

## Es. Benefits 501

Chapter 501: Just Now the Prince Told Me Something\_3

But what does this have to do with her?

Although she belongs to the Dongfang Family, she now manages the Eastern Newspaper Agency; she does not intervene in the other affairs of the Dongfang Family.

Just as Dongfang Longyue was about to speak, Dongfang Yi said with a smile, "The Prince just discussed something with me."

Upon hearing this, Dongfang Longyue felt a jolt in her heart and immediately sensed something ominous.

Dongfang Yi continued, "The Prince's meaning is that he has taken a liking to you and wishes for you to marry into the North Prince Mansion."

Upon hearing this, Dongfang Longyue's heart tightened.

It's over...

It was exactly what she had feared.

She had long guessed that a day like this would come. The North Prince's hints had been very obvious whenever they were alone together, but she had not expected this day to arrive so soon.

It's not that she detests Lu Chen; it's just that, in her view, once she entered the North Prince Mansion, she would likely have to stay there for good.

As someone accustomed to freedom from a young age, the prospect of being confined to the North Prince Mansion to be a wife and mother was something she feared could make her ill.

Seeing that Dongfang Longyue's expression was a bit unsightly, Dongfang Yi immediately guessed what she was thinking and then asked, "Do you think that by marrying into the North Prince Mansion, you will have to give up your position as the chief editor of the Eastern Newspaper Agency?"

Dongfang Longyue replied, "The Eastern Newspaper Agency is a private enterprise. Once the daughter marries into the North Prince Mansion, the Prince will certainly have the daughter relinquish that position to someone else."

Dongfang Yi stroked his beard and then said, "You needn't worry about that for now. The Prince's intention is that you can continue to oversee the Eastern Newspaper Agency. He will not grant you formal recognition for the time being. If there comes a time when you are willing to give up that position, then he will give you recognition."

This...

Dongfang Longyue quickly realized that the North Prince meant to have her enter the North Prince Mansion to serve him first, with the reality of marriage preceding the reconocimiento, and whether she valued recognition was up to her?

The thought spurred a small tumult of emotions in Dongfang Longyue. That lascivious North Prince —she knew from the first time she laid eyes on him that he intended to include her in his harem, yet she had not anticipated that this lecher would seek to possess her body first.

Seeing Dongfang Longyue fall silent, Dongfang Yi asked, "Longyue, have you really thought it through?"

Dongfang Longyue remained silent, contemplating.

At this moment, Dongfang Yi said, "Longyue, think about it, how many men in this world are worthy of you?"

"And how many of those men do you actually fancy?"

"Without a doubt, the North Prince is your best choice, and besides, our family has always been a vassal to the Son of Destiny. Marrying the North Prince will not be to your disadvantage."

"If you don't marry the North Prince, you won't have many marriage prospects left. Do you plan to never marry and remain single forever?"

"Even if you wanted to remain single, the North Prince would likely not agree."

Here, Dongfang Yi glanced at Dongfang Longyue to gauge her reaction. Seeing that she still had none, he continued to persuade, "Dad doesn't want to pressure you with any family mission, but it's clear to me that you have a fondness for the North Prince. You think Dad is unaware that there are quite a few of the North Prince's portraits in your study?"

At his words, Dongfang Longyue was jolted back to reality and, looking at Dongfang Yi, she asked coldly, "Dad, how could you go into my study without permission?"

Dongfang Yi responded, "You can't blame me for that, it was your brother who entered your study and found out. You weren't coming home from the newspaper agency, and he went to fetch things for you."

Upon hearing this, Dongfang Longyue immediately realized what had happened. She had been too busy recently, and just when her brother visited the agency, she had him go back and fetch something for her.

Originally, she had meant for the servants of the Dongfang Family, namely her personal maid from the Prince's Mansion, to go into her study to fetch things. Yet her brother actually went into the study himself to fetch things and even told their father about the portraits of the North Prince!

Dongfang Yi then said, "Think it over."

At this, Dongfang Longyue said, "There's no need to think about it anymore. After the move to the new city, your daughter will move to the North Prince Mansion to attend to the Prince."

Dongfang Longyue had come to a decision—after all, she did have a liking for the North Prince, and besides, hadn't the North Prince said that as long as she did not seek formal recognition, she could continue as the chief editor of the Eastern Newspaper Agency? In that case, she would simply delay that formal recognition indefinitely.

She believed the North Prince wouldn't mind whether she had that status or not.

The lascivious North Prince, after all, only craved her body, so she might as well satisfy him.

As for the North Prince, he might lust after her body, but presumably that was only temporary. With so many women at his disposal, he couldn't possibly attend to them all.

It was very likely that after sleeping with her once or twice, the North Prince would lose interest due to the loss of novelty. By then, even if she lived in the North Prince Mansion, she could devote her attention fully to the Eastern Newspaper Agency.

Seeing that Dongfang Longyue had agreed, Dongfang Yi's face burst into a brilliant smile, binding the Dongfang Family even tighter to the North Prince Mansion.

As she watched her father's joy, Dongfang Longyue suddenly realized something. She stared straight into her father's eyes and asked with an icy tone, "Dad, was it you who initiated the offer to send your daughter to the North Prince Mansion?"

Upon hearing this, Dongyang Yi's heart skipped a beat, and he felt extremely uneasy. While stroking his beard, he said, "How could that be possible? How could I bear to send you away so soon? It was the North Prince's idea."

Seeing Dongfang Yi so anxious, Dongfang Longyue immediately understood what had really happened; her father had indeed taken the initiative to bring up the matter to the North Prince.

Dongfang Longyue then said, "Dad, I have important matters to tend to; you should head back now."

With that said, Dongfang Longyue picked up her brush and continued to write vigorously on the piece of paper.

Seeing that Dongfang Longyue did not pursue the matter further, Dongfang Yi was relieved. He then turned and walked towards the door. Just as he reached it, Dongfang Longyue's voice reached him again, "Tonight I will go home and speak with Grandfather, and tell him everything you've done today."

Dongfang Yi's heart stalled.

This...

In the end, Dongfang Yi was severely scolded by the patriarch of the Dongfang Family, but this did not alter the conclusion that Dongfang Longyue was to move into the Prince's Mansion. After all, Dongfang Longyue herself had agreed, and everything else would have to wait until after the move to the new city was complete.

Chapter 502: Moving\_1

The relocation of North Country was a major event. Although most of the belongings from the old Prince's Mansion were moved to the new one within a couple of days, Lu Chen and his family did not move to the new Prince's Mansion right away—there was still a lot of work to be done in the old city.

The common people did not resist the relocation much. They were well aware of what the new city was like. Most had already visited the new city, where the houses were much more spacious and the streets were particularly wide, clean and incomparable to those of the old city.

The key was that such nice houses in the new city only cost five hundred wen. In the past, coughing up five hundred wen would have been a struggle, but now, with Yan County's trade so developed

and the numerous businesses owned by the North Prince Mansion, earning five hundred wen was no problem at all, not to mention that the North Prince Mansion had given a ten-year deadline.

Earning five hundred wen in ten years was nothing—if you had hands, you could do it.

A month went by in the blink of an eye. Although there were still some common people in the old city, most had already moved to the new city. Lu Chen felt that it was about time for them to move to the new Prince's Mansion, so he picked a sunny and breezy day for them to officially move in.

Standing at the entrance of the new Prince's Mansion, Lu Chen looked up at the tall gates. Apart from its larger area, the new Prince's Mansion had also become more luxurious. Gone were the days of paper windows; now, every window was made of glass.

After entering the Prince's Mansion with his wives and concubines, the sight of the spacious courtyard immediately lifted their spirits.

The old Prince's Mansion had been built by officials from North City when funds were tight. Not only were the Prince's Mansion's rooms small, but the courtyard was also cramped, almost suffocating those who stayed there day in and day out.

Now, the courtyard of the North Prince Mansion was immeasurably larger than that of the old Prince's Mansion, which would give their children plenty of space to frolic as they grew up.

Unlike the common people's houses, most buildings in the Prince's Mansion were not built entirely from cement and red bricks but rather from natural boulders, which would greatly outlast any cement or brick construction.

In the center of the Prince's Mansion, there was a ten-story tower. Standing atop, one could see almost the entire new cityscape. This tower was the tallest building in all of new Yan County, while the highest buildings where the common people lived were only six stories tall.

Moreover, there were no high-rise buildings surrounding the Prince's Mansion, with the nearby houses being only two or three stories tall at most,

primarily to prevent any observation of the interior of the Prince's Mansion from taller structures, which could be detrimental to its security.

At that moment, Lu Chen turned to his wives and concubines and said, "You all should go and familiarize yourselves with your respective courtyards."

As soon as Lu Chen's words fell, Chu Yuqin and the others, led by their maids, headed to their courtyards.

Lu Chen then went to the inner courtyard where the male head of the household would reside. Above the entrance, no name plate was hung—this courtyard was yet to be named.

By his side, Mu Zixuan spoke, "Prince, why don't you give this courtyard a name?"

After a moment of thought, Lu Chen said, "I can't think of a good name right now; let's just call it the Wind Cloud Court for the time being."

This...



Mu Zixuan hesitated to speak since it was a name given by Lu Chen, and it was not her place to say much.

This was, after all, Lu Chen's residence for the inner court, where he would sleep at night, so the name seemed a bit inappropriate.

The words "Wind" and "Cloud" are often used to describe change and unrest—which didn't quite fit the stability expected for a place of rest.

After the name was settled, Lu Chen stepped into the Wind Cloud Court, where in the southeast corner stood a bare tree trunk—the Dragon Phoenix Tree that had been transplanted just days before.

Lu Chen quickly approached the tree and drew a small knife from his sleeve. He made a cut in the palm of his hand and blood began to flow out. He let droplets of blood fall onto the trunk of the Dragon Phoenix Tree. As soon as the blood touched the trunk, it was rapidly absorbed.

Suddenly, the tree emitted a green glow, and in the next moment, green buds sprouted directly from the trunk.

Once it seemed sufficient, Lu Chen stopped feeding the tree his blood.

He then used his Rejuvenating Skill to heal the cut on his hand.

At that moment, a maid entered the Wind Cloud Court and approached Lu Chen, saying, "Prince, the young miss from the Dongfang Family has arrived."

Upon hearing this, Lu Chen was taken aback. He hadn't expected Dongfang Longyue to come to the North Prince Mansion on the very first day he moved in. As Lu Chen was about to speak, Mu Zixuan stepped forward with a smile and said, "Prince, please allow me to take care of the matters concerning Dongfang sister."

As Dongfang Longyue was to move into the Prince's Mansion, she naturally needed a place to stay, as well as arrangements for servants and maids. Everything from food to lodging needed to be organized.

Since Dongfang Longyue was one of Lu Chen's women, it was only fitting that Mu Zixuan, the main wife of the harem, should arrange these matters.

Lu Chen said, "Alright then, I'll leave it in your capable hands, my beloved consort."

Mu Zixuan replied, "It's no trouble at all. I will go find Dongfang sister now."

Lu Chen responded, "Yes, go ahead."

Afterward, Mu Zixuan left Lu Chen's side to meet Dongfang Longyue and arranged for her to stay in a courtyard close to the Plum Blossom Courtyard and the Spring Sound Court.

Chapter 503: Moving\_2

Dongfang Longyue entered the inner court of the new North Prince Mansion, her gaze constantly surveying the entire inner court. Initially, Dongfang Longyue thought that upon entering the inner court of the Prince's Mansion, she would feel particularly oppressed.

Contrary to her expectations, after she entered the Prince's Mansion, she didn't experience that oppressive feeling.

The new Prince's Mansion had fewer residents than the Dongfang Family, but it was much larger than the entire Dongfang Family complex. The Dongfang Family had built their houses in Sufeng City with their own funds, and she had thought the Dongfang Family's compound was already luxurious. Now, compared to the new Prince's Mansion, their compound was nothing.

Even the inner court of the Prince's Mansion was very spacious, to the extent driving a carriage inside was no problem at all.

At this moment, Mu Zixuan said to Dongfang Longyue with a smile, "Sister Dongfang, from now on you will live in this courtyard."

As Mu Zixuan's words fell, Dongfang Longyue stood at the entrance of the courtyard and swept a glance over it. There were pavilions and towers, small bridges over flowing water, and everything was serene and elegant. It was bigger than the courtyard she had lived in at the Dongfang Family, and the environment was better; even the courtyard in Sufeng City could not compare to this one.

Of course, what truly surprised her was not the scenery of the courtyard. After all, this was the North Prince Mansion, the Son of Destiny's residence, so it was only right that the living standards were more luxurious than those of an Aristocratic Family.

What really caught Dongfang Longyue off guard was the attitude of the Princess, Mu Zixuan. Mu Zixuan didn't put on any airs in front of her; as a princess, she had actually called her "sister" as soon as she entered the North Prince Mansion, which made Dongfang Longyue feel unexpectedly flattered.

Dongfang Longyue was no fool. How could she not be aware of the messes among the women of the imperial Harem, not to mention the royal court, but also the scheming among the women of the inner courts of Aristocratic Families?

Dongfang Longyue even suspected that Mu Zixuan might be two-faced, smiling on the surface but plotting behind her back. As a princess, not only arranging her accommodations personally in the Prince's Mansion but also calling her "sister" seemed too approachable.

Although she didn't understand what Mu Zixuan's intentions were, Dongfang Longyue still politely said, "Thank you, Princess."

Mu Zixuan continued, "Sister Dongfang, if you need anything in the future, you can tell me directly, or you can tell the maidservants."

Dongfang Longyue replied, "This humble woman understands."

Seeing that Dongfang Longyue was somewhat restrained, Mu Zixuan said with a beaming smile, "Sister Dongfang, now that you have entered the inner court of the Prince's Mansion, you are now the Prince's woman."

Hearing this, Dongfang Longyue's heart skipped a beat. Was the Princess revealing her true intentions? Perhaps now she would start to impose rules on her. Just as Dongfang Longyue was thinking this, Mu Zixuan said, "The inner court of the North Prince Mansion is not like the Harem of the typical princes, nor is it like the inner courts of Aristocratic Families.

Once inside the North Prince Mansion, we address each other as sisters, and everyone gets along very harmoniously. From now on, Sister Dongfang, there's no need to call me Princess. Just call me Sister Zixuan."

Dongfang Longyue was taken aback again. She tentatively said, "Princess, manners should not be discarded. Isn't this somewhat inappropriate?"

Mu Zixuan replied, "Sister Dongfang, you're new here and probably don't know the situation of the inner court of the North Prince Mansion yet. After some time, you'll understand how harmonious our inner court really is."

Although Mu Zixuan said this, Dongfang Longyue still felt somewhat skeptical.

After all, this was the Prince's Harem, a place where women competed for attention and jealousy. Could the inner court of the North Prince Mansion truly be harmonious?

Or was it that the Princess was trying to win her over in order to deal with some other woman?

This kind of situation was very common in great families. If the lady of the house disliked a concubine but the male head of the house favored her, and the lady had no way of getting rid of the concubine, she would try to win over other women to oppose that woman together.

In Dongfang Longyue's view, there had to be a reason Mu Zixuan was being so nice to her—it must be serving some purpose.

Dongfang Longyue did not want to get involved in such matters, but now it was Mu Zixuan who had taken the initiative to be kind to her. Even if she was guarded, she could only accept Mu Zixuan's kindness.

A day passed quickly. Today, everyone in the Prince's Mansion was busy setting up the environment. Lu Chen's wives and concubines were quite nostalgic; even though they moved to the new Prince's Mansion, they still tried to make their new residences feel like the old Prince's Mansion.

After nightfall, all of Lu Chen's women gathered at Wind Cloud Court. When Chu Yuqin reached the entrance of the courtyard and saw the name "Wind Cloud Court," she froze.

She turned to ask the maidservant at the entrance of the courtyard, "Who named it Wind Cloud Court?"

The maidservant answered, "Madam Chu, it was the Prince himself who named it."

Upon hearing this, Chu Yuqin was stunned for a moment. Chu Qingli remarked from beside her, "That's an awful name. He is a Prince after all; even naming a place he just chooses 'Wind Cloud Court'."

Chu Yuqin also wanted to say it was an awful name, but considering that it was Lu Chen who had named it, she didn't say much else and headed straight for the main hall.

When she arrived at the entrance of the main hall, she noticed that the plaque above still read "Main Hall." The name of the courtyard had changed, but not the name of the main hall.

Chu Yuqin didn't think much of it and entered the main hall. By that time, a large table of dishes had already been laid out inside.

Chapter 504: Moving\_3

Having entered the main hall, Chu Yuqin saw Lu Chen cuddling the child and trying to soothe him. At this moment, she asked, "Chen'er, why did you name this courtyard 'Wind Cloud Court'? Isn't the name somewhat inappropriate? After all, it's a place where we live."

Upon hearing this, all the ladies agreed that Chu Yuqin had a point, finding the name unsuitable. While continuing to entertain the child in his arms, Lu Chen replied with a smile, "I've just given it a provisional name for now. We can always change it later. But come to think of it, there's nothing wrong with the name.

I live here, and isn't it true that I still manage to stir up quite a storm at night?"

As soon as the women heard Lu Chen's reasoning, they instantly understood, and both Dazhou and Xiaozhou's faces flushed with a hint of redness.

If he had mentioned 'wind and cloud' alone, they might not have understood, but connecting it to 'stirring up a storm', they grasped his meaning in an instant.

This scoundrel! So that was the reason behind choosing this name!

Chu Yuqin's face turned slightly warm, and she chose not to continue the discussion. At that moment, Mu Zixuan turned to her servant and said, "Xiao Rou, dinner is almost ready, go and call Miss Dongfang."

Although Dongfang Longyue had not yet officially married into the family, she had already decided to become Lu Chen's woman. And as Lu Chen's woman, she was definitely supposed to come to the main hall and dine with him in the evening, which was considered one of the customs at the North Prince Mansion.

A short while later, the maid Xiao Rou arrived at the courtyard where Dongfang Longyue was staying. At that time, Dongfang Longyue was painting alone in the pavilion, appearing somewhat lonely.

The maids from the Dongfang Family were not brought to the Prince's Mansion, and being new to the North Prince Mansion, she was not familiar with the people there, which made her feel quite uncomfortable.

At that moment, Xiao Rou spoke to Dongfang Longyue from the entrance of the courtyard, "Miss Dongfang, the princess consort invites you to the main hall for dinner."

Dongfang Longyue was taken aback upon hearing this.

Dinner?

Was the princess consort actually inviting her, a newcomer of just one day, to dine together to win her over?

Thereupon, Dongfang Longyue responded, "Please extend my thanks to the princess consort, but I'll have to decline. I'm not hungry at the moment."

Hearing this, Xiao Rou said, "Miss Dongfang, everyone else in the Prince's inner court is already going. If you don't go, the Prince may be displeased."

Dongfang Longyue, puzzled, asked, "What does this have to do with the Prince?"



Xiao Rou realized that Dongfang Longyue must not know the rules of the North Prince Mansion, and took the initiative to explain, "Miss Dongfang, in the inner court of the North Prince Mansion, the Prince's wives and concubines are required to join him for dinner in the main hall every evening, unless there are important matters to attend to."

Dongfang Longyue was slightly taken aback, now understanding she had misunderstood. She then said, "I see."

Immediately after, she set down her paintbrush and stood up, following the maid to the main hall.

Upon entering the main hall, Dongfang Longyue saw that indeed, as Xiao Rou had said, most of Lu Chen's wives and concubines had already arrived.

Seeing Dongfang Longyue's arrival, Mu Zixuan promptly walked over to her, took her hand, and introduced her to everyone, "This is the sister who has recently joined our Prince's Mansion."

Hearing this, all the women turned their gaze to Dongfang Longyue. Most of Lu Chen's women had already met Dongfang Longyue, but they weren't very familiar with her. However, they had long expected that this woman would eventually be lured into the Prince's Mansion by Lu Chen, the lecher.

Dongfang Longyue did not show any signs of panic. With a smile, she introduced herself, "My name is Dongfang Longyue, from the Dongfang Family. It is my pleasure to meet all my sisters here."

At this, Mu Zixuan promptly corrected her, "Sister Dongfang, I told you this morning that now you are a member of the North Prince Mansion. There's no need to be so formal, nor do you need to refer to yourself as a commoner. You are no longer just a commoner."

Once in the inner court of the North Prince Mansion, she became one of the North Prince's women and could no longer be considered an ordinary civilian.

Dongfang Longyue gracefully responded, "You're right, princess consort. I understand."

At this point, Lu Chen handed the child to a nearby wet nurse and then said, "Well then, since everyone is here, let's start dinner."

Following that, all the women took their seats at the round table in the main hall. Dongfang Longyue, being new, thought that seating arrangements might be particular, such as the princess consort sitting next to Lu Chen, with other women of higher status in the Prince's Mansion seated closer to the male host.

However, as she contemplated this, she noticed Zhou Youyou and Xiao Wenyao sitting on either side of Lu Chen, while Mu Zixuan, the princess consort herself, did not sit next to Lu Chen, contradicting her conjecture once again.

At that moment, Mu Zixuan, holding Dongfang Longyue's hand, brought her to the table to sit down. Her place was several seats away from Lu Chen, which might lead those unfamiliar with the North Prince Mansion to speculate that perhaps the princess consort was at odds with the Prince or that she was not important in the Prince's Mansion, being neglected by the Prince.

Lu Chen then took a piece of meat and popped it into his mouth before looking across the round table at Dongfang Longyue and saying, "Longyue, this is your first time at the Prince's Mansion.

You might not be familiar with everything here yet, but don't worry. There are not many rules here, unlike your Aristocratic Family. You don't have to be so overly cautious."

Dongfang Longyue replied, "Yes, my Prince. I understand."

Just then, Xiao Wenyao took out a jug of wine from below the table, poured a cup, and slid it in front of Lu Chen, "Your Highness, will you be having wine tonight?"

Hearing this, Lu Chen smiled subtly, glancing at Dongfang Longyue across the table before saying, "I've got work to attend to tonight, so I'll pass on the wine."

At those words, the eyes of all the women instinctively turned to Dongfang Longyue as they quickly grasped the meaning behind Lu Chen's words.

Suddenly finding herself the focus of the gaze of Lu Chen's wives and concubines, Dongfang Longyue felt exceedingly embarrassed. Although it was her first time entering the North Prince Mansion, she was no fool, and had almost guessed what Lu Chen meant by 'having work to attend to tonight'.

Just then, Chu Yuqin placed some bear penis from the soup bowl into Lu Chen's bowl. With a smile on her face, she said, "Chen'er, if you're going to be up late tonight, eat this to keep your strength up."

Lu Chen was speechless, thinking to himself that with his constitution, he hardly needed such tonics. However, he didn't refuse Chu Yuqin's kind gesture.

Chapter 505: As Expected, North Prince Is Not Like Ordinary Men\_1

During dinner time at the North Prince Mansion, Lu Chen's family gathered together in great merriment. Over the meal, Chu Yuqin and the others were chatting and laughing—discussing children's matters one moment and the North Prince Mansion's estate affairs the next. However, Dongfang Longyue remained silent throughout.

If Chu Yuqin and the others had not deliberately steered the conversation towards her, she wouldn't have initiated any talk.

Dongfang Longyue felt very out of place. To her knowledge, only ordinary commoner families would eat together at one table.

In slightly larger families like her own, a Side Concubine like her would not have the privilege to sit at the table. Yet, here in the vast North Prince Mansion, such a large family actually sat together at one table for dinner, including Lu Chen's concubines.

Not only were they at the table, but Lu Chen's wives and concubines seemed to pay no attention to Lu Chen, the Prince, during the meal. She saw several women drinking alcohol, and moreover, they were pouring for themselves. Lu Chen didn't seem to mind their behavior at all.

From the behavior of these women, it appeared as if this was their usual practice.

Dongfang Longyue couldn't help feeling utterly perplexed. Was the North Prince so indulgent with his wives and concubines?

It seemed the North Prince Mansion was indeed quite different from what she had imagined.

After dinner, Dongfang Longyue returned to her own courtyard. She was about to ask her maid to prepare hot water for her when she discovered a maid coming out from the room next door, who said, "Miss Dongfang, the hot water is ready; you can take a bath now."

Dongfang Longyue took out her clothes and walked to a room adjacent to the bedchamber, discovering that this room was divided into two sections. One part held a huge bathtub and the other had something like a commode bucket, except that it was connected to the ground.

Dongfang Longyue was somewhat surprised. She had not expected the architecture of North Prince Mansion to be so unique, with a room specially designed for bathing, and such a spacious one at that, completely capable of accommodating several people. The white ceramic bathtub, in particular, looked incredibly luxurious.

Without hesitation, Dongfang Longyue shed her light gauze and lay down in the tub filled with hot water.

Instantly, her body was enveloped by the warmth, and she completely relaxed. Since her arrival at the North Prince Mansion that day, she had been quite tense, given it was her first time here and she was unfamiliar with how to interact with the other women of the mansion.

After soaking in the hot water, all of her worries seemed to disappear; she now only wanted to enjoy a quiet soak.

After an unknown period, Dongfang Longyue suddenly opened her eyes—to find the water had cooled. Only then did she realize she had dozed off while bathing. She quickly got up from the tub, dried off her body, and after dressing in a white undergarment, she entered the bedroom.

To her surprise, upon entering the bedroom, she saw a person sitting by her bed. Dongfang Longyue was taken aback.

The man sitting on her bed was none other than the North Prince.

At that moment, Lu Chen's gaze was lasciviously sweeping over her body. Dongfang Longyue had just bathed, and although she hadn't approached him, the scent of flowers from her body had already drifted to Lu Chen's nostrils.

Lu Chen said with a smile, "Longyue, have you finished bathing?"

Dongfang Longyue, conscious of being clad only in an undergarment and fully exposed before Lu Chen, felt her cheeks heat. She hadn't expected him to visit her room so soon.

Dongfang Longyue said, "Prince, why didn't you wake me earlier?"

Laughing, Lu Chen replied, "I saw you were asleep and didn't have the heart to disturb you."

Then, Dongfang Longyue began to slowly walk towards the bed, each step causing her heartbeat to quicken. Approaching Lu Chen, she felt as if her heart might burst out.

Seeing Dongfang Longyue's blushing face, Lu Chen smiled slightly, then reached out and pulled her delicate body into his embrace.

Instantly brought close to Lu Chen's body, Dongfang Longyue felt a scorching breath assaulting her, followed by a unique scent entering her nose. It was an aroma she had never encountered— not exactly fragrant, yet extremely pleasing, and after inhaling it, her body grew even hotter.

Lu Chen's hand rested on Dongfang Longyue's slender leg, caressing it as he said, "Longyue, your father must have told you that I won't grant you a title for now. If you desire one, you would have to leave the Eastern Newspaper Agency and give up your position as chief editor."

Dongfang Longyue softly murmured in agreement, "I understand."

Being embraced by Lu Chen, Dongfang Longyue felt increasingly strange. She had almost never been in such close contact with a non-relative man, and this was her first time being so intimate.

Lu Chen continued, "I know what you're worried about. You're afraid that by marrying into the Prince's Mansion, you will lose your freedom and from then on must only remain here to serve your husband and teach your children."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Dongfang Longyue lapsed into silence, for that was exactly her concern.

Lu Chen was more than just a prince. In the future, he could very well become the Sum Emperor, or even the ruler of the world. By then, his women were very likely confined to spending their lives inside the Imperial Palace, forbidden from leaving.

Seeing that Dongfang Longyue did not speak, Lu Chen's hand continued to move unrestrainedly. As he caressed Dongfang Longyue's body, he said, "I am different from other seigniors, I trust my women very much. Even if you marry into the Prince's Mansion, you can come and go as you please, and you can even have your own career."

"You have been in the North Country for a while now, and I guess you know that the businesses of the North Prince Mansion are basically managed by the Princess, and the treasury of the North

Country is managed by my side concubine, Yelv Nanyan. Apart from these two, the women in the mansion who know martial arts generally all have their own things to do."

Hearing Lu Chen's words, Dongfang Longyue was stunned for a moment. Although she was not very familiar with the women in the Prince's Mansion, having been in Yan County for so long and spending so much time with Lu Chen, she had heard some things about Lu Chen's wives and concubines.

She was well aware of the Princess managing the mansion's assets and Yelv Nanyan managing the treasury. Besides them, Dongfang Longyue also knew that Lu Chen had a woman overseeing the Rain-listening Pavilion.

Although she did not see that woman today, there was one time she came to the Prince's Mansion and accidentally saw that woman enjoying intimate pleasures with Lu Chen in his study.

Thinking about it now, Lu Chen indeed gave his women a lot of freedom to expose themselves in public, as seen at dinner when it was obvious that Lu Chen's women were not particularly reserved in his presence, drinking if they wanted to and one woman, drunk, even declared she wanted to go riding with Lu Chen tonight, looking quite unrestrained.

Such a scene at tonight's mansion would be absolutely impossible in any other Prince's Mansion or Aristocratic Family.

But then again, even if Lu Chen indulges his wives and concubines now, once he becomes the Sum Emperor, the ruler of all, his women will eventually have to be managed by someone if he does not manage them himself.

There will be countless eyes watching Lu Chen, especially the women by his side and every move they make.



If Lu Chen continues to allow his women to go out and do business outside the Imperial Palace, there will inevitably be ministers who stand up and criticize them for not attending to proper duties, for as women of the Son of Heaven, they should not be seen in public.

Perhaps Lu Chen will have no choice but to silence the mouths of the ministers and can only allow his women to return to the Imperial Palace, to stay there for life.

Thinking of this, Dongfang Longyue asked, "Prince, if one day you become the ruler of all, will you still allow your wives and concubines to expose themselves in public?"

No sooner had Dongfang Longyue asked her question than Lu Chen's hand suddenly slipped into her inner garment, touching places that usually would not be touched. Lu Chen then said with a smile, "Of course, as long as their safety is assured, it's no problem for them to go wherever they want."

Dongfang Longyue continued to ask, "What if ministers say that your wives and concubines should not expose themselves in public?"

Lu Chen replied indifferently, "That's their business. Some things always have a beginning. As the North Country develops, more and more jobs will become suitable for women, and women who have always stayed at home will come out to work."

"We need to encourage those women to engage in labor, and the women of the mansion must set an example. If the women of the mansion stay indoors all day to attend to their husbands and teach their children, how can we encourage civilian women to voluntarily leave home and join the workforce?"

Hearing this, Dongfang Longyue was momentarily stunned. She had not expected the North Prince to have such ideas about women working, something no emperor has ever thought of before.

Indeed, the North Prince was different from most men, worthy of being the Son of Destiny, his thoughts far ahead of this world.

The Son of Destiny is the one who leads the development of the world, and since Lu Chen thought this way, in the future, it might indeed be possible to see women boldly stepping out of their homes to participate in labor and production.

After all, ordinary women in the world, compelled by their livelihood, would also expose themselves in public, but such women are always subject to criticism.

If Lu Chen could lead the trend and have the women of this world boldly come out and participate in various labor activities, then even with a small population, the North Country could have enough labor force.

While Dongfang Longyue was exhilarated by what Lu Chen said, she suddenly realized that her inner garment had slipped off her shoulders and a cold breeze caused her body to chill.

Dongfang Longyue then came back to her senses, as now was not the time for her to be considering other matters.

At this moment, Lu Chen whispered in Dongfang Longyue's ear, "Longyue, you smell so good."

Hearing this, Dongfang Longyue immediately froze, her body growing even hotter.

Lu Chen continued, "It's late at night, we should go to sleep."

With a blushing face, Dongfang Longyue said, "Please be gentle, Prince."

As soon as Dongfang Longyue finished speaking, Lu Chen laid her down on the bed and began to busy himself with the matter at hand.

Chapter 506: It's Not That I'm Fond of the North Prince, It's That You Don't Understand Him\_1

Da Yue Dynasty.

Empress's Bedchamber.

Two snowy figures were faintly discernible behind the red curtains, and at this moment, they approached the beauty couch. Wu Junwan sat behind Yue Emperor, gently massaging the emperor's fragrant shoulders.

Yue Emperor spoke, "Junwan, we haven't been this intimate in a while, have we?"

Hearing this, Wu Junwan smiled lightly, "Indeed, it has been a long time since we've bathed together."

Yue Emperor sighed softly, "I miss the days at Misty Immortal Sect when we sisters could be together all the time. Now, we reside in two great dynasties, and even meeting once is not easy."

Wu Junwan said, "It's because we've both grown up, each with our own duties to attend to."

At this point, Wu Junwan asked, "Qingrou, do you really have no intention of joining forces with Great Wu to eradicate Great Sum?"

Upon hearing this, Yue Emperor said indifferently, "Junwan, you from Great Wu are underestimating Great Sum too much."

Turning around, the Yue Emperor placed her jade hand on Wu Junwan's smooth, white leg, gazing into her eyes and said, "Do you really believe that if Great Wu joins forces with Da Yue, they could eliminate Great Sum?"

Facing this question, Wu Junwan replied without hesitation, "Currently, Sum Emperor is at death's door, and various seigniors across Great Sum are amassing troops, plunging the state into chaos. Once they start fighting over the throne, it will provide Great Wu and Da Yue with an opportunity."

Yue Emperor smiled slightly, the solemnity she showed before her ministers gone from her face, "Your intelligence operations still leave much to be desired."

"Don't you know about the strange phenomena that have been happening in the capital city of Great Sum?"

Wu Junwan was taken aback for a moment, then said, "I am aware of that."

Yue Emperor continued, "It's very likely that Great Sum has gained a Celestial of the Heavenly Human Realm. Not to mention whether Great Wu has the means to deal with a Celestial, Sum Emperor just happens to fall ill at this moment. Don't you find that too coincidental?"

"Moreover, you must have noticed that the North Prince seems completely uninterested in marching south to fight for the throne. As far as I know, the North Country has an intelligence agency known as the Brocade Guard, and their ability to gather intel is incredibly powerful. Whether Sum Emperor is truly in trouble, I believe the North Prince must be the most aware."

"If there was really something wrong with the Sum Emperor, the North Prince would surely make a move southward, instead of deploying thirty thousand Heavy Cavalry to Yongan County to guard against the Great Wu Dynasty."

Upon hearing Yue Emperor's analysis, Wu Junwan fell into deep thought. Initially, she too had considered this issue; she just thought the North Prince hadn't made a move south because he deemed the North Country too lacking in resources, unable to sustain the consumption of a war.

Although the military might of the North Country seems strong, having defeated several invasions by the Barbarian Tribe and destroyed armies numbering hundreds of thousands, they acted in defense of their homeland, not as aggressors.

To march south and attack Great Sum's royal court or the lands under control of other seigniors, extensive resources would be required. Given the current capacity of the North Country, their logistics might not be able to keep up.

Of course, this was Wu Junwan's initial thought.

At this moment, Yue Emperor raised her slender, snow-white hand and lifted Wu Junwan's chin, looking into her eyes as she continued, "Junwan, the North Prince is not simple at all. The power of the North Country is far greater than what you know. Your arrival seeking an alliance with Da Yue against Great Sum is likely because you do not understand the North Country enough."

It seems your intelligence network indeed needs a thorough overhaul."

Surprised by these words, Wu Junwan smiled and then said, "I didn't expect you to think so highly of the North Prince."

Yue Emperor said, "It's not that I think highly of him, but that you don't understand him, nor do you understand the North Country."

"The North Prince had been in the North Country for only a short while before he effortlessly wiped out three hundred thousand of the Barbarian Army. Haven't you wondered how he achieved that?"

Wu Junwan said doubtfully, "The North Country possesses fifty thousand Heavy Cavalry with formidable combat strength, so it doesn't seem strange that they could annihilate three hundred thousand of the Barbarian Army?"

Yue Emperor smiled faintly, and then her hand slid down from Wu Junwan's chin, gliding smoothly over her long, white neck and gently caressing her soft body.

"It seems indeed that your intelligence network needs some rectification."

With that said, Yue Emperor raised her hand, and the next moment, a book flew from a Phoenix Chair not far away. She took out a letter from within the book and handed it to Wu Junwan.

Wu Junwan took the letter from Yue Emperor with curiosity and read it intently. Upon completing the letter's intelligence report, her brows furrowed slightly.

Seeing Wu Junwan's serious expression, Yue Emperor said with a smile, "Junwan, this is why I don't intend to join hands with Great Wu."

Wu Junwan was silent as the letter the Yue Emperor gave her turned out to be an intelligence report from the North Country, detailing an investigation into the military strength of the North Country's forces.

Though the military discipline of the North Country was already exceedingly strict, there were no walls that can keep all winds at bay. The North Country's troops have begun to extensively use advanced weaponry; it would be impossible for there not to be any whispers about it.

The North Country daring to annex the entire North Land into their territory and even easily eliminating the Barbarian Army, which included a Grandmaster, proved the North Country's military was not to be underestimated.

Even at its height, the Da Yue Dynasty could not as effortlessly wipe out the Tianqi King's army as it confronted the allied Barbarian Tribes. It could only deter the Tianqi King's forces. However, once the Tianqi King fled to the North Country, he was promptly annihilated by them.

Chapter 507: It's Not That I'm Fond of the North Prince, It's That You Don't Understand Him\_2

That was an army of four hundred thousand, yet it was so easily taken down by North Country, which was obviously somewhat off. Therefore, the Yue Emperor had the spies of Da Yue Dynasty try every means to gather information about the military of North Country, and eventually, they did indeed uncover some rumors regarding the North Country army.

It was said that North Country's army could summon lightning and thunder. During the defense of Yan County, the Sky Wolf King's forces were defeated by North Country's army with the power of Heavenly Thunder.

Naturally, the Yue Emperor did not believe such rumors, and she continued to have Da Yue's spies investigate whether North Country possessed any mysterious weapons. This investigation actually led to the discovery of the names of North Country's new weapons, such as "Thunderous," "Mo Xing's Firearm," and "Mortars" were all uncovered by Da Yue's spies.

Of course, Da Yue's spies had only managed to discover the names of these firearms, but had not obtained the weapons themselves.

No matter how strict North Country's military discipline was, there were always some soldiers who could not keep their mouths shut, talking about military matters at home. With such powerful weapons at their disposal, some soldiers could not help boasting to their relatives once they were back home.

The strictest military discipline could not prevent this from happening, especially since North Country had just recently begun reforms, and the reform of the army was still ongoing. To have the soldiers of North Country follow orders completely was simply impossible.

At this moment, Wu Junwan put down the letter in her hands, then looked up into the Yue Emperor's eyes and asked, "Qingrou, is all this true?"

The Yue Emperor replied, "Most likely, it is."

"North Country's army, possessing such strong combat capabilities, is very likely due to them equipping mysterious weapons unknown to us, weapons whose power is so immense that ordinary Martial Artists couldn't possibly withstand them."

"I sent one of the maids who had been serving me to North Country exactly for this purpose—to investigate the origin of these mysterious weapons."



"It's the same maid you saw the last time you came to Da Yue, her name is Murong Xue'er. She does bear a resemblance to you. In your absence, I had her serve me."

Wu Junwan clearly did not take in what the Yue Emperor said last, as what she was most concerned about were the mysterious weapons of North Country.

If North Country truly had the mysterious weapons mentioned in the letter, and if their power was as horrific as the intelligence suggested, then no matter how numerous Great Wu's forces were, they would likely stand no chance against North Country.

She thought back to how resolute the Yue Emperor had been in rejecting the idea of an alliance with Great Wu to attack Great Sum during the court session today. So that was all because of North Country.

Indeed! North Country was Great Wu's greatest enemy!

Wu Junwan asked, "Qingrou, have Da Yue's spies come into contact with North Country's mysterious weapons?"

The Yue Emperor replied, "No, we have also been trying to send people to infiltrate the North Country barracks, but it's not easy. Moreover, North Country's forces do not allow soldiers to take weapons out of the barracks, and with the current military discipline being so strict in the North Country army, obtaining their new weapons is extremely difficult."

At that moment, Wu Junwan frowned and glanced at the letter in her hand, saying with concern, "Could there really be such terrifying weapons?"

The Yue Emperor said, "Although our information comes from Da Yue's spies, most of it stems from households of soldiers from North Country. Considering the combat power demonstrated by North Country's army, I fear they might indeed possess the horrific weapons mentioned in the reports."

Wu Junwan said, "If North Country truly possesses those mysterious weapons, why don't they march south directly to contest for the throne?"

"With weapons of such power, it should be easy for the North Prince to contend for that position, shouldn't it?"

The Yue Emperor, while embracing Wu Junwan's soft body, replied, "I'm not sure about that, perhaps the North Prince feels the timing is not yet right."

At that point, Wu Junwan said, "Qingrou, if North Country truly has such mysterious weapons, then Da Yue and Great Wu should unite even more. North Country already has a Celestial realm powerhouse, and now they have such terrifying weapons. The ambitions of the North Prince must not be underestimated.

If Da Yue and Great Wu do not form an alliance, North Country will eventually defeat both dynasties one by one."

The Yue Emperor raised her delicate hand, combing Wu Junwan's hair, while speaking, "I understand that, but we are not to form an alliance now. I need to continue investigating North Country's situation. Only when we've seen those mysterious weapons for ourselves will I form an alliance with Great Wu."

"Currently, the Da Yue Dynasty does not wish for war. The common people of Da Yue do not want Da Yue to engage in war with other countries, especially the ministers in the court. They generally believe that Da Yue should accumulate strength to deal with the Barbarian Tribes to the north."

"A Barbarian Tribe Goddess has appeared in the north, and now there's a tendency for the Barbarian tribes to unite. This is a significant threat to our Da Yue Dynasty. If I form an alliance with Great Wu to target Great Sum right now, the court ministers will surely oppose it."

"Only when the threat of North Country's mysterious weapons is recognized by the court ministers will they be willing to allow the Da Yue Dynasty to ally with Great Wu."

"You know, Junwan, it's not easy for a woman like me to manage the entire Da Yue, and if I resort to force and disregard justice, it will sooner or later drive the ministers to treason."

Hearing the Yue Emperor's words, Wu Junwan couldn't help but think to herself; she had thought that the Yue Emperor had an easy time managing Da Yue, and that whatever the Yue Emperor said would be done by the ministers of Da Yue without question. Only now did she realize the Yue Emperor also had so many helplessnesses. Truly, it wasn't easy for a woman to be an Emperor.

Chapter 508: It's Not That I'm Fond of the North Prince, It's That You Don't Understand Him\_3

While Wu Junwan was lost in thought, Yue Emperor slowly lay down, holding her, "Alright, let's end the discussion on state affairs here and get some rest early."

Wu Junwan hummed in agreement and spoke no further.

Soon, the two beautiful women's soft bodies were pressed tightly together as they embraced each other and entered the land of dreams.

...

At the same time.

In the North Country, New North Prince Mansion.

Noises continuously emanated from Dongfang Longyue's room, but thanks to the new construction of the North Prince Mansion, which differed from the old one, the rooms now had glass windows, providing excellent sound insulation.

Only faint noises were audible in the outer courtyard, and unless the windows were opened, those walking through the hallway would have no clue about what was happening inside Dongfang Longyue's room.

Lu Chen lifted his hand and gently toyed with the moist locks of hair on Dongfang Longyue's cheek. At this moment, Dongfang Longyue's face was flushed, and her forehead was covered in a dense layer of sweat.

Lu Chen lifted his chest and, while gazing at Dongfang Longyue's beautiful visage, said, "Actually, even if you married into the North Prince Mansion, I could still arrange a job that you like for you."

Upon hearing this, a groggy Dongfang Longyue asked, "Prince... what job are you talking about?"

Lu Chen, while keeping busy with his own matters, replied, "The North Prince's Mansion plans to establish a newspaper. After you leave the Eastern Newspaper Agency, you could come and manage the newspaper of the North Prince Mansion."

At these words, Dongfang Longyue was stunned. She hadn't expected that the North Prince was planning to create a newspaper. Catching her breath, she asked, "Huff... huff... Prince, did you establish this newspaper just for me?"

Lu Chen said with a smile, "That's not the case. I had long planned to expand the North Prince Mansion's influence by creating another newspaper; it's just that I hadn't realized it yet."

"Think it over. If you agree, you could marry into the North Prince Mansion with Wang Qingci in about half a month when I take a concubine. You have half a month to decide."

With eyes brimming with unshed tears, Dongfang Longyue looked at Lu Chen and asked, "Prince... I wouldn't dare to... guess your intentions, I just want... uh... to know... do you wish for me to formally marry into the North Prince Mansion after half a month, or..."

ah..."

Dongfang Longyue let out a soft cry and did not finish her sentence.

Even though Dongfang Longyue hadn't clarified her question, Lu Chen already understood what she wanted to know. He immediately said, "I am not demanding that you marry into the Prince's Mansion in half a month, nor will I become angry over your decision. Since you're already my woman, I will respect whatever choice you make."

"If you decide to continue staying at the Eastern Newspaper Agency, then so be it. I will first establish a newspaper for the North Prince Mansion, and when you are ready to accept the status later, I will hand over the newspaper agency of the North Prince Mansion to you."

Dongfang Longyue said, "Thank you... so much, Prince..."

Lu Chen revealed a slight smile and placed his hand heavily upon her, "Are you still calling me Prince?"

Dongfang Longyue's cheeks reddened, unsure of how she should address him.

Lu Chen continued, "My lady, call me 'darling' and let's hear how that sounds."

At that moment, Dongfang Longyue's mind was in a muddle, and as if possessed, she called out, "Dar... darling..."

Dongfang Longyue now understood what she had witnessed in the Prince's Mansion earlier that day.

No wonder the Queen was so kind to her.

And no wonder the women of the North Prince Mansion got along so harmoniously.

In other mansions, women would inevitably scheme and vie for favor, seeing each other as rivals in their eyes.

But the North Prince Mansion was entirely different.

If there were any women fighting for favor in the North Prince Mansion, they probably could not withstand the favoritism from Lu Chen, who was already a Grandmaster, and not just an ordinary one at that.

The Queen of the North Prince was merely an ordinary person. How could an ordinary person compete with Lu Chen, the Grandmaster?

It's not just ordinary people, even Martial Artists were not Lu Chen's match. Thus, the North Prince's Mansion's scenario was that all of the North Prince's women united against Lu Chen, this mischievous rascal, which is also why the women of the North Prince Mansion appeared so united and harmonious.

Dawn.

Lu Chen drowsily opened his eyes.

As soon as he did so, he found a breathtakingly beautiful face watching him.

Dongfang Longyue had already awakened since she was the chief editor of the Eastern Newspaper Agency and had to go there today to supervise and review the news drafts. Thus, she woke up quite early.

However, after waking up, she did not dare to make any movement. At that moment, Lu Chen was still leaning on her, holding her in his embrace, and seemed to be sleeping soundly.

After spending the night together, she had wholly accepted Lu Chen; the only thought in her heart was that the Son of Destiny truly was irresistible.

Seeing Dongfang Longyue's eyes fixated on him, Lu Chen said with a smile, "Sorry, I accidentally fell asleep last night. I hope I didn't crush you."

Dongfang Longyue replied, "The Prince can do as he pleases, I am fine."

Suddenly remembering Dongfang Longyue had to go to the agency today, Lu Chen immediately got out of bed and said, "You have to go to the agency today, so I won't hold you up any longer."

As Lu Chen got up, Dongfang Longyue immediately felt much cooler and she also hurriedly got out of bed and said, "Prince, let me dress you."

Lu Chen did not refute; he simply got off the bedstead.

With Dongfang Longyue's help, Lu Chen got dressed and left her room.

Watching Lu Chen's departing figure, the corners of Dongfang Longyue's mouth couldn't help but curve upward. Suddenly she felt somewhat fortunate; thank goodness she hadn't chosen one of those poets and scholars to marry back when she was in the South; otherwise, she might not have been able to become the North Prince's woman today.

Although the North Prince was somewhat licentious, his excellence was unmatched. She was one hundred percent satisfied with the North Prince.



Once Lu Chen's figure had completely disappeared from Dongfang Longyue's sight, she finally snapped back to the reality that she had to go to the agency today. She hurriedly had her maids bring hot water for a bath, and after quickly dressing up, she headed for the Eastern Newspaper Agency.

Chapter 509 Prince, It's Still Early\_1

After leaving Dongfang Longyue's room, Lu Chen went to the Wind Cloud Court for breakfast. While sipping the nutrient-rich medicinal porridge personally prepared by Mu Zixuan, he reviewed the system notifications from the previous night.

"[Congratulations, host, for obtaining a wife or concubine. As a reward, you have received oil exploration, mining, and production-related technical blueprints.]

[For each time the host cultivates affection with a wife or concubine, Qi Refinement Mantra experience points increase by ten thousand, Rejuvenating Skill experience points increase by...]

Seeing the prompt before him, Lu Chen thought, Oil? With the current conditions in the North Country, it would probably be impossible to use the extracted oil for the production of chemical products.

The North Country was still an agricultural nation and did not possess the conditions for large-scale industrial production, so it was best not to mine oil for the time being.

Of course, even if mining was not to begin immediately, the work of oil exploration had to be carried out. He needed to understand what kind of resources resided in which parts of the North Country. That way, when the day would come for the North Country to evolve from an agricultural to an industrial nation, oil would play a significant role.

With his lifespan as a grandmaster, he would live for several hundred years without issue, and he might break through to the Heavenly Human Realm someday. After breaking through the Heavenly Human Realm, living for a thousand years was even a possibility. Anyway, during his lifetime, he was certain to witness the transformation of this world from an agricultural to an industrial one.

At this moment, Mu Zixuan noticed that Lu Chen was lost in thought and asked curiously, "Prince, what are you thinking about?"

Hearing Mu Zixuan's words, Lu Chen snapped back to reality and said with a smile, "Nothing much. By the way, I'm planning to establish a newspaper agency with the North Prince Mansion as its main body."

Upon hearing this, Mu Zixuan was briefly startled, but she soon understood. Dongfang Longyue was currently leading the Eastern Newspaper Agency, and now that Dongfang Longyue had become Lu Chen's woman, perhaps he was finding something for her to do.

However, the official already had a newspaper agency.

With this in mind, Mu Zixuan asked, "Prince, there's already a North Country Times within the Prince's Mansion. Isn't it redundant to create another newspaper agency?"

Lu Chen smiled and said, "The current North Country Times is the Small Court's newspaper agency. The one I want to create next will be completely controlled by the North Prince Mansion."

Mu Zixuan replied, "I understand. I will help you set up the newspaper agency right away, Prince. Could you name the newspaper?"

Lu Chen pondered for a moment, "Let's call it the Wind Cloud Times."

Hearing this name, Mu Zixuan was startled once again. This name...

"Wind Cloud" seemed more appropriate for a formal occasion than for the name of a courtyard. As a newspaper title, it was indeed most fitting.

But for some reason, when Mu Zixuan thought about Lu Chen's words from yesterday about stirring up wind and clouds at night, she felt that the name was somewhat odd.

...

Time flew by, and soon, the day Lu Chen was to take a concubine arrived.

In the end, Dongfang Longyue decided to stay at the Eastern Newspaper Agency for a while longer. Considering she was now the North Prince's woman, whether she had an official status or not wasn't so important. What mattered now was to manage the Eastern Newspaper Agency well and to guide public opinion in favor of the North Prince.

Naturally, Dongfang Longyue was aware that the North Prince Mansion had established a paper called Wind Cloud Times, and she understood that she would likely manage it in the future.

However, compared to a paper closely related to the North Prince Mansion, a civilian newspaper could guide public opinion more effectively.

In the eyes of the common people, although the Eastern Newspaper Agency had been approved for establishment, it was, after all, a paper of the Dongfang Clan and did not have official attributes. In reality, some common people simply do not trust the court or the Prince's Mansion.

In Dongfang Longyue's view, she could maximize her value by remaining at the Eastern Newspaper Agency, so there was no need to rush for that status.

Compared to seeking official status, it was better to demonstrate her value more, which would also make her more valued by the North Prince.

Although Dongfang Longyue hadn't agreed to seek that status right away, the Prince's Mansion still went ahead with the marriage ceremony, after all, Wang Qingci, the concubine, had to be welcomed.

The wedding preparations for Wang Qingci were handled entirely by Mu Zixuan. Even though Wang Qingci was marrying into the North Prince Mansion as a concubine, she still wore a red bridal gown, the standard almost similar to that of a principal wife.

Sitting in the bridal chamber, Wang Qingci appeared somewhat dazed. She hadn't expected this day to come.

She had worked for the Wang Family previously, thinking she would always just be a tool for them and be discarded at a certain time, yet she met the North Prince, this bad thing, in North City, who made her leave the Wang Family ahead of time.

Each time she thought about what had happened between her and Lu Chen, Wang Qingci felt it was surreal. She had initially been an enemy of the North Prince but was captivated by him, becoming his female slave. What was crucial was that in the end, she was thoroughly conquered by the North Prince.

Wang Qingci couldn't help but ridicule herself for being such a shameless woman. She had been captivated by Lu Chen yet ended up falling in love with this bad thing and became hopelessly enamored.

As Wang Qingci was immersed in her myriad thoughts, the voice of a maid came from the doorway, "Greeting to the Prince!"

Hearing this, Wang Qingci became nervous all at once. She had served Lu Chen countless times, but she had never been as nervous as she was today.

The next moment, the sound of the door opening resonated, and Lu Chen entered the room.

Chapter 510: Prince, It's Still Early\_2

Lu Chen's footsteps were light, yet it seemed as though each one trod directly into Wang Qingci's heart. Her heartbeat quickened, and within moments, Lu Chen had reached the bed and lifted Wang Qingci's red bridal veil with a jade Ruyi scepter.

By now, Wang Qingci's face was flushed with red, even her ears were a rosy hue. Lu Chen teased her, saying, "Mr. Wang, could it be that this is your first time in the bridal chamber? Why do you seem so nervous?"

Hearing Lu Chen's teasing words, Wang Qingci relaxed considerably. She looked up at Lu Chen and said, "It is indeed my first time in the bridal chamber."

Although her body and heart had long since become accustomed to Lu Chen, the things they had done before were at most pleasures between a man and a woman and couldn't be considered the bridal chamber. In Wang Qingci's view, only the act performed on the wedding night could truly be called so.

It was her first marriage, her first wedding, and of course, her first bridal chamber experience.

However, with Lu Chen's teasing, she didn't feel as nervous as before.

Lu Chen's large hand then embraced Wang Qingci's waist and directly laid her down on the bed.

Seeing this, Wang Qingci thought Lu Chen was about to do something to her. However, after he joined her on the bed, he didn't proceed with any further actions, but just embraced her slender waist, holding her quietly.

This...

Wang Qingci was taken aback.

Lu Chen was never a restrained man. Every time he caught her, she would be thoroughly handled by him. Why was it that today, he did nothing?

Wang Qingci felt puzzled in her heart.

Could it be that Lu Chen had grown tired of her?

Since their last joyful encounter in the old Prince's Mansion's study, Lu Chen hadn't touched her again, even after moving to the new city.

At first, she didn't think much of it; after all, with so many women in Lu Chen's life, it was normal for him to be too busy.

But today was their wedding day, the day she married into the Prince's Mansion. At such a time, Lu Chen was only embracing her, not engaging in any substantive acts?

Wang Qingci began to grow anxious.

Today was her first day married into the Prince's Mansion, and the Prince wasn't touching her. How could she not be concerned?

After a long while, Wang Qingci finally mustered up the courage to say, "Prince, it is still early."

The implication of Wang Qingci's words was that since it was still so early, they might as well do something enjoyable to pass the time.

However, all Lu Chen did was utter a noncommittal "Hmm" and then lay still, continuing to hold her slender waist as if he were preparing for sleep.

Seeing Lu Chen's lackluster reaction, Wang Qingci couldn't help but wonder. Perhaps the Prince hadn't slept well last night, so he was not spirited today and planned to go to bed early?

As a woman of Lu Chen, Wang Qingci was very familiar with his habits. Sometimes when Lu Chen was having too much fun, he could stay up all night, and they would often keep each other awake till dawn.

Wang Qingci thought to herself that perhaps last night, Lu Chen had been up all night with a woman from the Prince's Mansion, such as Dongfang Longyue.

Ever since Lu Chen moved to the North Country, he had been frequenting Dongfang Longyue's room, going there almost every day; clearly, Dongfang Longyue was Lu Chen's new darling.

Thinking of this, Wang Qingci's heart couldn't help but sour a little. Though she had never thought of monopolizing Lu Chen, she knew she couldn't bear his favor alone.

But the thought of getting married to Lu Chen today, only to find out that he spent last night entangled with another woman all night long, made Wang Qingci feel somewhat stifled inside.

If Lu Chen had spent any other night up all night with his women, she wouldn't have felt any discomfort, but today was their wedding day.

Wang Qingci sighed inwardly; perhaps in Lu Chen's eyes, she was just a concubine, so whether they consummated their marriage tonight was optional to him, since she already belonged to him anyway.

Just as Wang Qingci was thinking this, she suddenly noticed that the Lu Chen holding her seemed somewhat restless.



Lu Chen's chest was pressed tightly against her jade back, and because he was already holding her very close, she could clearly sense the state of Lu Chen's body.

This made Wang Qingci even more puzzled. This bastard clearly wanted to do bad things to her, so why were his hands not moving, nor was there any other action?

Could it be that he was doing this on purpose?

Could it be that he was waiting for her to take the initiative?

Or was he trying to tease her?

After contemplating for a moment, Wang Qingci felt that she couldn't keep waiting. No matter what this bastard was thinking, the consummation of their marriage had to happen today.

With that thought, Wang Qingci's jade hand reached behind her. She had to firmly grasp her own happiness before she could truly be at peace.

At this moment, Lu Chen had planned to take a short rest. He had indeed stayed up all night, but not for a woman, rather he was in the study dealing with performance reports submitted by various counties in North Country.

Having been working on the reforms in North Country for so long, he wanted to see how they were progressing, so he had officials from the counties submit their performance reports.

As for consummating his marriage with Wang Qingci, he hadn't actually planned to do it at all, especially since Wang Qingci was already carrying his child. He didn't want to do anything that might harm their child. But just as he had closed his eyes, Wang Qingci's hand began to wander.

Lu Chen then caught Wang Qingci's wrist and asked, "What are you doing?"

Wang Qingci asked, "Prince, it's still early. Aren't you going to do anything else?"

Hearing this, Lu Chen instantly understood what Wang Qingci meant.

What a bitch, she can't hold herself back when I don't make a move.

Lu Chen then rolled over, trapping Wang Qingci's body within his arms, and looked down into her eyes from above. "Mr. Wang, it's broad daylight now, and you actually want me to do that kind of thing. Are you trying to corrupt this Prince and lead me astray?"

Hearing this, Wang Qingci put on a pitiful act, gazing into Lu Chen's eyes and said, "Has the Prince grown tired of me? In the past, as soon as you caught me, you would do bad things to me no matter where we were. Today is the day I marry you, yet you don't show any sign of it."

This...

Although Lu Chen could see that Wang Qingci's pitiful look was an act, he also realized that not consummating the marriage on their wedding day could indeed cause Wang Qingci unnecessary anxiety.

So he decided not to keep it hidden from Wang Qingci and directly said, "Before we didn't have a child, we could be reckless, but now that we have a child, we can't be as wild as before."

Upon hearing this, Wang Qingci was completely stunned.

What? A child?

When had she and Lu Chen had a child?