities.

But that time, he didn't have the chance to witness Su Liang's true power. All he saw were the traitor's pierced knees and Su Liang's bloodstained Twin Blades; he didn't know her actual capabilities.

Now, he saw it for himself.

As a martial artist, Nian Jincheng could tell that because of her physical limitations and lack of power, Su Liang didn't appear as intimidating as the usual master at first glance. One might think she was struggling in the fight.

After all, it was one against ten, and the opponents were not weak.

However, as time went by, it was clear that Su Liang was indeed struggling, but she was not suppressed!

Her mentality in combat was so strong! Becoming more and more courageous in a fight is extremely difficult, especially when at a disadvantage and facing greater numbers. It requires highly sophisticated tactics and quick reaction abilities!

These were Su Liang's strengths, having lived twice and trained relentlessly in martial arts and combat under Ning Jing's guidance in both lifetimes!

The agreement for this match was that it would be a "rehearsal". They were to fight for real, but not with real weapons.

No matter Su Liang or her opponents, they had to fight with the mentality of defeating each other. Once hit by the wooden weapon in a vital area, one would be considered "dead".

"Miss Su's moves change very quickly and are quite tricky!" Chang'an couldn't help but comment.

“How about compared to you?” Mai Fei asked.

As Mai Fei’s close follower, Chang’an was naturally skilled in martial arts, but at this moment, he couldn’t say for sure that he would definitely defeat Su Liang if they were to fight.

After pondering for a while, Chang’an replied earnestly, “In terms of martial arts alone, I consider myself stronger than Miss Su. But if we really fight, the outcome is uncertain. She has a unique ability to turn the tide and defeat the strong with her weakness.”

Mai Fei sneered, “Strength or weakness, victory or defeat are what matters!”

Chang’an immediately nodded, “Master’s teaching is correct. I hope to have the opportunity to learn from Miss Su in the future!”

“I underestimated her.” Mai Fei sighed as he saw another one of his subordinates eliminated. “She dared to make such a deal with me because she had enough confidence in herself. Had I known she was this strong, I wouldn’t have hesitated to give her what she wanted.”

Mai Fei had great ambitions, and wanted to rise higher in the ranks; naturally, he needed capable people to help him.

He saw Su Liang’s potential, this girl hidden in the small mountain village was a true genius, whether in medical skills or martial arts. And her strongest attribute was her intelligence.

From the beginning, Mu Fei sought Su Liang, intending to use her as a tool for his return to the capital city under the pretext of seeking justice for the Su Family and dealing with certain people.

Even though Su Liang had repeatedly surprised Mu Fei during this period, and he had intended to win her over, his words of “cooperation” essentially still treated her as a pawn, including this time.

It was not until this moment that Mu Fei began to regret; he should have listened to Chang’an and arranged for someone to test Su Liang. If he had known earlier about Su Liang’s prowess, he would have changed his approach in some matters.

The battle ended, Su Liang threw away the wooden sword in her hand, feeling that it was not useful at all, and the one made by Ning Jing was more suitable.

She had no other intentions, just wanted to know if there was any difference between this “rehearsal” and the upcoming “actual combat.”

But when Mu Fei heard this, it sounded like she was implying that his subordinates were all useless...

“There are only six of them. Two are stronger than the rest, but you should be able to handle them.” Mu Fei stood up and smiled, “Young Miss Su has such great talent at such a young age, I wonder who your teacher is?”

Ning Jing took out a small knife and a wooden hairpin from nowhere and was seriously carving them, as if it wasn’t about him at all.

Su Liang laughed lightly, “If I say I’m self-taught, would Lord Mu believe me?” Mu Fei glared at Su Liang, “Would it kill you to tell me the truth?”

“Lord Mu is very generous.” Su Liang looked serious, “This is absolutely true, my true words.”

Mu Fei rubbed his forehead, “As long as you help me crack the iron smuggling case, everything is negotiable.”

Su Liang noticed the change in Mu Fei’s attitude and knew the reason.

And her willingness to help this time was, of course, not for Mu Fei’s sake. To expose the crimes of Gai Yun and Gai Huai’an was the main goal, as these two twisted father and son disgusted her.

If she had any personal interests, the person Su Liang wanted to help was Nian Jincheng.

Seeing Nian Jincheng appear with Chang’an yesterday, and hearing what they said, Su Liang knew what Mu Fei was plotting.

Although Ning Jing did not say, Su Liang had long guessed that his relationship with Nian Jincheng was not ordinary. Nian Jincheng’s impulsive questioning before also showed that he cared very much about Ning Jing.

As such, Su Liang, of course, did not want to see him being entangled by Mu Fei’s schemes, so she decided to help him along and solve his troubles.

And Ning Jing’s lack of objections to Su Liang’s decision meant that he agreed with it.

After finalizing the time and other details of the operation, Su Liang and Ning Jing left the county government and went to the mansion they had bought in the county town.

Mu Fei had Chang’an send over a lot of ingredients.

Upon returning, Chang’an looked astonished, “Miss Su actually took the initiative to ask if she needed to wait for her to finish cooking the meat buns and bring back a portion for Master.”

“Where are the meat buns?” Mu Fei asked.

Chang’an’s face stiffened, “This subordinate thought Miss Su might just be being polite, so…”

Mu Fei seemed lost in thought, “She has always been polite to me, never wanting me to see her true strength before, and even now it’s still a transaction.”

“Miss Su is kind-hearted, and as long as the Master is doing the right thing, she is willing to cooperate,” Chang’an shared his own opinion.

However, Mu Fei’s face darkened slightly. Such a person, to put it simply, wasn’t wrong, having the same nature as Nian Jincheng. They were useful at times but impossible to control completely.

“Tonight, after Su Liang leaves, have someone watch Ning Jing. He’s hiding even deeper than Su Liang; let’s see if he’ll stay quietly at home.” Mu Fei said, “Don’t let him find out. If he leaves the house, don’t get involved.”

Chang’an’s expression turned serious, “Yes, sir.”

Mu Fei rubbed his forehead, “I still don’t understand, how did those two end up in Su family village?”

Chang'an thought seriously for a while before saying, "Perhaps, as Miss Su said, the house they were staying in at Su family village was a Feng Shui treasure land that could change their fortunes!"

Mu Fei: ...

In the evening, Nian Jincheng came to find Mai Fei.

"I want to go secretly tonight to protect Miss Su." Nian Jincheng said solemnly, "Although her strength is not weak, just in case, someone needs to support her."

Mai Fei looked at Nian Jincheng and replied with a smirk, "I have arranged it all. Su Liang said that your arm will be unable to practice martial arts for a month. If anything happens to you again, it will be a waste."

Nian Jincheng nodded, "I know. If all goes well, I don't need to fight anyone, and if I really have to, I can still use my right hand. I can't help but feel guilty for letting Miss Su face danger. I can't just wait here for news, doing nothing." Mai Fei snorted, "You didn't really fall for that girl, did you?"

Nian Jincheng shook his head, "I'm just doing my duty, no other thoughts."

"Since you insist, go ahead. Be careful, you are the emperor's favorite. I can't take responsibility if anything happens to you," Mai Fei waved his hand.

If Nian Jincheng failed his mission, it would be his own fault, but if he didn't complete it, it would be another story. In the former case, Mai Fei had to take some responsibility because he was in charge of the overall situation.

After receiving Mai Fei's permission, Nian Jincheng secretly left the county government office.

After finishing the last meat bun, Su Liang and Ning Jing were ready for dinner.

Suddenly they heard a noise in the backyard. They looked at each other, and Su Liang got up, drew her sword, and hid behind the door.

But she saw Ning Jing pick up a meat bun and took a bite.

Su Liang:...What about the tacit understanding? This man is becoming more and more like a spoiled brat...

As the footsteps grew closer, Su Liang tightened her grip on the sword in her hand, ready to strike at any moment. She heard a familiar voice outside the door, "It's Nian Jincheng."

Su Liang said nothing and went back to her seat, putting away her knife. It was Ning Jing's friend; she didn't care.

Of course, Ning Jing cared even less. He took a small knife and carefully cut the round meat bun into six equal pieces with three cuts. He picked up a piece with chopsticks, and it was much easier to eat.

Nian Jincheng, who was left outside the door, felt embarrassed. The door was open, and he could see the two people enjoying their meal, feeling deeply unwelcome.

Su Liang finally spoke, "General Nian, what do you mean by barging into my house uninvited?"

“I told the Fourth Prince that I would secretly protect Miss Su tonight.” As Nian Jincheng didn’t hear an invitation to come in, he spoke from outside the door. “Your arm is useless, are you sure you don’t need me to protect you?” Su Liang retorted.

Nian Jincheng remained silent for a moment, then spoke again, “Ning...Ning Jing, the Fourth Prince is likely to send someone to watch you. If you want to protect Miss Su, I can stay here in your place.”

Su Liang hesitated for a moment before realizing Nian Jincheng’s sudden arrival’s purpose.

Seeing that Ning Jing still had that lazy, unresponsive appearance, Su Liang had to invite Nian Jincheng in and gave him a set of chopsticks.

Nian Jincheng felt restrained and heard Su Liang say, “I don’t care what kind of relationship you two have, since you’re already here, don’t be so coy! Where’s that bold attitude when you interrogated me before?”

Nian Jincheng became even more embarrassed, “I’m sorry...”

Su Liang picked up one of Ning Jing’s pieces of meat bun and handed it to Nian Jincheng, while Ning Jing took one from Su Liang’s plate...

The atmosphere was a bit strange. Seeing that none of them had any intention of starting a conversation, Su Liang didn’t want to talk either.

The three of them quietly ate their meal. Afterward, Ning Jing went back to his room, and Nian Jincheng hesitated for a moment before getting up and following.

As soon as they entered the room, Ning Jing said, “Take off your clothes.”

Nian Jincheng quickly responded, taking off his coat and exchanging it with Ning Jing’s.

Ning Jing put on Nian Jincheng’s clothes, pulled out a mask, put it on, and walked out. As they passed each other, Ning Jing spoke, “Wash the dishes, scrub the pots, clean up the kitchen.”

Nian Jincheng was a bit confused. He watched Ning Jing walk to the door and blurted out, “I can rest assured now that I see you found a good place to settle down..”

Chapter 68: 068. We are also good brothers (One more)

The moonlight was cold and clear.

Ning Jing stopped in her tracks, looking back at Nian Jincheng.

Before Nian Jincheng could see Ning Jing’s expression, she had disappeared into the vast darkness of the night.

Su Liang didn’t know what they were talking about, but seeing Nian Jincheng wearing Ning Jing’s clothes coming out of the room, she told him to go back, “Mai Fei’s people are coming. After I leave, wash the dishes and clean up the kitchen.”

Nian Jincheng immediately returned to the room, closed the door, and hid to avoid being discovered.

When he calmed down, he realized that Ning Jing told him to “wash the dishes and clean up the kitchen” because she wanted him to do those chores, just like Su Liang had said.

Was this what Ning Jing always did?

Nian Jincheng sat in the room, picked up Ning Jing’s book, and saw a familiar ginkgo leaf bookmark inside.

He also had such a bookmark, given to him by his only friend.

There was a sound from the room next door, and Nian Jincheng closed the book, listening quietly.

After the courtyard quieted down again, he waited for a while before opening the door and going out.

The pomegranate tree had lost all its leaves, and its twisted branches had a somber beauty under the moonlight.

Nian Jincheng went to the main room to clean up the dishes and accidentally broke a plate with a slip of his hand.

He frowned, slowed down his movements, and took the dishes to the kitchen to wash them with water.

When he finished washing, there was a lot of water splattered on the ground, a part of his clothes was wet, and he also broke another plate and two bowls.

After cleaning up the broken porcelain, sweeping the kitchen and main room, Nian Jincheng sighed, feeling quite embarrassed.

If it hadn’t been for the fact he couldn’t leave the house, he’d find a way to get the same dishes to replace them.

He could imagine Su Liang complaining to Ning Jing about how he “couldn’t even wash a dish without causing a mess...”

But looking at the pile of broken porcelain, Nian Jincheng felt inexplicably good about it.

The feeling was hard to describe.

Su Liang wasn’t polite to him, but he felt that she didn’t treat him as an outsider because of it.

Comparatively, Mai Fei had come to dinner and spent five thousand taels, while Nian Jincheng was invited and ate for free. The feeling of superiority suddenly appeared.

Ning Jing remained aloof throughout the reunion, and there was no small talk, no exchange of recent developments, no explanation needed. It was as if Nian

Jincheng had just gone out for a while and came back home for dinner as usual.

Su Liang’s cooking was excellent, the meat buns were delicious, and the osmanthus cake from the daytime was also sweet.

Nian Jincheng’s cold lips curved into a faint smile, and he suddenly thought of the perfect gift for Su Liang to thank her for taking care of Ning Jing.

He would give her a set of tableware. There was a high-end porcelain shop in the capital city where he could have it custom-made.

Nian Jincheng returned to Ning Jing's room and saw a freshly carved wooden hairpin on the table. It was shaped like a tiny wooden sword, very delicate.

He picked it up and examined the pattern on the wooden sword, then was dumbstruck.

It was exactly the same as that on his waist sword!

However, his sword had been taken away by Ning Jing and was not on him at the moment.

A smile appeared in Nian Jincheng's eyes, and he murmured to himself, "So this is for me."

He had almost forgotten that he would turn twenty tomorrow.

Not long ago, when he left home for a faraway place, no one from the Nian Family remembered it, including his close sister, Nian Ruxue.

Every year, each young master and lady of the Nian Family would have a special family banquet on their birthday, with their grandmother from the Qiao Family carefully preparing gifts for them.

Only Nian Jincheng never got that treatment. Last year, Nian Ruxue accompanied him on his birthday, giving him a piece of clothing. That day, he received a mysterious gift, a famous sword that had been lost for a long time.

He loved it.

Now, he received a little wooden sword hairpin for his birthday, feeling quite surprised and increasingly amused. It seemed that someone had become much more interesting than before, even though she still appeared as if saying more than a few words would be lethal...

"Master, Miss Su has been gone for an hour, and Young Master Ning has not left the house," Chang'an reported to Mai Fei.

Mai Fei's eyes flickered, "Is he really not worried? Or does he not care? Are you sure he's at home?"

"He didn't go out, so he should be there," Chang'an said, suddenly feeling less certain.

"Continue to watch," Mai Fei ordered, "If everything goes smoothly, Su Liang should be back by tomorrow."

This was a mountain about ten miles to the north of Bei'an County.

In late autumn and early winter, the deep, quiet night was seldom disturbed by the chirping of insects or the singing of birds.

At a secluded cave halfway up the mountain, Gai Yun awoke to the secret knock on the rocks outside and opened his eyes.

He had been tortured by Mai Fei and was physically weak, no longer able to fight.

Gai Huai'an, who already had a crippled leg, had both his other "legs" completely destroyed by Mai Fei. He was sitting against the wall, skinny as a skeleton, his eyes dark and intimidating.

One person was sitting by the entrance of the cave on either side, both getting up as a man spoke, “Old Man Wu, it’s one of ours.” With that, he used a sword to knock on the rocks in a regulated rhythm as a response.

Then, they moved the large stone blocking the entrance of the cave, and two people quickly entered, carrying a sack.

Gai Huai’an’s eyes widened, and his eyes instantly became excited, “That bitch has been caught! Hahaha!”

Gai Yun’s eyes were deep and dark, “You really caught her.”

The lead man respectfully replied, “Thanks to Old Man Wu’s reminder to use poison. Ning Jing left her house tonight for some reason, giving us an opportunity.”

It sounded exactly like the experience of Gai Yun kidnapping Su Liang.

“Are you sure you didn’t catch the wrong person?” Gai Yun asked coldly. Gai Huai’an clenched his teeth, “Quickly open the sack, let me see!”

The entrance of the cave was blocked again, torches were lit, and the sack was placed one meter in front of Gai Yun and Gai Huai’an.

The father and son stared intently as the sack was opened, revealing a small, pale face. If it wasn’t Su Liang, who else could it be?

Ning Jing, who had been calm up until now, his eyes also brimmed with raging fury! Su Liang appeared even more crazed. “Bitch! I’ll make sure she dies a horrible death!”

The father and son duo knew perfectly well that even if Prince Mai Fei was suspicious of them, without evidence, he wouldn’t dare to do anything to them. And the evidence was something he could not find.

Therefore, even though they knew Mai Fei was watching, they could still do whatever they wanted without restraint.

But they never expected that they would fall into the hands of a small village girl they had never cared about!

Their miserable situation now was all because of Su Liang!

They hated Su Liang to the extreme, and insisted on capturing her. Apart from proving her identity and strength to these “insiders,” they also wanted to take revenge on Su Liang.

At this moment, their enemy was right before their eyes.

Su Liang burst into a mad laughter, his face twisted. “Strip her clothes off! I’ll play with her first, then I’ll hand her over to you!”

The six men standing in the cave looked at each other. The leader’s face showed great joy. “Thank you, Master Gai!” He then ordered another man, “Take her out and strip her clothes off!”

Su Liang’s body leaned forward, his eyes bulging, and he laughed coldly. He watched as a man squatted not far away and tried to pull off the sack.

Just as the sack was about to be removed from Su Liang's feet, and she was fully exposed to the father and son, she suddenly opened her eyes, drew the sword from the man beside her, and stabbed it fiercely into his chest!

Blood splashed on the faces of Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an, and they looked horrified, being shielded by two others.

"So stupid... How did the sedatives wear off so quickly..." Gai Huai'an's expression changed from arrogant to terrified as he shrank his neck, trembling all over, and remembered the feeling of Su Liang strangling his neck in the past.

The man whose sword was taken by Su Liang and stabbed through his body had already closed his eyes and fell to the ground motionless, looking like he was dead.

Aside from the two protecting Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an, there were three others attacking Su Liang.

The space inside the cave was not big, and the three men were ruthless, but Su Liang was even more ruthless.

Blood splattered everywhere. In a short time, Su Liang's white clothes were soaked with blood, and her injuries could not be seen.

She didn't speak out, but her icy gaze, which fell on Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an, made them shudder.

Seeing that they had no chance of winning, Gai Yun finally recovered some rationality from shock and terror, and hurriedly said, "Go! Hurry up!"

Gai Huai'an held onto the man beside him tightly. "Go! Get me out of here quickly! That bitch will kill me!"

Thus, the two men who had been protecting Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an from the beginning carried them quickly towards the entrance of the cave.

At this time, Su Liang had defeated another person, broke through the encirclement, and chased after them!

Gai Huai'an looked back to see another man falling under Su Liang's attack, and her blood-soaked figure rushed over. He was immediately terrified, and his voice trembled, "Hurry! Hurry up!"

The two who were still standing blocked Su Liang, but one of them was severely injured by Su Liang soon after.

The pair carrying Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an left the cave and ran down the mountain with all their strength. After a while, they heard Su Liang's voice from behind, "You can separate and run, betting on who I'll let die today!"

Extremely arrogant and ruthless, she seemed like a female devil who killed without blinking an eye.

"Let's go together!" Gai Yun decided.

Although if they separated, Su Liang could only chase one, and the other would be safe, but who knew which one Su Liang would go after?

This kind of fear was even more frightening than Su Liang saying directly who she wanted to kill.

It seemed as if she held the power of life and death, who would live and who would die, all depending on her mood!

Gai Huai'an screamed frantically to hurry up, and the man carrying him yelled, "Master Gai, don't speak anymore! She's following the sound!"

Gai Huai'an's face turned pale as if he was being strangled, trembling all over. He muttered, "She's just a village girl... where did things go wrong... how could she be so powerful... why... it shouldn't be like this... if she's really that strong... why hide in Su Family Village..."

"She's injured, she might not catch up! Hurry!" Gai Yun spoke, not knowing whether he was comforting himself or Gai Huai'an, his voice also trembling.

The wind rustled in the mountain, and after a long time, Gai Huai'an looked back to find that the terrifying figure was finally gone.

"She should be unable to catch up," said the man carrying Gai Yun, sighing in relief.

"What do we do now? The cave was the designated location, and we can only wait for the next instruction. But we can't go back now!" The man carrying Gai Huai'an said in a deep voice.

Gai Yun said coldly, "First, let's get out of here. Once we leave the mountain, I'll tell you where to go."

Su Liang had long given up on chasing Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an, and returned to the cave to save people.

She had to be tough in order to make that father and son believe her. It was necessary to treat her injuries promptly, otherwise, the person would really be dead.

She had prepared the things to be used before she came and hid them on her body. So far, the plan had gone smoothly, achieving the desired results.

After Su Liang had dealt with the seriously injured people, she blew a short whistle that Mai Fei had given her to call people over to deal with the aftermath.

The people took away everyone from the cave and asked Su Liang if she wanted to go back with them.

A man wearing Nian Jincheng's clothes and a mask came out of the woods outside the cave. "You go first; I'll escort Miss Su back."

So the people left quickly.

The walls and floor of the cave were covered in blood, and there was a puddle of urine where Gai Huai'an had been sitting. He had been so scared by Su Liang's ferocity that he had wet himself...

Su Liang tidied up the medical bag and walked out of the cave, taking a deep breath. The air inside was nauseating.

Ning Jing walked over, his gaze fixed on her torn arm. "You're injured?"

“It’s just a minor injury, I’ve already stopped the bleeding.” Most of the blood on Su Liang’s body was not hers.

The “real battle” was less intense than the “rehearsal,” but she had to do what she had to do. Otherwise, it would be hard to convince Gai Yun. Hurting someone to a point where they seemed to be dead but weren’t was not easy; one could easily make a mistake.

Compared to her body, Su Liang’s taut nerves relaxed. Her spirit was more exhausted than her body.

“Let’s go back.” Su Liang took another deep breath, her eyes clear and bright, and she smiled easily. “If we’re late and Mai Fei discovers your brother at our house, unless he says he has fallen in love with you at first sight and went to secretly wear your clothes, there will be no way to end this.”

Ning Jing frowned and looked at Su Liang. Walking to her, he said, “Get on.”

Su Liang hesitated, “You’re carrying me?”

“Get on.” Ning Jing repeated the command.

Su Liang was indeed very tired and still had to hurry back, so she accepted the offer, climbed onto Ning Jing’s back, and chuckled, “You said you don’t see me as a woman, so we’re good brothers?”

Ning Jing nodded and quickly carried Su Liang down the mountain..

Chapter 69: 069. A thief broke into the house? (Second update)

Perhaps due to exhaustion, Su Liang fell asleep on Ning Jing’s back.

When she was woken up, she landed drowsily and looked around, they were already back in the city, just two alleys away from home.

Mai Fei must have assigned someone to watch them, and Ning Jing did not remove his mask. The two of them quickly walked through the deserted alley in the morning mist, arrived at the back door of the house, Su Liang took out the key to open the door, and they went in together.

Mai Fei’s men had watched all night but did not see Ning Jing leave.

When they heard the noise and saw Su Liang returning home with Nian Jincheng behind her, someone immediately went back to report.

Nian Jincheng had initially planned to spend the night resting his head on the table, but because of his left arm injury, it was difficult for him to find a comfortable position. After washing up, he slept on the bed in Ning Jing’s room.

He had traveled day and night to reach Bei’an County, where he was injured on the first day. Since then, Mai Fei had arranged some tasks he did not want to perform, and he had not relaxed and rested since.

Having witnessed Su Liang’s strength yesterday, and knowing that Ning Jing accompanied her last night, Nian Jincheng was not worried about Su Liang’s safety.

In this completely unfamiliar place, he slept heavily and did not wake up until the sky was almost bright. This broke his biological clock of many years; he did not even hear the sounds of Su Liang and Ning Jing returning from the backyard.

Ning Jing stood beside the bed holding a small wooden hairpin, his expression indifferent. "You should go now." As he finished speaking, he threw the hairpin onto Nian Jincheng and turned to leave.

Nian Jincheng had a lot to say, but he didn't know where to start, watching Ning Jing's figure disappear at the door.

Ning Jing had changed clothes, and Nian Jincheng's outerwear with some grass debris on it was placed next to the bed, along with his waist sword.

Nian Jincheng quickly got out of bed, put on his own clothes, put on the sword, stuffed the wooden hairpin into his chest, and went out of the room.

Su Liang's room door was closed, and Ning Jing was boiling water in the kitchen.

The quiet and elegant courtyard in the early morning was filled with damp, cold mist. Nian Jincheng took a deep breath, finally feeling awake.

He walked to the kitchen door, watching Ning Jing add firewood to the stove and asked, "Miss Su isn't injured, is she?"

"A minor injury on her left arm," Ning Jing replied. "She has wounded four people and already treated their injuries. The two men arranged by the Fourth Prince took Gai Yun and Gai Huai'an away."

Nian Jincheng knew that Mai Fei would probably ask, so this was information he needed to know.

Taking note, Nian Jincheng sighed softly, "I should go."

Ning Jing did not respond, and as Nian Jincheng turned around, he saw Su Liang coming out of her room.

Having changed into clean clothes and looking decent, she said when she saw him, "You can go, and come back for lunch."

Nian Jincheng was stunned, "Didn't you say...?" To stay away from them...

"That's a different matter. If Mai Fei asks, you can say that you lost your jade pendant here," Su Liang said.

"Alright." Nian Jincheng immediately took off his jade pendant and casually threw it into the corner of the passage between the backyard and the front yard, perfectly demonstrating the idea of "accidentally dropping it"...

Just as Nian Jincheng was about to leave through the backyard, he heard Su Liang's voice, "He doesn't even know how to wash a dish?"

Nian Jincheng: ...As expected, I knew it would be like this.

As a result, Su Liang hadn't finished speaking when she added, "Just like you."

Nian Jincheng paused for a moment. Like Ning Jing? Did Ning Jing also break a lot of dishes when he first started washing them? He suddenly felt less embarrassed.

Bathed in the morning light, Nian Jincheng returned to Mai Fei's residence behind the County government office and went directly to see him.

Mai Fei was having breakfast, and he asked Chang'an to add a pair of chopsticks and a bowl, and invited Nian Jincheng to sit down and eat together.

His mood was obviously good.

"Was Su Liang injured?" Mai Fei asked as soon as he began the conversation.

Nian Jincheng replied, "She only suffered a minor injury to her left arm, and it's not a big problem."

"Indeed, she is outstanding, as I thought. She will not disappoint me." Mai Fei chuckled, "The four heavily injured by her will need more time to recover, but they won't die."

"That's great," Nian Jincheng said earnestly. "I wonder how things are with Gai Yun?"

However, Mai Fei was vague, "There is no progress for the time being."

Nian Jincheng sensed that there was progress, but since Mai Fei did not mention it, he did not ask further.

Nian Jincheng knew that Mai Fei pulled him into this matter to let him contribute and solve the trouble, not to cooperate and share the credit.

So far, Nian Jincheng felt that he had not made any significant contribution: it was Su Liang who truly helped Mai Fei break the deadlock.

"How is your injury?" Mai Fei asked.

"It's fine, thank you for your concern, Fourth Prince." Nian Jincheng replied.

Mai Fei smiled, "I won't forget the arrow you took for me. You should recuperate properly and not be careless. In a few days, you will go to the mine to take charge of the soldiers there. At that time, I will also go to the mine to take a look. By then, we can call Su Liang, and there should be no more assassins."

"Yes," Nian Jincheng nodded.

If it weren't for Su Liang saying that he could come for lunch, he would have asked Mai Fei for permission to leave the county town for the mine immediately.

"You can rest after your meal. As for the contract with Su Liang, I will fulfill it," Mai Fei said.

This made Nian Jincheng believe even more that Gai Yun must have made significant progress; otherwise, Mai Fei would not have mentioned fulfilling the contract at this time, which suggested a sense of having the winning ticket in hand.

It was good news. Nian Jincheng also hoped that the iron mine smuggling case could be resolved as soon as possible.

After a while, Ning Jing left the house and bought some fresh ingredients.

Now, he was not only making fire, but also preparing ingredients. By cleaning and cutting the meat and vegetables needed for the dishes, he could greatly save time for Su Liang when she cooked.

He made bone broth, cooked the dishes, and when Su Liang heard the knock on the door, she put the prepared noodles into the pot with the bone broth.

Ning Jing opened the door, and Nian Jincheng stood outside, holding two boxes of Mingxiang Building's desserts, "Mr. Ning, I apologize for the intrusion. I lost my jade pendant, perhaps when I sent Miss Su home this morning, it fell here, may I come in and look for it?"

Without a word, Ning Jing turned around.

Nian Jincheng followed him in and closed the door behind him, immediately smelling the aroma from the kitchen.

"Serve the dishes!" Su Liang called out.

Nian Jincheng put down the desserts and joined Ning Jing in carrying the cooked dishes to the living room and setting them on the table.

The dishes were hot, and the noodles were almost ready.

Su Liang fried four fried eggs, served three bowls of noodles, poured the fragrant bone broth on top, and added thin slices of meat and crisp, tender greens.

Nian Jincheng and Ning Jing went to serve, and Su Liang reminded them, "Be careful, it's hot. If you drop it, there will be nothing to eat."

Nian Jincheng immediately slowed down, carefully carrying the bowl of noodles to the living room.

Su Liang removed her apron, washed her hands, and sat down, only to hear Nian Jincheng ask, "Miss Su's injury is not serious, is it?"

"Ask again later, and it will be healed," Su Liang replied.

There was a pot and two cups on the table, Su Liang said she didn't drink and let Ning Jing and Nian Jincheng enjoy themselves. The wine was good, given by Mai Fei yesterday through Chang'an.

Coincidentally, all three of them wore wooden hairpins on their heads, all made by the same person, though Su Liang did not notice.

Nian Jincheng poured two cups of wine, placing one in front of Ning Jing, intending to clink glasses and drink together, but Ning Jing started picking up dishes instead.

Nian Jincheng took a drink by himself, "Thank you, Miss Su, for your hospitality."

"Someone told me that today is your 20th birthday, so I wish you success in everything and happiness and peace," Su Liang said solemnly.

Nian Jincheng was still wondering why Su Liang, who couldn't possibly know about his birthday, had suddenly invited him over for a meal. So, it turned out to be Ning Jing's idea.

"Thank you, Miss Su." Nian Jincheng raised his glass, drained it in one gulp, "I had a misunderstanding about you before, I hope you won't take it to heart." Su Liang shook her head, "Longevity noodles, eat them while they're hot."

This wasn't the first time Nian Jincheng was celebrating his birthday, but it was the first time someone had made longevity noodles especially for him. He took a bite and felt that this was the most delicious and warmest thing he had ever tasted.

Discovering that there were two fried eggs underneath was an even bigger surprise.

Seeing this, Ning Jing asked, "Why do I only have one?"

Su Liang was speechless, "The birthday boy gets more. When it's your birthday, I'll make ten for you!"

However, Ning Jing directly took one of the fried eggs from Su Liang's bowl...

It wasn't worth making a fuss over a fried egg. Ning Jing had once even fought with Yang Yu over a brown sugar stewed egg. In any case, he never let his guests have better food than him...

Nian Jincheng thought Su Liang would be annoyed, but he saw her continue to eat without even furrowing her brows, as if she was already used to it.

This made Nian Jincheng feel a bit surprised.

Ning Jing shouldn't have been so childish. He had once said something like, "Eating is just for not starving to death." And Su Liang was not the kind of person who would put up with anything.

Yet the way the two interacted with each other showed a side of them that they didn't show in front of others, and it seemed very natural.

"We'll go back to the village this afternoon," Su Liang said. "We'll set off for the provincial city on the eighth day. He has to take an exam." Nian Jincheng nodded, "Thank you, Miss Su, for taking care of him."

Su Liang raised an eyebrow, "You make it sound like he's your son." Nian Jincheng: .

Ning Jing frowned and took the dish Su Liang liked to eat in front of him, showing his displeasure.

Su Liang put down her chopsticks, "I'm done eating." She then went back to her room.

She thought they might want to catch up, and it wouldn't be convenient for her to be there.

Nian Jincheng asked, "Why don't you two make it real and become husband and wife?"

Ning Jing replied, "I don't want to."

Nian Jincheng said seriously, "But I think you two are very suitable."

Ning Jing shook his head, "Suitable as friends."

"I thought you liked her, and I heard she likes you too." That's why Nian Jincheng said those words to Ning Jing last night. He thought they looked like a pair and assumed

that they were now siblings, planning to find another opportunity to get married formally since their previous wedding was too hasty.

“That’s not the case,” Ning Jing denied again.

Nian Jincheng sighed, “I once thought no woman could catch your eye and live with you. When I met Su Liang, I felt she was the most suitable person for you. You’re both alone in the world, so there’s no need to worry about anything.”

“I never thought that one has to get married and have children in life. Having one or two confidants is enough,” Ning Jing said indifferently.

Nian Jincheng snorted, “Confidants? That’s only because you haven’t married her yet. You can control yourself not to marry, but can you control her not to marry someone else? Don’t tell me you haven’t noticed that the Fourth Prince has feelings for her. Once she marries someone else, she won’t have time to care about you, let alone cook for you. What confidants will you have then?” “You’re not dead,” Ning Jing said.

Nian Jincheng was speechless, “I’m also going to get married! Once I’m married, I won’t have time for you either!”

Ning Jing gave a slight nod, “Alright, I wish you success in fulfilling your wishes soon.”

It was as if Nian Jincheng had punched a cotton cushion. He earnestly told Ning Jing, “Don’t close yourself off because of those things. Life is short, and now that you’re free from the constraints of your identity, live as you please.” “You take care of yourself,” Ning Jing said.

Nian Jincheng frowned at Ning Jing, “If you really don’t like Miss Su, I’ll pursue her, and you won’t mind?”

Ning Jing shook his head, “She’s my sworn sister and my disciple. I’ll have a say in her marriage. I won’t let her marry into the Nian Family, with your crazy grandmother, crazy father, crazy stepmother, and crazy siblings. You don’t deserve her, so give up early.”

Nian Jincheng’s face turned a bit dark, “What about Xing Yusheng?”

“He’s too weak,” Ning Jing evaluated, and added, “So are you.”

Nian Jincheng felt a stab in his heart, “Yes, she is your disciple, who could be worthy of her in your eyes?”

“Do you have someone you like?” Ning Jing asked in return.

Nian Jincheng shook his head, “No.”

He had no intention of pursuing Su Liang because he thought she should marry Ning Jing. Just now, he had said that just to provoke Ning Jing, but it didn’t work.

“You can have one,” Ning Jing said indifferently, “If you don’t choose for yourself, you’ll be arranged by someone else.”

Nian Jincheng’s face darkened slightly, and he brought up another matter, “My sister is obsessed with you. In order to find you, she hired an assassin from

Yanyun Building. Have you encountered any trouble here?”

Ning Jing nodded, “It was hired by Ning Yao.”

“Get rid of the Ning family as soon as possible,” Nian Jincheng said, “My sister has already canceled her contract with the assassin, and I’ve scolded her. You two won’t have any relationship in the future.” Ning Jing’s expression was calm, “There never was.”

Nian Jincheng let out a long sigh.

The door was knocked, and he immediately stood up, picked up the jade pendant on the table, and said, “I’m leaving.”

The door opened, and Gai Huai’an saw Nian Jincheng standing inside, looking very surprised, “Why is General Nian here?”

Nian Jincheng raised the jade pendant in his hand, “I escorted Miss Su home this morning, and my jade pendant fell here. I came back to look for it. Miss Su invited me for a meal.”

“Did she charge you money?” Gai Huai’an asked with a smile.

Nian Jincheng shook his head, “No. She said that thanks to the generosity of the Fourth Prince, they are not short of money now.”

Gai Huai’an felt the blow for his master...

Gai Huai’an had come to invite Su Liang and Ning Jing to attend a banquet tonight, as Mai Fei wanted to treat them.

Su Liang declined, saying they would be going back to the village soon. She had two patients scheduled for follow-up visits tomorrow morning.

Gai Huai’an went back and told Mai Fei, who didn’t say anything more.

At dusk, the carriage entered the Su family village.

It stopped at the entrance, and Su Liang lifted the carriage curtain. Seeing the door ajar, she frowned, “Has a thief entered our house?”

The next moment, a familiar voice came from the courtyard, “Liang Meimei, you’re finally back! I’ve missed you so much!”

Chapter 70: 070. That’s my brother-in-law then (first update)

Hearing Yan Shiba’s voice again, Su Liang was quite surprised.

When Yan Sui personally came to kill Ning Jing that time, Su Liang thought Yan Shiba would have little chance of surviving.

Unexpectedly, she was still alive.

And judging by her voice, she seemed to be doing just fine.

The door opened from the inside, and Bai Xiaohu looked at Su Liang with a big grin, “Sister Su Liang, you’re back! Sister Ajiu has been waiting for a long time!”

Sister Ajiu... Su Liang squinted her eyes, only to see the bed meant for patients in the Firewood Room moved out and placed under a tree in the backyard. And resting on it was none other than Yan Shiba.

By her side sat Aunt Bai, holding a bowl and happily feeding Yan Shiba soup?!

Zhuizi stood next to them, concentrating as he clenched his fists and massaged Yan Shiba’s legs?!

Yan Shiba wore one of Su Liang’s dresses, her face having grown thinner since their last meeting. At first glance, she looked gentle, beautiful, and delicate, nothing like the “assassin” she was known to be.

Aunt Bai stood up, looked at Su Liang, and spoke with heartfelt emotion, “Your sister is injured and came to seek your help. You must take good care of her. Having a sister by your side is just wonderful!”

Only then did Su Liang notice that Yan Shiba’s leg looked unnatural, and her right arm seemed motionless.

By the time Ning Jing returned from parking the carriage in the backyard, Aunt Bai and her two grandsons had already left.

Yan Shiba stretched out one hand and looked at Su Liang pitifully, “Liang sister, I almost didn’t get to see you again!”

Upon getting closer, Su Liang discovered that Yan Shiba’s right arm and both legs had been severely injured, rendering her helpless. Although she should be in great pain, it didn’t show on her face.

“Did Yan Sui do it?” Su Liang asked.

Yan Shiba snorted coldly, “I didn’t expect that shameless old bastard to actually poison me! I was thrown off a cliff and almost lost my life!”

Su Liang asked the crucial question, “Who saved you? How did you end up here?”

In this condition, not only was using Martial Arts near impossible, but even simple movements were also difficult. Someone must have saved her and brought her here.

“A very beautiful young man,” Yan Shiba said, with a hint of a smile in her eyes.

Her description sounded strange to Su Liang, “And where is he? He just left you here and went away?”

Yan Shiba seemed irritated, “Despite my repeated requests, he insisted on leaving, as if I would eat him alive!”

Su Liang scoffed lightly, “Isn’t that what you planned to do?”

Yan Shiba winked at Su Liang, “You understand me so well, Sister Liang.” “Who’s Ajiu?” Su Liang asked.

Yan Shiba’s smile deepened, “I told them I’m your sister, and my name is Su

Jiujiu.”

Two nines equal eighteen, how reasonable... Su Liang was nearly speechless.

“Has Yan Sui been here?” Yan Shiba asked.

“He’s dead,” Su Liang answered.

Yan Shiba was stunned, but then she burst into laughter, “Hahaha! I knew it! Sister Liang would definitely help me take revenge!”

“It was Brother Ning,” Su Liang corrected. She didn’t have the ability to kill Yan Sui, it was Ning Jing who did it.

Yan Shiba’s face fell, “What’s with this ‘Brother Ning’? It’s so cheesy! Sister Liang, speak like a normal person!”

Su Liang:... Isn’t ‘Sister Liang’ cheesy too? Is ‘Brother Ning’ weird? Talk about double standards...

“Where’s the Jade Band?” Yan Shiba asked.

“Here. If you want it, take it,” Su Liang answered succinctly.

However, Yan Shiba shook her head, “What use do I have for it now? I’ll wait until my body has fully recovered!”

“Being injured so badly, it won’t be easy for you to recover,” Su Liang said.

Yan Shiba immediately hugged Su Liang’s arm and shook it, “That’s why I came to find Sister Liang! With you around, of course it’ll be easy! Your Medical Skills are unbeatable!”

As she finished speaking, Yan Shiba nestled her head against Su Liang’s arm, “From now on, I’ll have to rely on you. If you abandon me, I’ll cry for you to

See.

Su Liang’s forehead twitched, and she had a feeling that peaceful days were now far in the future...

“I know, you two are siblings now.”

“We’re still sisters, of course sisters are closer.”

“I can change your last name for you, can he?”

“In the future, if anyone with the Ning surname dares to bully you, I’ll chop them up!”

“Sister won’t forget what you said initially, that you liked the rumored number one handsome man in the capital city, Gu Ling. As long as sister helps you find him, you’ll come with me.”

“No matter where, sister will definitely help you find Mr. Gu and bring him to you to have fun! Let the people with the Ning surname leave!”

Ning Jing in the room snapped a piece of wood he was about to carve while looking through the window at someone clinging to Su Liang. He stabbed the wooden piece with a knife!

If Yan Shiba wasn't as severely injured and could move on her own, Su Liang would probably just invite her for a meal and let her leave.

But now, this once feared assassin has become a disabled person who can't take care of herself, lying at Su Liang's house. Throwing her out would be like sending her to die.

As a doctor, Su Liang decided to challenge herself to see if she could heal Yan Shiba.

But first, they needed to set some rules. "Call me by my name, not Little Sister Liang."

"Alright, Little Sister Liang."

"Speak properly, don't be so affected."

"I don't talk like this to others, I only change when I see Little Sister Liang because I like her so much. I'm truly helpless!" "Don't be so noisy."

"Little Sister Liang, are you tired of me?"

Su Liang nodded, "Yes! I've always been tired of you, can't you tell?"

Yan Shiba sighed, "It's okay, I'm your sister. I won't mind."

Su Liang: ...

Ning Jing didn't welcome Yan Shiba, but he didn't drive her away either.

So, Yan Shiba stayed on.

Su Liang devised a treatment plan for her. It wouldn't be easy. If everything went smoothly, it would still take two or three months to heal.

"In a few days we're going to the Provincial City. You stay here, and I'll have Auntie Bai come take care of you. I'll give her wages," Su Liang said.

"Ning Jing is going to take an exam, what are you going for, Little Sister Liang? Can you really bear to leave me here alone with no one to care for me? You can go, I'll just die!" Yan Shiba sighed.

Su Liang was originally considering whether to stay at home and not go with Ning Jing to the Provincial City, but seeing Yan Shiba's look, she decided to go! Too noisy! She needed to go out for some quiet time.

"This trip was planned a while ago. We'll be back in at most half a month," Su Liang said.

Yan Shiba saw Su Liang looking impatient, so she gave up, "Alright, alright. As long as you're happy, Little Sister Liang."

"You can stay and help take care of the house," Su Liang said.

Even though Yan Shiba was temporarily disabled, the hidden weapon of poison needles on her usable left arm could easily deal with small thieves.

Just as Su Liang was thinking about this, Yan Shiba lifted her left arm and said to her, "Take this for self-defense."

Su Liang refused, "You keep it. I'll get you a wheelchair tomorrow."

"Little Sister Liang is so good to me." Yan Shiba's face was full of gratitude.

"Tonight, you can only choose to sleep with me or him, who do you choose?"

Su Liang got up and walked out, "Choose your head."

"You can take it!" Yan Shiba said, but Su Liang had already left the room.

Dinner was served in Yan Shiba's room. Ning Jing was cleaning up the dishes and Yan Shiba hummed, "Did you hear? She doesn't like you. Don't even think about her!"

Ning Jing paid no attention.

Yan Shiba continued, "Someone worthy of my sister would have to be at least like the rumored Gu Ling. It's perfect since she likes Gu Ling too.. He's going to be my brother-in-law! Once I find him, you better leave as far away as possible!"