

Divine 721

Chapter 721: Persuaded

The Empress Dowager was well aware of her son's personality and ideas. What she had just said was to convince the King, and the reason why she asked him this question was because she had noticed the King's changing expression. She believed that he was almost convinced.

The King was not young any more. He was no longer as resolute as before and he started to care about love and relationships, but he was still ambitious. And deep in his heart, ambition was still the most important thing for him.

Therefore, The Empress Dowager believed that as long as she mentioned the Saint Divine Land, the King would definitely be moved.

Hearing what The Empress Dowager asked, the King was no longer as resolute as before. Instead, he looked at the Queen who was lying in bed and said in a meaningful tone, "Queen, what mom says makes sense. There have been many things happening in the past period and you are not doing well either. You might get better after spending some time in the town. And at the moment, it is not so good for you to split hairs. Instead you should think about what you have done and what you are going to do in the town." The King added, sounding as if he was blaming the Queen for not understanding him.

After saying this, the King saw that the Queen did not respond to him. So he said in an even angrier tone, "Queen, do you understand?"

The Queen let out two coughs.

Gu Chaoyan helped to pass the tea to her, so the Queen drank some and nodded peacefully, "I got it, thank you King and Empress Dowager."

The Queen responded so fast, that the King simply had no idea what to say. He somehow felt that something was wrong, but he could not figure out what was wrong.

The whole thing looked reasonable, so he pressed down the discomfort inside his heart and said seriously, "Good that you understand. Me and mom will get things ready for you to move to the town, and you will be equally well-treated there."

The King felt slightly better after saying these words. He thought that the whole thing was reasonable.

The Queen expressed her thanks.

The King frowned at the sight of the Queen's coughing, and was about to move forward to show some care when the Empress Dowager's serious voice arose. "King, now that you have said what needs to be said, you should go back to your own place. You care about the Queen, but the Queen is seriously sick, so she can not serve you."

The King ceased his steps hearing what the Empress Dowager said.

There were rules in the court – sick women were not allowed to serve the King, and he should not even step into their residence. After all, the King should not get infected and he had to stay healthy for the whole world.

Normally, he and the Queen did not stick to the rules, and he had gotten used to that. That was why he had subconsciously wanted to show his care, but what the Empress Dowager said reminded him that he was doing something against the rules. He was very busy with many things at the moment so he should not get sick. So he and the Empress Dowager left the Weiyang Palace together.

At the Weiyang Palace...

Honored Princess Jing was still in the room. She raised her eyebrows and said with a proud smile, “Don’t worry, Queen, just take good care of yourself, I will take good care of the court.”

Then she turned around with a laugh.

Gu Chaoyan turned to the Queen. “Queen...”

Chapter 722: Out of the Court

The Queen smiled at Gu Chaoyan and waved her hands. She was telling Gu Chaoyan not to worry about it.

“Zhou Sheng made use of me and my father to get the throne, and now it turns out that he out hated my father and snapped at him too. He is no one to me now. Since I don’t care or like this person any more, I will not be saddened by what he does or what he says. I don’t have to make any effort to argue with him either,” the Queen said with a smile.

“It is a great thing for me to move out of the court and live in the town. It would be better for our plan, but what I worry about most of all is Xunyang and you two. Everything else will not matter.”

Gu Chaoyan looked at the Queen. She understood that she had decided not to feel attached to the relationship.

That was good.

The Queen was still young and she could go anywhere she wanted in this world!

Having said this, the Queen asked Gu Chaoyan to leave. “You can leave now, and we have all the time we need to talk with each other in the town.”

Gu Chaoyan nodded, took hold of the Queen’s hands and said, “Take care.”

The Queen nodded again. She had no energy to see her off, so she asked Aunt Nan to walk Gu Chaoyan out.

Aunt Nan and Gu Chaoyan had not met many times, but she liked Gu Chaoyan. She treated her like her own friend. She got her hand-fireplace and umbrella as she walked her out. It was a cold winter’s day, and Aunt Nan was worried that Lady Chaoyan would not be able to stand the cold.

When Gu Chaoyan got the hand-fireplace, she felt her heart fill with warmth. She passed a bottle of pills for Aunt Nan. "Aunt Nan, this is for you, you have been taking care of the Queen and if you take a few of the pills, you will feel much better."

Aunt Nan was startled. Then she felt a little embarrassed. She was just a maid and she did not have to eat this.

She was about to turn her down, when Gu Chaoyan stuffed the bottle into her hands directly. Then she left.

It was still snowing a little on her way out. Gu Chaoyan watched the snow-covered court as well as the falling snowflakes.

The court was a cage where people got eaten up. Something she was really aware of by this point.

One man could be pretentious for more than two decades for his own sake.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head.

Power was a wonderful thing. It could dominate too many people's destiny. Gu Chaoyan had always wanted to stay away from this place where power prevailed, but now she was aware that she just could not get rid of this place. Or maybe, the only way to make herself truly free was to make herself the dominator.

Gu Chaoyan was just thinking about this when a mild voice sounded. "What are you thinking? You are so distracted.

Gu Chaoyan got startled, then she saw the smiling face of Zhou Huaijin, who took her umbrella and held it for her, as the two of them started to walk out of the court.

Zhou Huaijin was already aware of what happened to the Queen.

Maybe in everyone's eyes, it was a very saddening thing, but no one knew the truth.

For Zhou Huaijin and the Queen, it was a cheerful thing. Moving out of the court meant moving out of the cage. That was indeed a great matter.

The couple walked through the court's alleyways and came to the gate under one umbrella. Then they headed towards the mansion.

The Queen moved out of the court after three days. It was snowing heavily then, but the Empress Dowager did not seem to have the patience to wait until two days later, when it would not snow this much.

That troubled the King a great deal..

Chapter 723:

Xunyang Missing

The town wasn't very close by and it was now snowing heavily. On top of that, Jiang Shuang was not in good health and she would get worse after the long trip.

"Mother, does she have to leave today?" The King looked at the snow and found the whole thing improper. She could just move out the court whenever she wanted, not necessarily on this day!

Hearing what the King asked, the Empress Dowager felt even more resolute.

It was just snow and if she did not leave, then the King would not want her to leave even by New Year's Eve! That was what the Saint Divine Land was like in winter, it was always snowing and never sunny.

"Since the day is already settled and the arrangement done, we should not postpone the trip. The Queen is not an ordinary person, and the preparation process isn't that simple either," the Empress Dowager said seriously. "King, just leave that to me."

The King opened his mouth, but said nothing.

Okay, she could leave now. She could just return on New Year's Eve.

He sighed, then he arranged for the Queen to leave the court.

Only Aunt Nan was with her on the way out, and it was not publicly announced either. The Queen left the court in secret and neither Zhou Huaijin nor Gu Chaoyan were allowed to see her off.

The wagon drove out steadily and peacefully.

When they came to the town everything was arranged properly. The guards had been replaced by Zhou Huaijin's men and Zhao Yiqiu also moved there. The Queen would get increasingly weak in health in later stages, but with Zhao Yiqiu around, everyone would be much more assured.

Everything seemed to go much more smoothly, after the Queen left the court.

Xiu Jie also managed to find the store for the clinic.

Xiu Jie had been in charge of the whole arrangement, so the store was immediately bought when Xiu Jie spotted the right one.

It was located in a relatively more isolated alleyway in the capital. However, despite the isolated environment, the location was perfect, quiet and tranquil, very suitable for running a clinic.

Next to the clinic was a store that was selling study tools. Gu Chaoyan took a look at the store and was very satisfied with it. After the New Year, she was going to get the renovation done and open the clinic formally.

As for the renovation process...

Xiu Jie would be in charge of that as well.

Gu Chaoyan never asked how the process went.

As they returned to the mansion from the clinic, Gu Chaoyan noticed that the air was a little different. It was quite strange and serious inside the mansion, where many imperial eunuchs were present.

Normally, there would be just one or two eunuchs if it was just about passing on the imperial order, but apart from De Fu this time, some other eunuchs were present as well, including the imperial army.

De Fu looked at Gu Chaoyan with no expression on his face. "Where have you been, Lady Chaoyan?"

"I took a walk outside." Gu Chaoyan answered calmly.

Then come with me, since you are back." De Fu said straightforwardly rather than pass on any normal message.

He had just said these words when the imperial army took a step forward and came to Gu Chaoyan, fearing that she would flee.

Sword One shielded Gu Chaoyan, not allowing anyone to approach her.

Gu Chaoyan answered peacefully. "Let's just leave."

De Fu led her away.

As they came to the Qianqing Palace, Zhou Huaijin was present too. He gave Gu Chaoyan an assuring look as he slightly patted her hands.

The King said straightforwardly as he saw everyone present. "Xunyang is missing!"

Chapter 724: You Bastard

Ever since the King made the promise to Xuan Lin that Xunyang would be marrying him, the King visited Xunyang's palace personally. He had thought that Xunyang would not do anything other than being displeased. She would understand him taking the general situation into consideration, but Xunyang was not willing to accept what he had asked her to do, nor did the Queen.

The King had also been aware that he wasn't doing that well to Xunyang, and he had not asked why Xunyang was absent these days and away from the imperial banquet, because he was feeling too guilty to face Xunyang. Therefore, he was expecting that Xunyang should be left alone so that she could understand the whole thing completely so as to accept it.

Xuan Lin was the Prince of one of the lands, it was just that the North Qi Land was not very close. So he ignored Xunyang's side completely, as he had his own ideas in mind. However, when he went to tell Xunyang about what happened to the Queen, he found that Xunyang was not in the palace at all. And those maids and servants in the palace were panicking as well.

She was missing, there was no other explanation for that.

The King was furious, but he did not dare to spread the news around. After all, Xunyang had been ordered to be given to Xuan Lin, and if Xuan Lin knew about this, he would make a big fuss about it. Anyway, the only suspects he could think of were Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan.

Xunyang was Zhou Huaijin's sister. And Zhou Huaijin did not like it when Xunyang was granted an imperial marriage.

So under such circumstances, the King suspected that it was the two of them who had done something. There could not have been anyone else who did it.

The King looked serious and glanced at Zhou Huaijin and Gu Chaoyan as he bellowed furiously, "Bas**rds, have you two got anything to do with Xunyang going missing!"

"..."

"Don't you understand that the country is more important than anything else! He is not the Young Master of the Gu Family, who you can hit if you want to so that he doesn't dare to marry Xunyang! He is the Prince Xuan Lin! You can't hit him, but you took away the bride!"

"..."

"Don't you know that it is a very serious matter? I have already made the imperial announcement, and Xunyang's marriage to that Prince can strengthen the relationship between the two countries! Who will marry the Prince of the North Qi Land when Xunyang is missing! If there is trouble arising between the two countries, hundreds of thousands of lives will be disrupted in the war!"

"..."

"You are bastards, bastards! Where is Xunyang?! Say it now!" the King said worriedly. If not for the sake of the Queen, he would not have tried to talk sense into them, he would have used punishments to force the words out.

"I have no idea." Zhou Huaijin answered.

The King's face changed. He was about to snap at him when The Empress Dowager next to him added. "Lord Huai, if Xunyang is ordered to marry anyone in the Saint Divine Land, you can do whatever you want, but this time is different. It is about the North Qi Land! You can't just act this childishly as before.

"You are not young any more, you became an adult ages ago, and you are engaged already too! It is not time for you to play around. It is okay since it was discovered now, but honestly speaking, you have to tell us the truth in order to save the whole situation. Then the King will not blame anyone for this mistake." The Empress Dowager was speaking in a way as if she were speaking with a naughty child.

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In this way, she was able to deepen the King's impression upon Zhou Huaijin's childish behaviors, and make him believe that he was a man like this.

Chapter 725: My Decision!

When The Empress Dowager finished speaking, the King found that her words made sense.

He had been spoiling Lord Huai since he was little, and he could understand that he might lose his temper somehow. And now Xunyang being missing was just a tiny matter known to a few people and it could be retrieved. As long as he could bring her back, he could drop this and pretend nothing had ever happened.

The King looked at Zhou Huaijin seriously. He was waiting for him to make the confession.

Zhou Huaijin, however, still had no expression on his face, despite what the Empress Dowager said.

“You think I did it, father?” Zhou Huaijin smiled ironically. “I am a spoiled Lord, but I am not a stupid person. Xunyang is my sister, but why should I stop her from marrying the prince of the North Qi Land or steal her away?”

“...”

“Well, the court is always well-guarded, and even when I tried to visit my mother, I could only visit her in the court based on the rules. It is utterly impossible for me to take away a princess!”

“...”

“Then why should I stop Xunyang from marrying the Prince of the North Qi Land? The Prince of the North Qi Land is a huge difference from the Young Master of the Gu Family. What does the Young Master of the Gu Family have? He might be flourishing right now, but he is just a minor minister. Xuan Lin, on the other hand, is the Prince, and he is going to take the throne of the North Qi Land! I would be protected with guarantee if my own sister is able to marry someone like that! Why should I stop Xunyang from marrying him? That was a great deal for me!”

“...”

“I also want to find Xunyang right now, why would you suspect that it is my plan?” Zhou Huaijin looked very confused.

Hearing what Zhou Huaijin said, the King felt totally shocked. No one had ever thought about this level.

For Zhou Huaijin, it was indeed a great deal, and he did not have to turn it down.

The King’s expression became even more serious.

He had found that he had taken everything too simply. He had made a huge mistake. If Zhou Huaijin had not done that, then the person who did not want Zhou Huaijin to get the deal would be the biggest suspect.

Who could that be?

The King fell into contemplation.

The Empress Dowager had noticed the changing situation. She found that things were turning in a very weird direction.

She had never expected that Zhou Huaijin had become so thoughtful and good at argument. She took a look at Zhou Huaijin and then at Gu Chaoyan.

The Empress Dowager had a terrible look on her face.

She had allowed the King to approve of the marriage, because she wanted Zhou Huaijin to marry some notorious woman so that Zhou Huaijin could be in an advantageous situation, but what she had not expected... Was that this woman was sinister and tricky. She had even made Zhou Huaijin even more tricky.

If the King kept thinking alongside what he had analyzed, things would turn ugly.

The Empress Dowager interrupted him directly. "King, you have to look into this matter. The Queen has always objected to Xunyang getting married to someone faraway."

The King looked at his own mother. He found that his mother was getting too old to think clearly. How could she suspect the Queen and Lord Huai under such circumstances?

The King, who had been very furious, snapped seriously as he looked at the Empress Dowager. "Mother, just take care of what happens back in the harem. Xunyang's absence is something I need to deal with, you can just drop it. I have my own ideas."

The Empress Dowager was startled..

She looked the King straight in the eyes.

The King was always easily persuaded, and was never resolute. He never had any idea of what should be done and what should not be done. She had been devoted to teaching him and guiding him about how to become a good prince, a lord and whom to marry so as to get the biggest benefits so that the women would trust him.

All the way to the present day, the King had always obeyed what she said. Sometimes he would make decisions personally, but those were just minor matters which the Empress Dowager did not care about, or she just gave him a boost in the end.

Today was the first time for the King to snap at her and stop her from doing anything more.

The Empress Dowager looked at the King and suddenly realized that the King was no longer young. The King always said that he was in his flourishing years, but he was almost in his 50s, and there were grey hairs on his head. He had his own opinions now. He did not want to follow her plan any more.

The Queen was one thing, and what was going on now was another.

The Empress Dowager's eyes sank.

The King also found that something was wrong. He softened his eyes. "Mother, I just mean that you are too old to care about everything. I can deal with everything myself."

"If that is the case, I will drop it here," the Empress Dowager said angrily, then she left with her own servants.

The King looked at her retreating figure and said nothing.

The Empress Dowager was not very happy about this, but she was a woman and she had not thought beyond the surface. It was not that easy to deal with what happened to Xunyang now.

The King looked up at Zhou Huaijin. "We have to find Xunyang, but we should not spread this news. You can get your men to do the searching and I will arrange it properly. Also don't mention what you are here for today. New Year is around the corner, and we should at least celebrate the New Year well."

Zhou Huaijin nodded, then he and Gu Chaoyan left the Qianqing Palace.

Since the Queen was not in the court, they did not stay in the court any more, but left overnight. Then they returned to the mansion.

Only then did Zhou Huaijin shake his head.

He understood what his father was like – he was always dubious and ambitious, and as long as he spoke in an ambitious way, he would trust him.

That was all for Xunyang.

“Xunyang is doing well, isn’t she?” Gu Chaoyan asked.

“Everything is settled. She might be lonely for a while, but just for a while, all will be well.” Zhou Huaijin said.

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

“The King would not suspect us any more, right?” That was what Gu Chaoyan was worried about.

“No, the most dangerous place is the safest place.” Zhou Huaijin said happily, “The person who is most likely to do this is always the person who is least likely to do this.”

Gu Chaoyan punched him slightly on his chest, thinking that Zhou Huaijin was indeed evil, but the Empress Dowager and the King believed that he was a spoiled prince, so they did not think that he was a threat.

She shook her head.

That was so annoying and funny.

On the day after Xunyang went missing. Xuan Lin went into the court. His face was almost recovered, and he still had injuries on his body, but despite the fact, he still came to the court.

He was very unconvinced. He had not even gotten a single woman for ten magical monsters. So how terrible was Princess Xunyang, for the King to be willing to exchange her for the five magical monsters?

He did not want to take responsibility, so he wanted to see the Princess

The moment the King saw Xuan Lin, he was startled.

It was just a few days’ time and Prince of the North Qi Land had gotten so terribly injured. He was the Prince of the North Qi Land and was in the Saint Divine Land. Who would dare to do such a thing to him? How did he get injured, and why did he receive no news.

“Prince, what happened to your face?” The King asked cautiously.

Xuan Lin’s eyes sank as he thought of Zhou Huaijin, but he did not dare to reveal the truth in front of the King, so he had to hide it and decided to take revenge when he got the chance in the future.

He forced a smile facing the King. “Nothing, some women are just not that obedient. It is just some personal affairs.”

The King smiled timidly.

When women were mentioned... He truly wanted to drop the topic. His own wives were in a mess and his daughter was granted to Xuan Lin... but she was gone. The King did not want to get embarrassed. So he asked straightforwardly. "What is your business?"

Xuan Lin now realized that he was here for some real business. He said straightforwardly, "I am here to meet Princess Xunyang. Normally, I should have seen her at the banquet, but Princess Xunyang was said to have not been feeling well. Whatever the reason was, I have to see her."

When the King heard that his face changed. He had sent the imperial army to search every corner of the court, but she was nowhere to be seen. So he sent his men to search outside the court, but no news had arrived.

However, Xuan Lin was asking to see her right now. How could he bring her here?

The King had a terrible look on his face and after a long while, he said, "Prince of North Qi, we have rules here. You only meet on the wedding day, or it would not be auspicious."

Xuan Lin frowned. He couldn't care less about those rules.

"We don't have the same rules. Whatever the reason is, I have to see her, or I won't take her away," Xuan Lin said without showing any politeness.

He could not feel assured without seeing her. He felt that the King had set him up.

If Princess Xunyang was such a great princess, why would he nod at the deal so fast?

Maybe she was too ugly to marry anyone, so the King found a man who was willing to marry her and pushed her away so that he could get some benefits along the way.

Xuan Lin found the whole thing becoming very weird.

"If she doesn't want to meet me, I can take a distant look at her as she sits in the garden. I don't have to do anything with Princess Xunyang, just a look at what she is like." Xuan Lin replied with a better excuse.

Well...

That was still a huge problem for the King. He could not just pull her out of nowhere!

De Fu next to him whispered. "King, Prince of the North Qi has not met Princess Xunyang, so he just wants to see her look. Well, we have Princess Xunyang's portrait!"

Hearing these words, the King felt totally relieved.

That was right!

"Okay, go and get the portrait!" the King said with a smile.

De Fu nodded and went to obey the order.

After a sip of tea, De Fu was back in a hurry.

The King found it strange. "So fast?"

De Fu shook his head. He whispered to the King and said, "I just heard the news, something is wrong with the Queen!"

Chapter 728: Satisfied?

Translator: Henyee Translations **Editor:** Henyee Translations

Normally, it was very uncommon for the Queen to return, when she was asked to move out. So De Fu did not have to take over the task of reporting everything about her, but during the recent period, De Fu could tell that the King did not hate the Queen. Instead, he was thinking about her all the time.

When the Queen recovered, she was definitely coming back to the court. Since that was the case, De Fu had to pay attention to that. Therefore, he asked his subordinate to fetch the portrait whilst he reported the situation to the King.

The King's heart skipped a beat as he heard the news about the Queen. He was most worried about the Queen at the moment.

She was alone in the town, and despite the excellent environment, it was still not the well-facilitated court. They needed to make full preparations, but the King believed that she was coming home soon. Yet even to this moment, she was still suffering.

"What happened?" The King looked serious. If the situation was bad, he had to pay a visit. He needed to bring her home, otherwise something terrible might happen.

De Fu looked at the King. He realized that he had made the right bet. The King cared very much about The Queen.

He said with a small voice. "The messenger said that the Queen is getting worse. She must have caught a cold on the way under such snowy weather. The road there wasn't that smooth, so she coughed blood the moment she arrived. Everyone in the town got frightened, and doctors were asked to come, but she is not recovering, so the message was sent here."

De Fu found the whole thing strange.

When the Queen left the court, she had not been in a good status. And she wasn't doing well on the way there either.

That was what people in the town usually did – they only reported major events and concealed the small ones. So when the message arrived in the court, it basically meant that it was a serious matter.

It was difficult to make a decision whether she should be brought back here or not, but he was still a servant, so he had to let the King make the decision.

The King's expression sank. Hearing the news, he not only felt uncomfortable, but also furious.

When the Queen left, it had already been snowing really heavily. She could have waited for a couple of more days before leaving, but it had been the Empress Dowager who insisted that she should leave. Now something terrible happened.

The King suddenly felt a touch of grudge.

He understood that the Queen was from the Jiang Family and Honored Princess Jing was from the Yao Family, so that the Empress Dowager preferred Honored Princess Jing, but the Queen was after all, his Queen, and he had already dropped his grudge. And the Empress Dowager should consider his feelings. The Empress Dowager did not have to drive the Queen into a desperate corner, seeing that he still had feelings for her.

The King was about to say something, when an eunuch came in.

He was holding the portrait.

The King had to stop himself from saying anything more and looked at the Prince of the North Qi. He was still present and should be dealt with directly first.

"Show the portrait to the Prince." The King stressed and said, "This is the portrait put in the special palace, where the imperial children's portraits are kept. The painter updates a portrait of each of them every year, and this is a portrait painted on Xunyang's birthday. She has not changed much, please take a look at it."

Xuan Lin unrolled the portrait and was startled.

"Satisfied?" the King asked.

Xuan Lin looked at the portrait.

The young girl looked pretty and shining. There was a touch of herotic air between her eyebrows, totally different from the King in front of him. The King was handsome too, but he was like Lord Ling, who only had the look, not the air and the temperament. Princess Xunyang, however, looked very clever.

It was a different kind of beauty from that of Lady Chaoyan.

Lady Chaoyan was a very cold-looking beauty, and she had a strong air of herself. Princess Xunyang, on the other hand, was not only clever-looking, but also herotic.

It seemed that he had thought too much back at the hotel. He had thought that Princess Xunyang was granted to him so easily because she was not good looking or intelligent enough, but it seemed that he had gotten a piece of treasure for himself.

He had not thought about giving her any title, but it seemed that he was going to make her at least a concubine.

Xuan Lin was very satisfied. He looked at the King and smiled. "Princess Xunyang is very beautiful, I am very satisfied too. I am just curious, who is her mother?"

"The Queen." The King said, sounding muffled.

Xuan Lin was startled. He just could not understand.

It seemed that the King of the Saint Divine Land was also a very cold-hearted person. He was giving out his daughter for five magical monsters.

However, that was not something Xuan Lin should consider. Since he already got what he wanted, he did not stay any longer. He did not even think that he had gotten a good princess, whom he liked.

He took the portrait and left. "I will be off now. Can I keep the portrait?"

The King truly was not in a good mood to argue about this.

He waved his hands at Xuan Lin's request. "Just bring it away, the painter can just do a new one for Xunyang around this time of the year."

Xuan Lin accepted the portrait happily and left directly.

The King frowned. He was still worried about what happened to the Queen. "De Fu."

De Fu nodded.

The King was about to say something when the Empress Dowager arrived.

The King was not very happy at the sight of the Empress Dowager. "What are you doing here, mother?"

The Empress Dowager looked at the King. She knew that he must have heard some news from the town.

The King was very concerned about what happened in the town, and he even arranged his own men to watch the situation. The Empress Dowager heard the news too from a hurried messenger.

She was worried that the King would run to the town because he was worried about what happened there. So she said, "I am here to tell you about what happened in the town. The staff there said that she is not feeling well, and I have gotten five imperial doctors to check up on her."

"It seems that she has not been in good health these days, and the doctors say that it is generated from the cold. The imperial doctors should be able to handle it. There are many things for you to worry about these days around the New Year, and I don't think that it will be a problem," the Empress Dowager said with a serious look on her face.

Hearing these words, the King felt slightly assured.

He looked at the Empress Dowager and confirmed. "So you are sure it is not a big deal?"

The Empress Dowager nodded too.

"Nope. Let's wait and see what the imperial doctors say when they get back, and then I will tell you what happens." The Empress Dowager made a promise.

That convinced the King.

De Fu showed an expression of helplessness.

He opened his mouth.

Chapter 730: Food

However, the Empress Dowager glanced at De Fu fiercely, so De Fu stayed silent directly.

That was not what he had heard. The Queen was seriously ill but the Empress Dowager had made it sound as if nothing serious had happened.

De Fu was the King's man, and he was loyal to him, not to the Empress Dowager, but he was, after all, a servant.

When he was warned by the Empress Dowager in this way, he did not dare to spill the truth.

Seeing that De Fu had chosen not to spill the truth, the Empress Dowager felt assured and said, "King, just return to your own business, I will be off now. There are many errands to deal with in the court around this time of the year, and Honored Princess Jing is too busy to do everything alone. I have to give her a hand."

The King nodded and took over a petition, instead of dwelling upon the Empress Dowager's words. He asked the Empress Dowager to take good care of herself and then continued to get on with his business.

The Empress Dowager sank her eyes, then she started to walk outside the Qianqing Palace.

She had been the one that set up the Jiang Family, and the plan went very well, but what she had not expected was that the King would truly have fallen for Jiang Shuang, which made the whole thing a bit complicated. When she mentioned Honored Princess Jing, the King gave no attention to her. That did not seem like a proper situation.

Well... She was going to finish Jiang Shuang this winter. Otherwise she was going to cause a lot of trouble.

The Empress Dowager sighed and headed towards her Cining Palace.

At the Qianqing Palace, the King did not dwell on the Queen's health any more when he heard that nothing serious was going on. De Fu was serving him beside, and the whole matter was gradually forgotten.

At the mansion.

Gu Chaoyan also heard about what happened in the town.

Seeing Zhou Huaijin back, she asked instantly, "Nothing is wrong with the Queen, is there?"

Zhou Huaijin shook his head, sipped the tea and said calmly, "Nothing serious. Mr. Zhao says that everything is going accordingly. The less healthy mother looks, the better it is. When she reaches the end of this old life, she will be reborn as new. Mr. Zhao is looking after her now in the town, so mother asked me to come home."

Gu Chaoyan let out a sigh of relief.

Good.

Although she knew that it was a complication caused by the medicine, she just could not help feeling worried. So what Zhou Huaijin said made her feel assured.

Many small things happened here and there around this time of the year, and New Year's Eve arrived. Guarding the Year End was the most important event at night.

Women were normally not invited to be present in the court for the New Year's Eve banquet.

The King normally granted food to different mansions, and the more a mansion got, the more important the mansion's position would be.

Gu Chaoyan had already moved out of her family's mansion, so she did not get any granted food, but she did not care.

She, together with Qing, Xiu Jie and many others, ate one big dinner together.

Although there were servant-and-lady rules prevailing in the mansion, Gu Chaoyan did not want any of them to be lonely at this time of the year, so she asked them to drop the rules and eat dinner together.

Qing was always on good terms with Gu Chaoyan, so she felt no stress, but Xiu Jie was feeling very uncomfortable.

As for the Four Swords, Sword Three and Four barely spoke, but Sword Two talked a lot. As for Sword One... She was gossiping about which mansion received the largest amount of granted food.

That was what Sword One found most fun about every year.

Gu Chaoyan did not want to hammer down her passion, so she let her talk.. She even asked her, "Sword One, have you heard who receives the largest amount of granted food this year?"