

Divine 81

Chapter 81: Confidence

At Jingxin Hut.

Gu Chaoyan had no idea what Mrs. Lin said about her as she was drinking the tea.

Qing had already done the packing and came pouring the tea for Gu Chaoyan.

As Lin Jiaying came in, he happened to run into this beautiful scene. Suddenly, he thought of his deceased sister. Before his sister got married, she was like this too. She liked to sit in the room, drinking tea. If only she were still alive... Lin Jiaying stopped thinking any more about that. He let out a sigh and walked into the room.

Seeing him walking in, Gu Chaoyan got up. "Hi, Uncle."

Lin Jiaying's eyes were watering. He nodded with a smile and gave her the box in his arms.

The box was made of sanders, small, exquisite and well-weathered. Gu Chaoyan opened the box and took out the list. The paper felt very thick. She knew instantly how abundant her mother's dowries had been.

Her grandfather treated Gu Chaoyan's mother very nicely.

At this time Gu Chaoyan got startled too, though she had been prepared.

So much!

That was indeed a lot of dowries.

No wonder Madam Gu and Gu Zhenkang still took Mrs. Lin in, although they never respected her for being the daughter of a business family.

It was a little bit difficult to get the Gu Family to return all of these back to her.

Seeing Gu Chaoyan's behavior, Lin Jiaying asked. "Chaoyan, what made you want to read the list?" Lin Jiaying added directly, "Oh yes, you are turning 15 in spring next year and soon you are getting married. So it is reasonable that you are checking on your dowries."

There was a clause of law in the Saint Divine Land.

The bride's dowries belonged to herself. Unless she herself agreed, her husband's family was never allowed to have a hand in them. Also, the dowries would be passed down to the bride's daughter. Lin Jiaying knew that Chaoyan was his sister's only daughter, so these were Chaoyan's anyway.

That was why he did not ask anything more.

Gu Chaoyan looked up at Lin Jiaying. She just could not believe that a businessman like her uncle could be so honest?

"Uncle, why do you trust the Gu Family so deeply? Why do you believe that they would give all of those dowries to me?" Gu Chaoyan asked.

“Dowries are supposed to be passed down to the daughter.” Lin Jiaying said firmly without extra thoughts.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head with a smile. No wonder the Gu Family never had difficulty in getting whatever they wanted.

That was only because the Lin Family were way too innocent.

No wonder her uncle would have kept the angry words said by Gu Chaoyan for such a long time.

“A few days ago, Madame Gu discussed something with me. She said that she wants me to give up my position as the lineal daughter for the Second Sister Gu Ruxue, because she is going to marry a noble family like Duke Changning, and she needs the position.” Gu Chaoyan said calmly. “Uncle, do you think that a family who wants a position like this would understand anything about rules and stick to them?”

“What?” Lin Jiaying struck hard on the table, and the tea from the cup spilled out. “How dare they!”

Lin Jiaying’s face turned red because of fury. With fists clenched, he said, “How dare they raise such a proposal! I will talk with them now!”

Gu Chaoyan grabbed his arm. Her heart felt warmed.

“Uncle, don’t worry. I have a plan for this.”

Chapter 82: With Lord Huai

“You?” Lin Jiaying said with a look of disbelief.

However, seeing Gu Chaoyan’s brief smile and calm face, he soon gained back his composure and felt gratified.

He had not fully believed that the girl only needed the dowry list to cure Jiashu, but now he did. He might be honest, but he was not stupid as a businessman. He knew that this girl was paving the road for herself.

He was not that worried any more. “Chaoyan, you have become different. You are more useful than me.”

“...”

“When your grandfather passed away, I couldn’t even keep our position as the imperial court family. If not for me, your mother would not have been stricken so hard and passed away too.” Lin Jiaying was truly saddened, as if he had just thought of the past, grieving memory.

However, what he said made Gu Chaoyan understand.

Gu Chaoyan’s mother had been dead for years, but she had never tried to find out the cause, but what Uncle said did not make sense to her.

“How did mother pass away?” Gu Chaoyan asked.

“When your grandfather passed away, your mother grieved so deeply that she collapsed. During that period, the Lin Family were already turning into chaos because of what happened to your grandfather,

so nobody noticed your mother. What the Gu Family told us was that she was suffering because of sorrow. When our status as the imperial business family was stolen, your mother could not stand it any more and died. It was my fault, totally my fault. I am so useless!" Lin Jiaying, a strong man, burst out in tears as he mentioned the past.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head. She did not think that it was that simple.

The original Gu Chaoyan remembered that her mother was not someone who cared so much about the social status or money, otherwise she would not have married someone so ordinary like Gu Zhenkang! She did not believe that a woman like that would pass away just because her family's status had been removed.

Also, she was now a doctor... She did not think that the whole thing made any medical sense.

Gu Chaoyan's mother might have been saddened because of grandfather's death, but she could not possibly die out of sorrow within a short period of time.

It seemed that something weird was going on inside.

Gu Chaoyan just could not stand that any more.

Although she was just a soul from a strange world, since she took up the original host's body, she should not ignore what was going on around her.

"Do you really think that mom could get so saddened that she passed away within a short period of time?" Gu Chaoyan interrogated. She was a little angry. What a confused uncle!

Lin Jiaying was still in deep sadness but upon hearing her words he looked up. "You have suspicion?"

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

Lin Jiaying sprang up instantly. He looked lethal, yet did not have the impulse of taking revenge now. Instead he looked at Gu Chaoyan, waiting for her to say something. For some reason, he trusted Gu Chaoyan from the bottom of his heart. Maybe it was because she managed to cure Lin Jiashu, or maybe because of something else.

"Chaoyan, what is your plan?" Lin Jiaying asked.

"We need to do a thorough investigation. Let's just wait until I come to the Gu Family." Then she thought of something and said, "Don't tell anyone about what we discussed today."

"Got it." Lin Jiaying nodded. "I will see you out."

Gu Chaoyan nodded.

She must not waste any more time at the Lin Family. The Gu Family seemed to be much more evil than she had expected.

"Chaoyan, do you need some men from me? Qing alone might not work that well." Lin Jiaying asked as he saw Qing greeting him.

Rong Chuxuan was with her when they first came here, but now he was gone. Lin Jiaying thought that it was a man from the Gu Family and that Qing was the only servant of hers.

Gu Chaoyan shook her head briefly. "It is fine, Lord Huai has sent his men for me."

What?! Lin Jiaying's eyes widened. "Lord Huai? What is your relation with Lord Huai?"

Chapter 83: No Wonder

He had thought that he misheard her.

Lord Huai, really? The most noble lord of the Saint Divine Land, the lineal son of the Queen and the most beloved child of the King. The king did not even blame him for chopping off the arm of the minister's daughter. He was indeed a lethal man!

How did Chaoyan get to know anyone like him?

Seeing her uncle's overly startled look, Gu Chaoyan realized that she should not reveal her plan of marrying Lord Huai in the future.

Instead, she explained calmly. "We ran into each other at the Elder's mansion. He heard of my excellent medical skills and needs my help. So he dispatched several men for me to use."

Despite the explanation Lin Jiaying was still in shock.

So Lord Huai was asking her for help? Did she really mean that?

No wonder... No wonder Chaoyan was so confident. No wonder Chaoyan was bold enough to fight against the Gu Family.

Lin Jiaying turned extremely excited.

He hated the Gu Family for abandoning the Lin Family when they lost the status as the imperial business family. He hated it when they looked down at them for this reason, but now Chaoyan had befriended Lord Huai.

So... So if the Lin Family could ever regain the status as the imperial business family...

That would be beyond Lin Jiaying's imagination!

"Uncle, just stay here. I need to go home now." Gu Chaoyan said as she saw the wagon standing outside the door.

"Oh." Lin Jiaying brought back to himself. They had already come to the doorstep. What he had been thinking should not be mentioned at the moment. However, he could talk about that in the future.

"Chaoyan, after you get home, please inform me when you need anything."

Gu Chaoyan smiled and nodded, then she went into the wagon.

Standing at the doorstep and seeing the wagon disappearing, Lin Jiaying let out a sigh of relief and started to walk into the mansion. Then he laughed and felt like he was in a good mood.

He had intended to return to the study, when he thought of Lin Jiashu and took the turn to Chuyun Pavilion.

The situation at Chuyun Pavilion had already returned to normal under Mrs. Lin's control. Shui Lan was just a maid, and her becoming a concubine depended on one order from Mrs. Lin, who only needed to get them a nice room to get the whole thing settled.

Mrs. Lin was speaking with Lin Jiashu at the moment.

Seeing Lin Jiaying here, Mrs. Lin walked up and said with a smile. "Old Master, have you got what Chaoyan needs?"

"..."

"Chaoyan is not as mild as sister. She is quite intimidating. Please talk with her about it, okay? She splattered tea water over Jiashu just because he exchanged a few words with her. She would not make a good wife for any family!" Mrs. Lin sounded very gentle, just like a senior who cared deeply about a junior.

Lin Jiaying would not take it seriously if it had been the past, but now things were different.

Hearing what Mrs. Lin, he glared at her. "If you two had not misunderstood her, Chaoyan would not have gotten mad! Don't ever bad mouth Chaoyan in front of me. She is Jiashu's savior, don't you ever forget! You have to treat her nicely and politely."

Mrs. Lin's smiling face sank.

So now, Gu Chaoyan was more important than Jiashu in the Old Master's heart?

She did not dare to counter, but sat there in utter silence.

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At the Gu Mansion.

Gu Chaoyan had just come to the doorstep when Chen Fu came to her and showed a flattering smile. "Miss, Madame Gu is asking for you in the front yard, now."

Chapter 84: To the Imperial Court

"What is it?" Gu Chaoyan asked casually.

She had never been allowed to step into the front yard, but now she was asked to go there every time. They must be in need of something.

Chen Fu was the housekeeper, yet he was, after all a servant. So instead of saying anything in detail, he said with a pair of squinting eyes. "It is good news, just go there and take a look, Miss."

Gu Chaoyan nodded and walked towards the front yard.

Just like before, she asked Qing to go back to the Qiong Pavilion when she came to the front yard.

It was quite a bustling scene in the front yard.

Many maids were waiting outside the hall.

They were busy chatting when they suddenly quieted down as Gu Chaoyan came in. She threw a look at everyone around, only to find Madame Gu wearing a nice smile whilst no one else was showing a terrible expression. Especially Mrs. Gu and Gu Ruxue who had given her such a heavy glare.

“Greetings, Madame Gu, father, and Aunt Gu.” Gu Chaoyan stood there, greeting everyone.

Mrs. Gu’s face sank even more as she heard how Chaoyan addressed her. She snapped, “Lianxiang, go and slap on her face so she knows how she should address me!”

Lianxiang, the maid, who was standing next to Mrs. Gu, rolled up her sleeves and came to Gu Chaoyan.

Instead of showing any fear, Gu Chaoyan said clearly, “My mother is the one and the only Mrs. Gu of the whole family. You may have become the legal wife now, yet I did not pay you the tribute with tea when the ceremony was held! Without my tribute to you, I can not change the way you are addressed. That’s the rule. The Gu Family is a family of literacy, so manners and rules matter above all.”

Having said these words, Gu Chaoyan looked at Madame Gu and showed a brief smile. “Isn’t that true, Madame Gu?”

Madame Gu showed a brief smile. That was an implicit way of cursing her too.

When Mrs. Gu was raised to become the legal wife, Chaoyan was ugly, tanned and hideous, bad-tempered as well. Also, she was the lineal daughter of Mrs. Lin, and the Gu Family had not even intended to keep her. So the day when Mrs. Gu was raised, they ignored Gu Chaoyan’s tribute in tea for her.

Unexpectedly, that had become a laughing stock.

Mrs. Gu was not a nice person, but she was born in an official family. She was quite pleased to get her as the legal wife.

Gu Chaoyan was right about what she said. So what she had to do was to do the tribute ceremony.

“Alright, that’s all for this topic. I am asking you to come here because I have got something important to tell you. Princess Gu is hosting the banquet in the imperial court and asks us girls to be there as well. We had intended to invite you here from the Lin Family, but luckily you are here already. Good that you saved us the trouble.” Madame Gu said with a smile.

She was proud of Princess Gu. Princess Gu was the only person who made a name for the family.

Into the imperial court?

Before Gu Chaoyan had time to think about this, Gu Ruxue said like a proud peacock. “Please, Sister, don’t lose face for us in the court again this time.”

Chapter 85: Skills for Show

“All the ladies attending the banquet held by Princess Gu will need to show some skills. What else have you picked up during the past few years, apart from being mental.” Gu Xiuying followed up Gu Ruxue and interrogated.

She showed disdain in her eyes. "I would very much like to see if you are going there or not. We don't want to be affected in marriage because of you. You have humiliated us so badly already, that we from the Gu Family were laughed at for ten years in the capital. That was why Dad was never promoted in rank!"

Gu Xiuying just could not help but keep hoping that Gu Chaoyan would not go there.

Among all the ladies of the Gu Family, Gu Ruxue had been engaged with Prince, whilst Gu Caiqin was too young to go anywhere. However, Gu Xiuying never expected that an ugly woman like Gu Chaoyan would ever manage to marry anyone. So she was going to be the one that needed a suitor.

She was the concubine's daughter, so Madame Gu would not care about her at all. So she expected to show off a little in the court to get an excellent suitor. However, this hideous woman was coming along too!

That was not what Gu Xiuying liked.

"Mom, I don't think that you should take this hideous woman with us!" Hearing Gu Xiuying's words, Gu Zhenkang agreed as well. Now they were going to have the engagement with Duke Changning, and he had the possibility of going upwards. So this jinxed lady should not make the situation worse.

Well... That was what Madame Gu was worried about too, but... but for some reason, Princess Gu stressed that Gu Chaoyan should be attending the banquet.

Seeing Madam Gu's hesitation, Gu Ruxue got worried too. She had tried to irritate Chaoyan, but not really stopped her from attending. After all...

Gu Ruxue said after thinking for a while. "Dad, Madame Wang is attending the banquet too, so it would be best if Sister is with us, but..." As she was talking, Gu Ruxue looked at Gu Chaoyan with a commanding view. "But... you better understand what you should do and what you should not do. Or I won't be able to defend you, even if I become the Princess Consort in Duke Changning's Mansion in the future."

Gu Chaoyan looked at Gu Ruxue coldly. It seemed that Gu Ruxue wished very much to have her there.

That made her involuntarily try to remember one trip Gu Chaoyan took to the court with the Gu Family in her childhood. At that time, Gu Chaoyan was not ugly, tanned or chubby, but a very lovely doll. Because of that, Madame Gu liked bringing her into the court.

However, that was also when Gu Chaoyan's nightmare started.

Gu Ruxue and Gu Chaoyan both had to start to perform dances, but when Gu Chaoyan was dancing, her clothes were ripped open. A young girl like her stomped upon her own hem and got tripped over, then her clothes were off.

Those children from court and the officers started to laugh at her at the sight of the scene.

After that, Gu Chaoyan did not dare to step out of the Qiong Pavilion and kept herself cringed inside.

Then she turned uglier and chubbier in the Qiong Pavilion, and even Madame Gu was not bothered to take one more look at her.

At that time... how did the clothes get ripped open?

She had never thought about this before as a little girl. The whole Gu Family was soaked in humiliation so no one sought for the real reason, but today...

Gu Ruxue hoped that she could get into the court. And Gu Chaoyan could not help but think about this suggestion.

Could Gu Ruxue and her mother have done something about her clothes years back, and were they planning to do something this time again?

However, no matter what it would be, Gu Chaoyan was not afraid of those plans. She was going to pay them back severely!

With her eyes upon Gu Ruxue, Gu Chaoyan showed a brief smile.

Chapter 86: Helping Second Sister

Seeing her smile, Gu Ruxue could not help but feel her hair standing on the neck. However, it took just a few moments before Gu Ruxue regained her confidence.

Why did she need to fear this ugly woman? She threw a perfect smile.

“Well, it seems that Chaoyan is the miss of the Gu Family too, we of course are bringing her with to the court. I will talk with her about what you are worried about.” Madame Gu clicked the cane and said, “That’s all for today, just go and get ready for the court. Chaoyan, come to the Pear Yard with me.”

“Okay.” Gu Chaoyan replied courteously.

Madame Gu nodded with satisfaction.

Gu Zhenkang was about to say something when Madame Gu threw him a glare, stopping him completely. Then he turned to Gu Chaoyan. “You ugly woman, if you dare to humiliate me, I will not show you any mercy!”

Gu Chaoyan frowned and was extremely furious inwardly. She had never seen a father like this, but she could not do anything about him now. So she just threw him a very cold look. Then she turned around and followed Madame Gu.

They were silent on the way as they went all the way to the Pear Yard.

Pear Yard was probably the most beautifully-decorated place in the whole mansion.

The golden roof and the stone wall were decorated with all kinds of bird patterns with beautiful colors. The carpets were of beautiful embroideries, showing radiant flame.

Gu Zhenkang, the highest-ranked officer in the Gu Family, was working at the temple, so the reason why Madame Gu was able to live in such a luxurious yard was probably because of her mother’s dowries... It was time for her to get everything back.

Madame Gu was walking in front of her, so she had no idea what Gu Chaoyan was thinking.

In Madame Gu’s eyes, Gu Chaoyan had been a very obedient person.

It was not until Madame Gu took a seat that she said slowly, "Do you know what I need to tell you, when I asked you to come here?"

Gu Chaoyan shook her head. If Madame Gu had not asked her to sit down, she should not have.

"You are going into the court the day after tomorrow, you have to be very discreet about how to behave and what to say, after all the court is very different. Don't mention a thing about what you experienced in childhood. And be sure not to do anything wrong this time; obey Ruxue carefully."

"..."

"And do not be unconvinced and displeased. Ruxue is your second sister, she is prettier and smarter than you, she is one of the most talented girls in the Saint Divine Land. Now she is going to be the Princess Consort, so listen to her and help her, all will be fine."

"..."

"As long as you listen and help her, she will know that you are a good girl and she will help you when you need it."

"..."

"Got it?" Madame Gu asked. She would not have said a thing in the past, but now Gu Chaoyan stood out for her medical skills and prescriptions, so she had to remind her for the two sisters. If Chaoyan could help Ruxue with her medical skills, Ruxue was definitely going to have a better and better life. Only in this way would the Gu Mansion become better too.

Instead of replying directly, Gu Chaoyan said, with eyes gazing at Madame Gu, "What makes you so sure it will be me asking her for help, not her asking me for help?"

Chapter 87: The Sea

Hearing the words, Madame Gu laughed.

Young people always liked dreaming.

"Chaoyan, it is good that you are ambitious, but you have to get a clear understanding of yourself. You may be skilled with some medical knowledge, but families with high social statuses would not marry you as the wife just because of that point!

"..."

"You have just returned from the Lin Family, and you are pretty aware of how the Lin Family treated you. That is what business families are like, let alone official families. You think you are going to have a better future than your Second Sister?" Madame Gu said in a mocking tone, laughed and shook her head.

No wonder Chaoyan insisted on going to get the list of dowries from the Lin Family. She was trying to get herself a good family to marry.

However, the result turned out to be the same as she had assumed.

“Don’t worry. I will watch out for your marriage. We may not be able to find an excellent suitor, yet he won’t be a terrible one either.” Madame Gu promised. “Just try to think through these matters, you will understand it all. Alright, you can leave now.”

Gu Chaoyan smiled coldly.

Just because she was not as pretty as Gu Ruxue or as smart, she was going to have a worse future compared to her?

She would like to see what expression Madame Gu would have on her face the day when she married Lord Huai.

For now, she was not bothered to argue about that at all. So she went back to her residence directly.

At Qiong Pavilion.

Qing had already gotten the hot water ready.

Seeing Chaoyan coming home, she helped her with the bath and asked casually, “Miss, what did Madame Gu call you for?”

“We are going to the imperial court.”

“What?!” Qing suddenly ceased her moving hands that helped her with the blouse. “Miss, did you say yes? Let’s not go there. What if something terrible happens again!”

Gu Chaoyan looked at Qing.

She was worried, but she had no idea how to put her points forward.

“What something terrible?”

“I mean... Miss, did you forget what happened when you were little?” Qing got so anxious that she almost stomped her feet. She looked so worried. “Miss, you became the way you look after you visited the imperial court, now you are getting better....”

She knew what Qing was worried about. Gu Chaoyan patted her shoulders. “Don’t worry, nothing terrible will happen this time.”

Qing looked at her miss who seemed calm. She became calm again.

For some reason, she started to trust her own miss after she was rescued from the lake.

When Miss said that nothing would happen, she believed that nothing would happen.

Qing continued to help her with her clothes, then went outside while she was taking the bath.

Gu Chaoyan did not like it when someone watched her as she was taking a bath.

After Qing left the room. As she had always been doing, she squeezed out the magical water with her consciousness. However, what became different this time was that she saw a well in her mind, a well that had nothing inside.

In the meanwhile, she got a few more drops of water out of her fingers.

That was a change that startled Chaoyan.

It seemed as if she had gotten all the fortune she needed.

Again, Gu Chaoyan delved into her consciousness to observe the well even more carefully.

Chapter 88: The Qiong Pavilion

The well was dry, but she seemed to see some things around the well. Some unknown yet withered plants were surrounding the well.

Gu Chaoyan intended to observe more carefully when the image faded, and she lost a lot of energy too.

After she had a short break, she asked Qing to come in and put on a blouse for her.

Qing smiled brightly after she saw Gu Chaoyan who had just stepped out of the bathtub. She dressed her and said, "Miss, the aloe vera juice and medicine you use work so well. You are much thinner and fairer than before. No one would ever dare to call you ugly in the future."

"..."

"Honestly, Madame was very beautiful too, and you resemble her a great deal. You are going to be pretty, look at you, you have lost so much weight." Qing mumbled.

In the past Gu Chaoyan would have thought Qing annoying, but she had gotten used to her babbling during the past few days. Qing was true to her, and Gu Chaoyan felt her heart warm hearing her nagging.

"Alright, you can go and have a rest now." Gu Chaoyan said with a smile.

Qing nodded. She helped Gu Chaoyan with the blanket and left the room.

Gu Chaoyan became exhausted after using too much of her consciousness, so she fell asleep directly as she laid on the bed. It was already the morning when she woke up again.

Qing helped her with her hair and clothes, and breakfast was delivered from the kitchen.

After Madame Gu gave the order, she received better treatment in the mansion. At least Qing did not have to queue up in the kitchen to get the food that was as bad as that given to the servants.

They had just eaten breakfast when the Qiong Pavilion became bustling.

A maid said that Second Miss was here.

Gu Ruxue? What was she doing here?

Before Gu Chaoyan thought it through, Gu Ruxue entered just like a peacock standing in the middle of a group of maids.

The moment Gu Ruxue entered the Qiong Pavilion, she frowned and sized up the whole place. "Sister, you aren't a particular woman, are you? There is nothing inside the room, and have you ever done any cleaning? The chair looks filthy!"

“Then you can just stand there.” Gu Chaoyan replied indifferently.

The stores and fields of Mrs. Lin’s dowries were still controlled by the Gu Family, and what they had given to Gu Chaoyan was the worst place of the whole mansion. Gu Ruxue had all the best stuff, so how shameless she was to dislike this place of hers. When she regained all the dowries, she was never going to become this proud.

Gu Ruxue snorted. She would not possibly stand. She just liked to make some complaints.

She pointed at the maid next to her and asked her to wipe it clean with a handkerchief, and then sat down unwillingly. “You think that I would like to take a seat here? It is my mother who is kind enough to get you clothes for the visit at the imperial court.”

She waved her hands. Then the maid placed the clothes upon the table.

“Just take a look at them to see if they work. Well, you have no right to dislike them, you have never worn such beautiful clothes before, right?” Gu Ruxue said as she stood up and was about to leave.

Gu Chaoyan leafed through the clothes. They were so ordinary, so she shrugged. “They are really ugly, you can bring them back.”

“You!” Gu Ruxue had not expected that Gu Chaoyan would dislike them. “You have to put them on no matter what. The visit to the imperial court isn’t a thing to be done casually. If you ever lose the Gu Family’s face, you will not be able to afford the consequence! Don’t ever think that I would defend you just because I am going to be the Princess Consort!”

Chapter 89: Conspiracy

Having said the words, Gu Ruxue snorted.

Then she left.

As they walked out of the pavilion, Gu Ruxue’s maid Ming’er asked anxiously, “Miss, what if the hideous girl doesn’t wear them?”

“Don’t worry, she will. She has never seen anything as good as those before. She may be stubborn now, but when the day comes, she will still wear them.” Gu Ruxue was confident. All women liked beautiful things. Even Gu Xiuying did not even get to wear those wonderful clothes. It would be ridiculous if the hideous woman turned them down.

The gang left without feeling unease.

In the room, Gu Chaoyan observed the clothes carefully.

Of course Gu Ruxue was not kind enough to get those clothes to her without any hidden plan.

She would like to see what the hidden plan was – could it be an issue with the sewing?

“Miss, what is the problem with the clothes?” Qing asked in confusion.

Gu Chaoyan nodded and observed it carefully.

Suddenly, she seemed to catch a strange smell, so light that it was almost invisible without careful observation.

Soon...

Gu Chaoyan found what was wrong with the clothes.

She checked the shoulder...

Gu Chaoyan sneered. "She did make many efforts to set me up. How did she come up with such a plan?"

Gu Chaoyan shook her head. "Qing, go and wash the clothes, and then sew them repeatedly."

"Miss, what is it with the clothes?" Qing asked. She had no idea what the problem was.

"The thread on the shoulder is the point. The thread must have been blended with alums and will break open when touched by water. So..." Gu Chaoyan just could not imagine what would happen to other girls if they ran into this issue. They might not even be able to live on because of this.

The guests needed to perform at the banquet... If the clothes came loose, then the news would spread all over the entire capital city.

Girls cared a great deal about reputation. If such a thing happened, marriage would never happen to them.

Gu Chaoyan had not had a good reputation, so if such a thing happened, Madame Gu would give her up directly. What would it matter if she was skilled in medicine? She would at most be a doctor or an imperial doctor.

Unfortunately, Gu Ruxue had placed the conspiracy on the wrong person.

She was not going to let her plan succeed.

Since Gu Ruxue dared to set her up, she would definitely pay her back. It was her motto to take revenge upon those who once framed her.

"Miss, how dare Second Miss treat you like this!" Qing was still in shock!

"If not for her, I would not have been like this at all." Gu Chaoyan smiled. "Don't worry, I won't be framed. Just go and do that."

Qing looked at her concernedly, but she went to wash the clothes.

Gu Chaoyan started mixing some medical powder. She knew what was on the clothes by the smell, and it was very easy to make a similar one.

It would be a very tremendously shocking scene, if the prettiest girl of the capital city had her clothes coming loose in public. After all, who would care about the loosened clothes of the ugliest girl? Gu Chaoyan thought inwardly.

Chapter 90: Slap

The day for the visit in the imperial court finally came. It was sunny.

No one dared to make Gu Chaoyan come late.

The visit to the imperial court was a very magnificent thing for the Gu Mansion, and no one dared to play tricks at this time. Even Madame Gu was wearing a very serious expression on her face. She got everything ready – the maids, the wagons and many others, as if they were facing a heavy battle.

Gu Ruxue and her mother shared the same wagon.

Madame Gu rode alone.

So Gu Chaoyan and Gu Xiuying ended up being in the same wagon.

Gu Xiuying had never disliked Gu Chaoyan this much. This hideous girl had lost so much weight and she was not as tanned as before! And Gu Chaoyan was wearing the clothes Mrs. Gu gave her! The clothes were bought from South by the housekeeper at the order of Madame Gu last year. She knew that the material was excellent! Look at herself! She was wearing her best clothes, yet those were bought from a store in the city and they were made with ordinary material.

Why?

So she might look slightly prettier now, yet she was not as pretty as she was! Why didn't Madam Gu spare any concern for her?

On the way there, Gu Xiuying kept thinking about those ideas. She was glaring at Gu Chaoyan all the time.

Gu Chaoyan shrugged. Gu Xiuying should feel lucky that Mrs. Gu and Gu Ruxue did not set her up. Why did she still feel jealous of her clothes!?

She shook her head.

"How ugly!" Gu Xiuying mumbled, not daring to utter a loud sound.

"What did you say?" Gu Chaoyan threw a cold look at her.

Gu Xiuying did not utter a word. This ugly seemed to get increasingly scary as if she were about to slap her right on the face.

She would not fear this ugly woman if they had not been on the visit to the imperial court.

Gu Xiuying showed an equally intimidating air, but Gu Chaoyan did not care about her any more, because Gu Chaoyan realized that the wagon had stopped.

When the wagon stopped, it meant that they were already at the gate of the court.

Gu Chaoyan felt a bit nervous too. After all, it was the imperial court. People kept saying that the imperial court was a very dangerous place, and she wondered what she was about to face in the imperial court of the Saint Divine Land.

However, Gu Chaoyan's nerves soon went away.

The feeling was already gone.

She saw Qing who had red cheeks not far away.

So, she was slapped in the wagon.

Qing was her only maid. She was sharing the same wagon with either Gu Ruxue or Gu Xiuying's maids. The reason why they dared to hit Qing was because they did not think that anyone would care about this tiny matter on this important day.

However, Qing was Gu Chaoyan's maid, and she was not going to let the incident be buried.

Gu Chaoyan pulled over Qing and asked. "Who hit you?"

Qing was unwilling to say a thing, because she did not want Gu Chaoyan to defend her at this moment.

She tugged Gu Chaoyan's sleeves, telling her to forget about it.

"Qing, let me ask you one more time. Who hit you?" Gu Chaoyan raised her voice.

Gu Ruxue heard the words. She pursed her lips and said nonchalantly, "She is just a maid, we don't have to talk about this right at the gate of the court!"

The guards threw a look at Gu Ruxue and felt what she said was a bit strange, but they could not say a thing. They were ladies, after all.

"Just a maid? Gu Ruxue, you don't think your maids are important, okay. But my maid is a human being too, and she should not just get hit for no reason!" Then she looked at Qing. "Who did this?"

Qing pointed at the two girls next to Gu Ruxue.

Gu Ruxue snorted. "So what, are you going to hit my maids back?"