

Divine 241

Chapter 241: Reason for Lord Ling's Marital Proposal

She should have been informed ages ago about what happened. What kept Chen Fu? Nothing bad was happening, right?

Madame Gu was a bit anxious. She looked very worried.

Cai Ming had been watching and waiting outside the yard all the time, but no one came to get them.

Madame Gu headed towards the front yard personally, in case she missed something important.

When Cai Ming arrived, the crowd gathered at the front yard was already disbanded. Cai Ming caught up with Chen Fu and asked him what happened. Chen Fu said that the marriage proposal was already made.

However, the Old Master did not ask him to inform Madame Gu, so he could not possibly disobey the order. So he told Cai Ming what happened briefly and got back to his own work.

Hearing what happened Cai Ming was shocked too.

For one moment, she had no idea what to tell Madame Gu. It took her a long time before she went back to Madame Gu.

As they came to Pear Yard, it was already very late.

Madame Gu was very furious seeing Cai Ming's slow steps. "What is going on? What happened? I hate it when I can't work, otherwise nothing like this would happen!"

Madame Gu was worried that without her, the whole Gu Mansion would collapse.

Cai Ming was dodging her eyes, not sure what she should say. She was, after all, a maid. So she had to reply against her will. "Madame Gu... all is well. Lady Ruxue's marriage with Lord Ling is done. Chef Chen Fu says that Madame Huo came with the matchmaker and that Lord Ling offered many presents. Everyone was tired after this, so they all went home.. I believe that the Old Master will tell you what happened tomorrow."

Cai Ming was talking when she sneaked a look at Madame Gu. She was worried that Madame Gu would get angry so she, as a maid, would suffer seriously.

However, Madame Gu did not get angry. She gazed forward, and her pupils were losing focus. She was silent for a long while.

She was thinking... She was thinking that without her, the Gu Mansion was functioning well too. She thought of her most adored children – one of them dead, one of them changed.

The following day Gu Chaoyan went to Yellow Crane.

She had no thoughts about Gu Ruxue's marriage with Lord Ling, but she did find the whole thing strange. She had to understand what on earth happened. She had not seen Zhou Huaijin for a long while.

Zhou Huaijin was still dressed in a purple robe, with no dragon stripes on the surface. He looked intimidating and handsome as he sat there with a flat look on his face. Seeing Gu Chaoyan coming towards him, he showed a brief smile and said with a gentle voice, "Hey."

Gu Chaoyan nodded. She habitually took the seat next to him.

Zhou Huaijin liked tea, and Gu Chaoyan liked the smell of the tea. Although Yellow Crane was mainly serving hot-pot, the tea sold well as well.

"I have one jar of wine brewed by me here. The chefs of the Yellow Crane should have a taste. If it tastes okay, the wine can be used as the brand liquor for the whole restaurant." Gu Chaoyan said, and asked Sword One to deliver the wine to the kitchen.

Zhou Huaijin did not like liquor, so he said nothing as he took a glance at it.

With his eyes upon Gu Chaoyan, he said with an assured tone after seeing her healthy face. "I have found out what you wanted to know about Lord Ling."

Chapter 242: Fairness

What was the explanation?

When Gu Chaoyan heard the news, her eyes widened with sparkles as they were focused upon Zhou Huaijin.

Zhou Huaijin smiled in a spoiling way. Then he nodded and asked Fu Bao to guard the door out of caution. Yellow Crane was his own property, but he was still worried that someone might be eavesdropping behind the wall. He felt more assured with Fu Bao guarding outside.

The door was shut.

Then Zhou Huaijin said, "There is one monk nicknamed Destiny at Putuo Temple. When Lord Ling went to him for fortune-telling a while ago, he predicted that The Phoenix Girl is going through a reincarnation and the one who is able to marry that girl will be the King of this land, or probably more than the whole land. Destiny said that the girl was reincarnated to the Gu Family, but did not point out which lady specifically. What he revealed was that it is a lady from the Gu Family."

"..."

"That is why Lord Ling insists on marrying Gu Ruxue."

As the words were mentioned, Zhou Huaijin could not help but say with a mocking tone, "Lord Ling is a man with strategies, but he is now believing in what a monk says! So if someone marries the Phoenix Girl, he is able to get the entire country, or even the whole world too?"

He shook his head as he talked. He never believed in any superstitious things like this. If you wanted to get something, you had to fight for that, instead of relying upon a mysterious Phoenix Girl! Lord Ling was getting so old-fashioned.

Gu Chaoyan did not laugh along with him.

The reincarnation of the Phoenix Girl, one who was pointed out by Destiny? The reincarnated girl should be at the Gu Mansion?

She felt a bit startled. Could the monk mean her? She was a strange soul from a strange world and she possessed a space with magical water.

At this moment, she suddenly felt very thankful for what the original host had done to get herself a bad reputation.

Because of all of this, Lord Ling did not consider her as the girl and thought that it was Gu Ruxue.

How could that be possible? Why would she be related to the throne in the future? Gu Chaoyan just could not fathom the point.

"What is it? You look weird." Zhou Huaijin asked, looking slightly worried.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head. She smiled. "I was thinking about what you said. It sounds so ridiculous. How could Lord Ling believe what a fortune-teller said? Maybe Mrs. Gu or Gu Ruxue bribed the monk so he spilled out something like this. But the two women should not have a brain like that."

Gu Chaoyan was just making a conjecture. If that was the case, all would be easy.

Zhou Huaijin, however, shook his head instantly. "That is impossible. I am not sure about the other monks, but Destiny never gets bribed. Destiny is not a nickname he got for himself, but one the public granted to him. Also, he is not someone who receives bribes."

The more certain Zhou Huaijin was, the more worried Gu Chaoyan became.

If that was the case then...

"Anyway, just let Lord Ling believe what he wants. We can drop him. Oh yes, the day for the entrance examination for Saint College is approaching, are you ready?"

"..."

"You may be aiming at the medical department and you are already a skilled doctor, still you have to pass three other tests during the process apart from medical skills."

"..."

"Six skills, including manners, music, shooting, driving, calligraphy and algorithm. You pick three among the six you are best at for your own tests."

"..."

"You stand out with your medical skills, so the standards for the other three skills would not be too high for you."

“ ... ”

“The examination will be completely fair with me around.”

Chapter 243: The Branded Liquor

Gu Chaoyan was not worried.

Zhou Huaijin was taking her side, and it would be impossible for County Princess Anxi to bribe the teachers of Saint College to set her up, because she was able to complete the task without any mistakes. She was very confident that the judges would be unable to find any faults.

Well, it would be great if Zhou Huaijin could be present to keep an eye out for the examination, so she did not have to waste any time in fighting against those people.

Seeing Gu Chaoyan's confident look, Zhou Huaijin could not help but ask, “Which three of the skills are you going to take for the examination?”

He could help her to make some preparations. He had to make sure that she was making full preparations for the examination.

Gu Chaoyan thought for a while and then decided that she was able to accomplish any of the six skills after all, but... If what she needed was to prove her abilities, Gu Chaoyan was thinking about picking the ones she was best at.

Among all the six skills, she was going to pick shooting, music and calligraphy.

Okay, those three would do.

So Gu Chaoyan replied without much hesitation. “Shooting, music, and calligraphy.”

The moment Gu Chaoyan was done talking, Zhou Huaijin looked really surprised. He believed that Yan would be good at music and calligraphy, but shooting & riding? When did Yan learn how to ride and shoot? She was not given any opportunities to learn any of these at the Gu Mansion!

The land of the Saint Divine Land was taken because they had great riders. The King also encouraged the folk of the country to learn to ride and shoot, but riding and shooting required not only horses but also space! It was common for men to master the skill, but for girls... Only those from huge families were able to learn to ride and shoot.

County Princess Anxi, for example, picked up the skill when she was little.

If Yan was out there competing in this skill with her, then Yan was definitely going to run into County Princess Anxi. By that time, she would definitely run into Yan....Yan would probably have trouble with it too.

“Yan, are you sure you are going to take the riding and shooting?” Zhou Huaijin asked with a serious tone. He was actually quite confused, but he had no idea how to utter the questions.

For example, even Gu Ruxue did not get the chance to ride and shoot. So Gu Chaoyan, who was always disgraced, would never get the chance either.

However, he didn't ask anything more. He believed that soon, Yan was going to give him a clear explanation.

Gu Chaoyan nodded. If she decided to stand out in the examination, she had to pick the ones she was best at.

Zhou Huaijin said nothing more, but started to get his men to get the tools ready for her.

At this moment, the sound of knocking arose from outside.

Manager Song entered with a look of excitement. He was still holding the jug Gu Chaoyan had sent to the kitchen. He got so excited that he forgot to greet her, but asked directly, "Lady Chaoyan, where did you get the wine?"

"How is the taste?" Gu Chaoyan asked. She was looking forward to receiving feedback.

She knew how to make a brewery, but she was not sure how well she could achieve it.

The reason why she decided to make a brewery was only because she added magical water inside. The magical water was a great thing. As for the taste.... she was okay with it herself before bringing it here for a taste test.

Now Manager Song was here for the feedback, and she was a little bit nervous. She was worried that the taste would be a disappointment.

Manager Song nodded constantly and said with excitement. "The liquor is very tasty! I have not tasted such great wine for ages! I am sure that this liquor would bring down the branded liquor of Restaurant Jixian."

"The branded liquor of Restaurant Jixian?"

Chapter 244: Helpless

Restaurant Jixian... Gu Chaoyan knew what it was. It was the restaurant that did not allow them to open Yellow Crane when it was opened.

It was County Princess Anxi's property.

Gu Chaoyan was aware that Restaurant Jixian was doing well because it had a strong supporter, but they also did not allow any other restaurant to be opened here, so Restaurant Jixian had to be the only choice for anyone who would like to eat something.

Unexpectedly, there was branded wine at the Restaurant Jixian.

Judging from what Manager Song said, the liquor of that restaurant seemed very popular too.

That surprised her.

Manager Song started to tell the story because of the great liquor. "Oh yes, the branded liquor is Pear Flower Brewery, and it has a history of over hundreds of years. It is made with a secretive receipt created by the husband of the Elder Princess. But her husband passed away years ago, and the brewery

was shut down, so all the wine was transported to Restaurant Jixian and that is how the branded liquor was established there.”

“...”

“The reason why many guests like eating there is because they love that liquor.”

“...”

“Otherwise Restaurant Jixian would never get popular.” Manager Song sounded quite serious about the Pear Flower Brewery made by Restaurant Jixian.

However, soon Manager Song changed his tone and said as he looked at the jug. “But Lady Chaoyan, now we have this wine with us, and we are soon going to bring down the Pear Flower Brewery.”

Manager Song got very excited as he thought about this. They were not only going to have branded hot-pot but also branded liquor!

“Who made the wine, Lady Chaoyan? We have to hire him or her at any cost!” Manager Song said with a resolute tone.

Well, hiring him or her?

Gu Chaoyan pointed at herself and said, “I did it.”

What? Manager Song looked very surprised.

“I made it myself. I will bring the liquor here to Yellow Crane when I am done with the brewing. But we don’t have endless liquor. We have little yet it is excellent, and we have a limited daily supply. The early birds catch the worm, and the late ones have to wait until tomorrow.” Gu Chaoyan said.

Manager Song had to think about this thoroughly. He thought that it was a great way to deal with the matter. The more precious the thing was, the more cherished it would be.

“Alright, we will do as Lady Chaoyan said.” Manager Song agreed.

The two of them had a discussion over how much wine should be served daily so vividly that they forgot about Zhou Huaijin.

When the discussion was done a long time had passed.

Gu Chaoyan thought about preparing some more wine, so she decided to not stay at Yellow Crane any more.

Zhou Huaijin’s face sank. He was going to remember Manager Song for this.

Manager Song, who had been busy working at the kitchen, had no idea what to do.

As they came back to the Gu Mansion, Gu Chaoyan did not linger any more but jumped off the wagon and hurried away.

Zhou Huaijin looked helpless. Fu Bao did not dare to approach him, fearing that he would be blamed.

However, Gu Chaoyan noticed none of this, but went inside the mansion with happiness.

However, the moment she entered the mansion and took a few steps, she heard some noise rising, as a group of people were blocking her way back to the Qiong Pavilion.

Gu Chaoyan took a look at them. It was Mrs. Gu and her mother's family who were arguing.

Mrs. Gu looked not at all graceful but pointed at Mrs. Jinzhang. "Shame on you! It is already kind of us to let you stay here, but now you are asking us to pay for your son's marriage fees? Don't you dare dream that much!"

Chapter 245: Argument

"Be careful! I may drive all of you out of here!" Mrs. Gu said disdainfully. She had been fearing that The Zhang Family would spread the rumor and cause trouble that got the Gu Family involved, but now she did not need to fear a thing. Why would she be bothered to argue with a stupid woman like Mrs. Jinzhang?

Mrs. Gu suddenly realized that the argument was not needed at all.

Mrs. Jinzhang sneered. "Okay, then do that! I don't think you would ever dare to do so. We are going to report you to the governmental office! Everything you did will be revealed to the public!"

"..."

"Now, I have no other request. You got my eldest son killed, and I can leave that out. But now I have Mingyuan the second son with me and he needs a wife. You have to get a girl to marry him. If you don't, I will go and report whatever you have done to the government!" Mrs. Jinzhang threatened, thinking that this kind of threat would still work for Mrs. Gu, who had never done anything about it.

Mrs. Jinzhang thought that she had a bargaining chip to use against Mrs. Gu.

Mrs. Gu smiled coldly. Threatening her? She was not easily threatened any more.

She said with a look of pride, "There is one thing you are not aware of, I am afraid."

"..."

"Lord Ling has come with a proposal. He is going to marry Ruxue as his concubine. You are going to report me? Aren't you worried that Lord Ling will stop you from talking? I am going to be Lord Ling's mother-in-law and you will be nothing." Mrs. Jinzhang said with a proud smile. She felt that her life was getting more and more glorious.

Mrs. Jinzhang was startled and dared not utter a word. She was not going to offend Mrs. Gu when she had Lord Ling as a supporter.

"You are my relative, and I will not force you to leave. But now, you have no choice but stay at the Gu Mansion and obey my orders. If you ever dare to disobey me, I will not show any mercy." Mrs. Gu said.

Mrs. Jinzhang swallowed saliva. She did not dare to say anything more.

Seeing that the show was over Gu Chaoyan said with an expression of boredom, "Please move away."

Only now did Mrs. Jinzhang and her son as well as Mrs. Gu noticed that Gu Chaoyan was present too.

Mrs. Jinzhang and Zhang Mingyuan hurried away. They had no idea who this girl was.

Gu Chaoyan left without looking at them at all.

Mrs. Gu did not stop her, but mumbled after she left. "This b**ch is so impolite. She did not even greet me."

B**ch?

Zhang Mingyuan looked at Gu Chaoyan's back.

Hearing these words he asked curiously, "Aunt, who is that girl? Why did you call her b**ch?"

"Of course she is the ugly girl born by that businesswoman!" Mrs. Gu said with a look of disdain.

Zhang Mingyuan started to think quickly. He had heard that before Aunt was married to the Gu Mansion, there was one daughter left by the original wife of the Gu Mansion. However, the rumor went that she was ugly and fat, so he did not care about her, but now that he saw the girl for the first time... He thought that the rumor in public and what aunt said were totally untrue.

That girl was a little bit chubby but she was not ugly at all. She even looked a little cute! It was said that she had lots of dowries.

Now the Zhang Family was in a downfall. They had no house to live and money to spend. They had to stay under the shadow of someone else.

Mother intended to get him a wife, only because she wanted him to marry someone with a lot of wealth, so that the whole family's situation could be changed.

If Aunt was not helping him, he would create the opportunity himself.

That Elder Miss seemed like a perfect match.

Chapter 246: Your Dowries

Now that they were all living at the Gu Mansion it was very easy for him to get close to her. What he needed was to make the girl fall for him. Then he could ask his father to make the proposal so that they could get married.

At that time, they were going to obtain lots of dowries. With that amount of money, he would be able to buy a huge mansion, hire many maids and some stores.

When they went through the difficult period, he was going to marry a real wife, and live an excellent life.

With that idea in mind Zhang Mingyuan became somewhat excited. He did not think that it was necessary to argue with aunt. The argument would only worsen the relationship.

So he said with a look of flattery, "Aunt, I apologize for what my mother said. Since we are all living at the Gu Mansion, we should all obey your words, Aunt, in every aspect."

Seeing Zhang Mingyuan's behavior, Mrs. Gu smiled. She thought that this boy learned fast. Then she turned to Mrs. Jinzhang. "Your son is much smarter than you."

Having said these words, she left with the maid.

She had lots of time to deal with the Zhang Family and Mrs. Jinzhang. What mattered most of all was Ruxue's dowries. She tried to have a meeting with the b**ch girl at the Qiong Pavilion in the morning, but she was gone.

Now that she was home, she was going to tell the Old Master who was going to speak with her about the dowries.

Mrs. Gu hurried off.

Mrs. Jinzhang glared at her son, but Zhang Mingyuan soon whispered to her about the plan. Mrs. Jinzhang nodded cheerfully as she heard what her son told her.

Gu Chaoyan had just arrived at the Qiong Pavilion and she was just getting ready to brew the wine when Qing came running to him. "Miss, Old Master is here."

Gu Zhenkang? What was he doing here? As far as she could remember, Gu Zhenkang had never been to the Qiong Pavilion during the past years. He could not have brought with him any good news today.

So she put aside the brewery first and went out with Qing.

Gu Zhenkang was just seated with a straight back and threw a glance at her, instead of shouting at her like he always did. "Take a seat."

Gu Chaoyan took a seat.

Qing habitually poured some tea to Gu Chaoyan.

Gu Chaoyan took a sip of the tea.

Neither of them spoke.

A while later Gu Zhenkang spoke. "Ruxue is now engaged with Lord Ling. You must have heard about that."

So what?

Seeing Gu Chaoyan silent, Gu Zhenkang continued. "She is the most excellent girl in our mansion. After she marries Lord Ling, the whole Gu Mansion, including us, would need her shelter."

"..."

"You are divorced, and you are not going to marry anyone great in the future."

"..."

"So I decided that your dowries will all be Ruxue's when she gets married. Well, if you are not able to find a great suitor, the Gu Mansion would support you for your life. If you are lucky enough to meet someone who would want to marry you, I will also get you another portion of dowries."

"..."

“Ruxue will definitely thank you for your kindness. And your life in the future will be guaranteed.”

Having said this, Gu Zhenkang looked at Gu Chaoyan as he waited for her to answer him.

Well, he did not think that she would turn down this offer. That was why he was asking her just to get her answer.

Gu Chaoyan took a sip of the tea indifferently and answered briefly, “No.”

“What?!” Gu Zhenkang’s eyes widened. She was saying no to his offer? “Do you really think that you are able to marry anyone? What do you need those dowries for?”

Chapter 247: Impossible

Gu Chaoyan took another sip of the tea.

This tea was delivered by Fu Bao from Zhou Huaijin. The white tea was made through sun-drying and being well-soaked in water, so it tasted fragrant and nice.

Gu Chaoyan liked this kind of tea, so she had been drinking sundried tea these days.

She took a few more sips of tea and felt much better. Otherwise Gu Chaoyan would puke because of what Gu Zhenkang said to her.

The Gu Family kept saying that they were literatis who were advanced and highly-ranked in mind. And whenever her mother Mrs. Lin was mentioned, they also commented on her in a very disdainful way, saying that she was from a business family and worse than the others.

However, in Gu Chaoyan’s eyes, the Gu Family were the most disgusting group of all. They, on one side, claimed themselves to be highly-ranked and innocent whilst on the other side, they were trying to get Mrs. Lin’s dowries. Didn’t they feel any shame at all?

So they were going to use Mrs. Lin’s dowries as Gu Ruxue’s? As long as Gu Chaoyan was present, she was definitely going to stop this from happening.

Gu Chaoyan straightened up her back and said coldly with a look of resolution, “Those are my mother’s dowries, and you have no right to do anything about it. So since I disapprove of that, you are never getting them no matter what.”

It was such an intimidating air that Gu Zhenkang could not help but feel like retreating. However, soon he thought of the fact that Ruxue was going to marry Lord Ling, so he spoke with a coungerous tone in a loud voice, “I am the master of the Gu Family, so when I say that the dowries are for Ruxue, they are for Ruxue. Don’t ever assume that I am here asking you for advice. I am here telling you that the dowries of yours are going to be given to Ruxue no matter what!”

As he finished saying the words Gu Zhenkang stood up and flung his sleeves with force, showing his huge displeasure.

Then he threw a look at Gu Chaoyan. He was not bothered to ask her for opinions. She was a motherless child and she was not going to make a big fuss about this matter. Gu Zhenkang snorted and was about to leave.

Gu Chaoyan sat motionlessly and took another sip of tea as she looked at his back-figure. As the scent of tea went into her throat, Gu Chaoyan said calmly, "Alright, if you dare to touch the dowries, I will report you to the Government Office. The husband and his family have no rights to deal with the girl's dowries."

Hearing this, Gu Zhenkang became so furious that veins popped out and his fists clenched. Then he stopped.

A long while later, he turned around and looked at Gu Chaoyan. "I am going to be Lord Ling's father-in-law, and no one in the Government Office would dare to help you!"

Then he snorted and hurried off.

With no expression on her face, Gu Chaoyan took up the teacup and drank another sip. Then she put down the teacup and said, "The tea has turned cold."

As she finished saying this she stood up and continued with her own work.

Furious, Gu Zhenkang went straight to Begonia Yard from the Qiong Pavilion. Gu Zhenkang had not stepped into this yard because of what happened to the Zhang Family, but after Gu Ruxue and Lord Ling got engaged, Gu Zhenkang not only came to Begonia Yard very often, but also resided in Mrs. Gu's room. That made Mrs. Gu extremely glad every day.

Mrs. Gu was picking the hairpin for Gu Ruxue as Gu Zhenkang entered the room. She asked without looking up, "How is it? Did the girl agree?"

She had just finished speaking when she took a hairpin made of red coral and passed it to Gu Ruxue with satisfaction. "Ruxue, this looks nice, it is yours."

Gu Zhenkang glanced at the ornaments, thinking that they looked very familiar but he could not think of where she got them.

He said angrily, "She did not."

Chapter 248: Pear Yard

Mrs. Gu withdrew her look from the ornaments and looked very displeased. "She did not agree? It is her fortune to give out her dowries to Ruxue, and she dare not agree?"

Ruxue was such an excellent girl who was going to marry Lord Ling! None of the ladies in the whole Gu Mansion would have a wonderful fate like this.

Now all the resources of the Gu Mansion should be given to Ruxue. How narrow-minded this girl from that businesswoman was! Mrs. Gu knew that she was a stupid person!

Gu Ruxue looked at Gu Zhenkang with a look of displeasure.

Gu Zhenkang waved his hands. "Don't worry, I have decided to give her dowries to you. I will have the call for this matter."

Gu Ruxue suddenly looked cheerful. She tugged Gu Zhenkang's arms and said, "You are so great, dad!"

Gu Zhenkang patted Gu Ruxue's hand and looked satisfied. During the past few years, it had been Madame Gu who was in charge of affairs at the Gu Mansion. He had never been praised as "being so great".

He believed that after he became the master in charge of the family, the Gu Mansion was going to flourish.

Mrs. Gu asked the servants to put away the ornaments. She did not have to pick the right ornaments at the moment, since all the ornaments in the storage of the Gu Mansion would become Ruxue's.

During the past two days she had been giving the current situation a lot of thoughts.

When the Gu Mansion was doing terribly a while ago, Madame Gu sent Yunhe and Yunxuan outside the mansion. She did not care about Yunxuan, but Yunhe was her son. Now that Ruxue was marrying Lord Ling, the Gu Mansion was definitely going to flourish, so Yunhe did not have to stay outside the mansion any more.

When they came back to the capital, Lord Ling was also going to give them some jobs to do too.

As she thought about this, Mrs. Gu got very pleased. "Old Master, I am thinking that our Mansion is doing so well these days, should we write the letters and bring the Young Masters home?"

When Mrs. Gu said this, Gu Zhenkang slapped his forehead and replied. "That is totally right!"

He had been totally unaware of this matter during the past few days, since he was so obsessed with this important matter.

Both of the young masters, namely Yunxuan and Yunhe, were still outside.

Gu Zhenkang could not sit still any more as he thought of this matter. He got up and said, "I will write the letters now and get them home as soon as possible."

Mrs. Gu let out a sigh of relief. She was quite pleased too.

Madame Gu insisted on sending them to the army – but that was a very tormenting place.

Luckily, Madame Gu was declining, otherwise Yunhe would not make it home. However, Mrs. Gu suddenly thought of something as Madame Gu was mentioned. Now Old Master spent the night with her during the past few days, and Ruxue and the children are grownups. It was never a great thing to share the same yard altogether.

She was going to become Lord Ling's mother-in-law – how could she be wronged in this way? She needed to be in charge of the mansion! And she needed to move into the Pear Yard!

Normally, she should have stayed at that yard a long while ago, but Madame Gu was so cheeky that she occupied that place. Now that she had gotten sick, it was a waste for her to stay there. She could just move to some small empty yard, where she could get better surrounded by quietness.

As for the owner of the Pear Yard... she thought that it was time to make a change about it.

"Mom, what are you thinking?" Gu Ruxue asked as she looked at Mrs. Gu who was gazing dumbly.

"I am thinking about something huge. Ruxue, go and take a break, I am going to tell your father to give you an independent yard to live in." Mrs. Gu said and hurried off to the study.

She had not thought about the Pear Yard earlier, but now she did and thought that she should move into the yard as soon as possible.

Chapter 249: Zhang Mingyuan

At the Qiong Pavilion.

It was the early stage of autumn and the day was getting cool. A breeze brushed by every now and then.

The fruit wine had been finished, and Chaoyan had been practising calligraphy these two days. She had been a very excellent calligrapher in her previous life, but even if that was the case, she still needed to do some practise for the examination for Saint College, which she considered as something extremely important.

Only by proving her own abilities would she be confident enough to stand by Zhou Huaijin's side.

When Qing served her the tea, she almost got shocked. Gu Chaoyan was dressed in a set of plain-colored blouses with her hair casually tied up and some sporadic hair hanging down. Then she saw the characters on the paper...

Those characters were very distinguished, totally different from those written by other elegant ladies. Gu Chaoyan's style of writing was sharp, wild and gave out an intimidating air.

Qing felt a little dizzy.

This woman looked like her lady, but did not seem to be her lady at all.

Then came Sword One's voice. "Miss."

Only at this moment did Qing come back to herself, and she almost upset her tray. She put the tray upon the table and said, "Miss, have some tea, please."

Gu Chaoyan replied with a small nod. Instead of putting down the brush, she continued to finish her work.

Sword One came to the window directly and craned her neck, as she said, "Miss, the Young Master from the Zhang Family is here and he can't be driven away. Should I beat him up directly?"

Sword One did not have the intention of leading him to Miss. None of those from the Zhang Family were good people, especially the Young Master who seemed to be up to something.

Gu Chaoyan frowned slightly as the Young Master of the Zhang Family was mentioned. He was someone from Mrs. Gu's family. What was he doing here?

She did not mind giving him a hand, if he was out there trying to set up Mrs. Gu.

She got a little furious about how Gu Zhenkang talked of the dowries. She suddenly got the urge to play some tricks upon Mrs. Gu.

She put down the pen in her hands. Then she said as she walked past the white-jade kettle on the table. "Qing, bring the tea to the yard. We shall have some tea there."

Then she walked out.

Sword One was shocked. What was Miss thinking? Why did she want to meet that filthy man?

She stomped her feet and followed.

Zhang Mingyuan was alone, after all. He was seated in the yard with a posture that he considered as cool. The moment he saw Gu Chaoyan coming towards him, he looked very pleased, thinking that the girl was just pretending when she said that she was not seeing him.

A divorced woman would definitely accept any Young Master who came to her door, he thought.

Zhang Mingyuan did not show any passion, but said politely to Gu Chaoyan as she took the seat. "Greetings, Elder Miss."

Then he looked up only to see that Gu Chaoyan was not staring at him, but pouring herself a cup of tea, sipping from the cup calmly.

Zhang Mingyuan felt a bit displeased. Did he put on the cool posture in vain just now?

He was about to say something when Gu Chaoyan put down the teacup and asked calmly, "What is it?"

Zhang Mingyuan gave out a light cough. He withdrew the look of embarrassment and said, "I have been taking a walk around the mansion when I accidentally came to this place. I remembered that it was Elder Miss's yard and you are also participating in the entrance examination for Saint College, aren't you? I am not a very talented person, but I grew up as a participant in the academy. Please do tell me if there is anything I can do to help you, Elder Miss."

Gu Chaoyan sized up Zhang Mingyuan.

Chapter 250: Lord Huai's Support

Well, despite all the shameless things the Zhang Family did, every one of the whole family did have a very pretty face. However, Zhang Mingyuan looked so greedy that she felt very disgusted.

She had thought that the Zhang Family would hate Mrs. Gu for what she did to them, but right now, they were planning something upon her.

"Your cousin Ruxue is taking the examination too, why aren't you there helping her?" Gu Chaoyan asked coldly.

Well, Zhang Mingyuan was stuck for words, not knowing how to answer this question.

His cousin was better, more excellent than he was, and his help was totally unnecessary.

He had thought that Elder Miss would be very gullible since she was always bullied and trapped. He had not expected that every one of the Gu Mansion was born smart and tricky.

Zhang Mingyuan thought for a while and said, "Cousin has teachers, and I am not at all needed."

Gu Chaoyan already finished the tea in the cup, and was about to get up and return to her room, when Sword Two came running with stuff in his arms. He looked very pleased. "Elder Miss, these are all the uniforms and tools delivered by Lord Huai, please try them on! If they are not fitting, Lord Huai will get you a new set!"

Then he approached Gu Chaoyan with the stuff in his arms.

Sword Two had not noticed Zhang Mingyuan on the way here, but now he was quite curious what this guy was doing here.

Gu Chaoyan opened the package.

The uniform was red in color, different from other ordinary kinds of riding and shooting dresses. There were no sleeves, just sharp and clean clothes for easier riding. Gu Chaoyan had thought about getting a set of uniforms like this, but when Zhou Huaijin gave her the uniforms, she was very moved.

"They are very fitting." Gu Chaoyan replied to Sword Two directly and then turned to Qing. "Qing, put away the stuff carefully."

Having said this she turned to Zhang Mingyuan. "Mr. Zhang, if you don't have anything to say, please leave now."

Zhang Mingyuan was shocked too.

Lord Huai was giving her presents? What was going on? Wasn't she a disgraced lady of the mansion? How did she get to know Lord Huai? Could it have been because of Ruxue who was marrying Lord Huai's brother that he gave Chaoyan the present out of friendship?

As he thought about this, Zhang Mingyuan felt a little bit more courageous. He said with a persuasive tone, "Cousin Chaoyan, Lord Huai might have given you the uniforms and tools for other people's sake, but there are many other tests that you need to go through at the examination. You need teachers for other aspects, or you will lose to the other well-educated ladies."

"..."

"I am not a very talented person, but what I have learned during the past few years would definitely be enough to give you a hand." Zhang Mingyuan said confidently.

He did not think that this cousin of his would have any other knowledge than some medical prescription inherited from her family.

Gu Chaoyan frowned and looked extremely displeased. "Sword Two, please see him out."

Sword Two nodded and was about to drive this man out, but he also felt very uncomfortable inwardly – why should an excellent Miss like this be looked down on? So Sword Two added at this point, "Elder Miss, Lord Huai says that he has hired teachers for calligraphy and music to teach you. The teachers will arrive at the mansion in a couple of days, but now, he is asking you to join him at the pitch for shooting and riding practice."