Farmhouse 1371

Chapter 1371: Gaining Fame

Gu Youyou's reputation gradually grew, yet the Great Shaman did not openly reject the doctors from Zhuzhao Country. Since the two countries were in a good relationship at the time, the Nanzhao Emperor even officially thanked Gu Youyou, so the ordinary people began to gradually acknowledge Gu Youyou's medical skills.

Although they were accustomed to seeking witch doctors when ill, for those illnesses beyond the witch doctors' abilities, they would consider coming to Gu Youyou for a try.

She cured several diseases that the witch doctors could not, and many people, though silent on the surface, were truly impressed by her in their hearts.

One day, while she was treating patients, she heard a child's heart-wrenching cries from afar.

Soon, a thirty-year-old man came running in, holding a six or seven-year-old boy, with a look of extreme urgency.

"Doctor, Doctor Gu, my child's hand is severed, please, save her quickly."

Gu Youyou looked closely, the child's hand was wrapped in white cloth, continuously bleeding, the child sobbing so hard that he seemed on the verge of fainting.

The child's father was sweating profusely from anxiety, with tears streaming down his face.

A woman ran in after them, holding a bloody object — it was the child's severed hand.

Everyone was shocked by this scene, some more timid screamed in fright.

Gu Youyou hurriedly comforted the couple, saying, “Don’t panic, calm the child’s emotions, press the hand here to stop the bleeding.”

Although the father was trembling with fear, he nodded repeatedly and did as Gu Youyou instructed.

Gu Youyou said again, “Let me see the child’s hand, if it can be reattached, I’ll connect it for him. If it can’t be reattached, we’ll have to heal the wound quickly.”

Everyone was astonished.

Reattach? It’s severed completely, can it really be reattached? How would you do it? Sew it with a needle?

The child’s parents, hearing Gu Youyou’s words, were grateful beyond measure and hurriedly lifted the child’s hand.

Gu Youyou replied, “I don’t want to see that, let me see the severed limb.”

The child’s mother quickly presented the severed limb to Gu Youyou.

Gu Youyou examined it — the incision was clean, it had been cut into two halves with a single strike, this type of cut can be reattached.

She wondered what could have happened to the child for his arm to be severed like this.

Without thinking much, Gu Youyou called for Searcy and took the family into a pre-constructed operating room, quickly taking out surgical equipment.

Fortunately, even when busy, she instructed her team to sterilize these instruments thoroughly.

Wounds that require surgery are extremely urgent, and there is no time to organize these tools when the moment comes.

“Put the child up here.”

Gu Youyou was already prepared, instructing the child’s father.

Yet the child cried and held tightly to his father with his other hand, refusing to let go.

Gu Youyou had no choice but to let Searcy administer anesthesia.

With a single injection, the child became motionless.

The couple was dumbfounded, the woman shouted, “What happened to the child? What happened to my child? Why isn’t he moving? Did you kill him with the injection?”

Their child only had a severed hand, even without one hand, he could still live, but they thought Gu Youyou had treated him to death.

The woman couldn’t bear it, raising the child’s severed hand to strike Gu Youyou.

Searcy snatched the severed hand and kicked the woman aside, saying, “What are you doing? This is your son’s hand; do you still want to reattach it or not?”

Chapter 1372: Rescuing Someone

The woman was wailing, if a person is dead, what’s the use of reattaching a hand?

People gathered outside the house to watch the commotion, were all shocked upon hearing the woman’s voice.

They'd just gone in not long ago, and the child was still crying loudly, yet now there's no sound at all.

Gu Youyou, feeling helpless, had to explain: "The child is alive and well, he's just fainted. I'm afraid he'll move from the pain, which will affect my ability to save him, so I let him faint. Brother, quickly put the child up here."

The woman was stunned for a moment, then stopped crying.

Moments later, she shouted loudly, "Doctor, I've heard that doctors from Zhuzhao Country are very skilled. They even say you are the reincarnation of the Shamaness, and you will certainly save my child, right? Please, please save him, he's still so young…"

"Don't worry, I'll do my best, but you should go out first."

"No, we want to stay here and watch," the woman said.

"Yes, we want to stay here and watch," the child's father said.

"No, get out quickly, the more you delay, the more you delay your child's life. If you don't go out, we won't treat him." Searcy blocked the couple in front of them.

You're kidding, this woman is so agitated, what if she suddenly starts an incident with the doctor?

"But…" The couple was indeed nervous about the child, but this doctor's words were too tough.

To proceed with the surgery as soon as possible, Gu Youyou had no choice but to step out and explain.

"Reattaching a severed arm is very complicated, every single vein must be connected to survive. With so many people outside making noise, we absolutely cannot perform the procedure. You are the parents of the child, surely you want him to be well more than anyone, so go out, keep the door secured, and tell the people outside not to shout so I can work with peace of mind."

"…" So they were meant to go and guard the door.

The child's father tugged at the woman and said, "Mother of the child, let's go out first, as long as the child can be alright, it doesn't matter what we do."

It seems the father is more reliable.

The woman mustered all her strength and gave the man a push, saying, "It's all your fault, if anything happens to Xiaobao, you'll be out of my sight."

After shouting, she ran out crying.

It's only in Nanzhao that women dare to be so fierce, if it happened in Zhuzhao Country, there wouldn't be a woman who dared to scold her husband in front of so many people.

The man looked dejected but wasn't angry, just sighed and left.

Gu Youyou and Searcy began to reattach the severed hand. Reattaching a hand was slightly easier than the severed finger she did for Jie Zhonglin back then, but the child was still young and might not be as cooperative as an adult. Whether it can survive in the future is still uncertain.

In the yard, the woman squatted far away, crying continuously, while the man dejectedly walked out, closing the door behind him.

The onlookers curiously asked the man.

"What exactly happened? How is the child's hand cut like that?"

The man kept his head down without speaking, glanced at the crying woman, and then walked towards her with heavy steps.

Curious people naturally didn’t let him go and chased after him with more questions.

“Can your Xiaobao’s hand really be reattached? It’s so frightening.”

“Yeah, really frightening, it’s severed in two, what on earth happened?”

In response to everyone’s questions, the man began to cry and started hitting his own head with his hand.

The child’s mother suddenly lifted her head and cursed loudly, “He’s the one who chopped it, not chopping firewood properly, but chopped off my Xiaobao’s hand…”

Chapter 1373: Paying the Consultation Fee

Everyone was shocked.

"My Xiaobao is still so young, what if he becomes disabled? We won’t be able to live..."

The man cried out, "How was I supposed to know he suddenly reached his arm over? I didn’t want to hurt him either!"

It turned out the man was chopping wood in the yard, and the child was playing with a little bamboo grasshopper. He sent the grasshopper flying, and it landed near the chopping block. Fearing it would be chopped, he instinctively reached out to protect it, but the man’s axe couldn’t stop in time and cut off his hand.

The child was thoughtless, and the adult was too careless.

Everyone sighed after listening.

But the incident had already happened, blaming would not save the child, so they tried to console the couple.

"Don’t worry too much, this doctor is very skilled. If she says she can treat it, there’s no way she can’t. If she couldn’t reconnect your child’s severed hand, she would never take the child inside."

"Yes, stop quarreling. It’s all for Xiaobao’s sake. The child is suffering inside right now; instead of arguing, hurry and pray to the Shamaness."

The crowd clamored to make the couple kneel outside the yard.

Gu Youyou and Searcy were in the room, almost finished with the surgery.

She hurriedly wiped the sweat from her forehead with a white cloth and sighed in relief.

"Alright, quickly dress his wound. Make sure it’s secured; kids tend to be active."

"Okay, you take a break first."

As Gu Youyou came out of the yard, everyone rushed up to her.

"How is it, Doctor Gu? Is it reattached?"

Gu Youyou smiled lightly and said, "It is reattached, but whether it will survive depends on you as parents being able to properly care for him."

The couple nodded repeatedly and said, "We can, we will surely take good care of him."

"Alright, his hand cannot move. Children are thoughtless, so you must look after him carefully. Also, keep observing, and if anything seems off—especially if the severed limb changes color—come to me immediately..."

Gu Youyou explained various precautions to the couple, and after one round, she repeated them a second and third time.

They didn’t feel relieved just because Gu Youyou had reattached the hand; she had emphasized that post-operation care was more crucial, or else there was a risk of endangerment to life.

By the time they got most of it memorized, Searcy had already bandaged the little boy and brought him out.

The woman saw this and suddenly dashed to the child in tears, but Searcy quickly stepped between them sternly saying, "With your careless nature, I think this arm is better left off; it’ll be chopped down sooner or later."

Her words were always harsh, but Gu Youyou didn’t mind, being used to them.

The woman also didn’t care due to their treatment of her son’s arm and squatted to look up at Searcy.

Searcy snorted coldly, "You must protect his arm well. Are you trying to break it again rushing like this?"

The woman nodded emphatically: "Yes, yes, I was too excited. Thank you both, doctors, for saving my son."

Ignoring her son, she quickly turned around to pull the man and said, "Hurry, take out all the silver to give to the doctor."

The man was stunned for a moment, then hurriedly took out his money pouch.

A pouch of scattered silver, almost.

He awkwardly handed the pouch to Gu Youyou, saying, "We’re not a wealthy family; this is all the savings we have. Doctor Gu, please don’t mind."

Chapter 1374: Commandery Princess Arrives

Gu Youyou pushed his hand back and said seriously, "Save this silver for buying some food to nourish the child. Injuries to muscles and bones take a hundred days to heal, it won't get better so quickly, and buying medicine later will cost a lot of money."

Hearing Gu Youyou say this, the couple was moved to tears, but Gu Youyou was speaking the truth. They had put all their money here, and if they gave it to her, their family really wouldn't be able to survive.

Since they had no money to give her, they could only kneel down and bow.

Mouths calling out that the Shamaness had returned or something similar.

Gu Youyou sighed, "Quickly get up, take the child home, and bring those medicines as well."

She had been busy all day, even delivering medicine, without charging a single penny.

Searcy led the little boy over and said, "Quickly tell your parents to get up and go home with them."

The little boy nodded lightly and said to the couple, "Mom and Dad, please get up, Xiaobao wants to go home."

"Xiaobao..." Looking at the little boy's hand wrapped in white cloth, the woman burst into tears again.

"Xiaobao, how could you suffer such misery at such a young age..."

Someone said, "Oh, stop crying, you've been crying here for half a day, delaying how many things for Dr. Gu? We're all here to see Dr. Gu, quickly go home and take good care of the child."

The woman kept nodding, only then leaving with the child.

"Dr. Gu, I, the old wife, truly believe now that medical skills are more powerful than witchcraft, reattaching a broken hand, and I haven't seen anything more impressive than that, isn't that right everyone?"

"Yes, Dr. Gu is amazing, even better than the Great Shaman."

Searcy raised her head with a laugh, "Fixing broken hands or legs is nothing! Dr. Gu's medical skills can replace whatever's broken, whether it's a broken heart, liver, stomach, she can remake one for me..."

"Hey, enough!" Searcy's exaggerations got more outrageous as she blurted out ridiculous things that she had bragged about in the past.

Even under these medical conditions, reattaching an arm was already her limit, who said anything about changing hearts and livers?

"Hey, isn't this you..."

"Alright, alright, none of this concerns you anymore, go play with bugs in the backyard."

"Hmph..." Searcy huffed angrily and went back to the backyard.

Gu Youyou stayed to continue treating the patients, and on this day, the patients no longer voiced any doubts, only endless praise for her.

...

At sunrise, the debts of passion left by Yue Rujing came back to haunt, but Yue Rujing had already gone out early again with Jin Zijin, so the arriving Commandery Princess couldn't find them.

"Dr. Gu, do you really not know where he went?" The Commandery Princess had a pitiful look that made one's heart ache.

Such a willow-framed beauty was extremely rare in Nanzhao Country, precious because of scarcity, and many admired her, but the Eighth Prince cherished this daughter greatly, refusing every suitor.

Now the daughter fancied Yue Rujing, and the Eighth Prince gave full support, because he deeply understood his daughter was suited for a place like Zhuzhao Country.

Gu Youyou rubbed her forehead and said, "They went out early in the morning, I really don’t know where they went. But they’ll be back tonight, why not come by tonight?"

"This..." The Commandery Princess felt quite embarrassed, her delicate brows furrowing together, she said, "I’m just a young woman, how can I come by at night, even coming this early is overstepping."

Uh...

Then Gu Youyou didn’t know what more to say.

She said helplessly, "Then Commandery Princess, feel free to do as you please, if you want to wait, please come inside to wait."

Chapter 1375: The War Between Two Women

"Into the room?" The Commandery Princess looked at the inn, then said, "Not really appropriate, he’s not here, and he’ll only be back in the evening, so I’d have to wait until evening."

Gu Youyou: "..."

"Then what does the Commandery Princess suggest? You can’t go home and come back in the evening, nor can you wait inside. Are you planning to stand outside the door waiting? They’re going to be back very late," Gu Youyou reminded.

"How can I wait outside? I’d be laughed at!" The Commandery Princess was caught in a dilemma, rubbing her handkerchief.

"...Alright, find a solution on your own. I have many patients waiting, so I'll take my leave."

After Gu Youyou left, the maid beside the Commandery Princess said angrily, "Commandery Princess, look at her attitude! Clearly impatient with you, didn't respect you at all."

The Commandery Princess raised her hand and said, "Don't be rude, she is a doctor of Zhuzhao Country, also the Crown Princess of the eldest Prince of Zhuzhao Country. According to status, we should send a card before visiting her, but now, with her doctor identity in Taihe City, we can skip those formalities."

The maid replied repeatedly, "Yes, yes, I momentarily forgot, please forgive me, Commandery Princess."

"Hmm, don't let it happen again."

The maid bit her lip, then asked, "So, is the Commandery Princess going back first or waiting inside?"

"Oh, going back would be troublesome as well." The Commandery Princess sighed, "It's the same anywhere, we might as well wait inside."

"Oh, okay, please, Commandery Princess."

The Commandery Princess sighed again, saying, "I'm just afraid of breaching etiquette and upsetting the Princely Heir. He is from Zhuzhao Country, where the women follow many rules."

The maid was weary for her but dared not speak.

...

Soon, the servant from the gate came to Gu Youyou to report, "Doctor Gu, Miss Duan has arrived, she says she's looking for the Princely Heir."

"Ah, Miss Duan is here too?" Gu Youyou felt exhausted, even more so than treating patients.

She gently massaged her forehead and sighed, "Let’s go, Miss Duan is quite a character, we can’t ignore her, let’s take a look."

"Ah ah!" The servant said with a troubled face, "Doctor Gu, the Commandery Princess hasn’t left yet, she’s sitting in the front hall having tea."

Gu Youyou: "..."

She actually hasn’t left.

"Why didn’t you tell me sooner?"

"Little me, little me was afraid of disturbing Doctor Gu."

"Alright, let’s take a look."

Taking a look turned out to be quite something, Gu Youyou hadn’t seen anyone yet, but from afar she could hear the sounds of women arguing.

Miss Duan couldn’t wait any longer and had already come inside. She was currently in the front hall arguing with the Commandery Princess.

"Commandery Princess, you’re known for being the most courteous person in Nanzhao, looking for a man in broad daylight might not be good. For those who don’t know, they’d think you can’t get married?"

"Then why are you here?" The Commandery Princess was pale with anger, tightly squeezing her handkerchief, saying, "I’ve heard you seduced him away."

"Oh, listen to what you're saying, he came to our Duan Family on his own two legs, we didn't carry him over."

"You..." The Commandery Princess said angrily, "You clearly dislike him, why are you fighting me for him now."

"The Commandery Princess is wrong again, I'm not fighting you for him, it's all his own choice."

Gu Youyou listened to the argument outside the door, thought for a moment, and chose not to go in.

In a war between two women, adding a third person is no fun. Especially in this kind of situation, no matter what she says, it's likely to be wrong—offending one or both at once.

Chapter 1376: Got Angry

This is Yue Rujing's romantic debt, not Jin Zijin's, what does it have to do with her?

After thinking it over, she went back.

The servant at the gate was terribly anxious and said, "Doctor Gu, why did you leave again? What if the Commandery Princess and Miss Duan start fighting?"

Gu Youyou said indifferently, "Don't worry, they'll at most have a few words."

"Why? Miss Duan loves to fight, it's not certain."

"Rest assured, she wouldn't dare hit the Commandery Princess, that's an offense below one's station."

"What if the Commandery Princess punishes Miss Duan? This is a post station, it might come back to you."

"Don’t worry, Miss Duan is quite capable, she won’t suffer."

"But..."

"Alright, alright, go back to watching the door."

Between the Commandery Princess and Miss Duan, as Gu Youyou expected, nothing major happened.

They were both sulking, refusing to leave, waiting together in the front hall for Yue Rujing to return.

By evening, Gu Youyou was already done with work, and both Jin Zijin and Yue Rujing were back.

He heard what the gate servant said and was so frightened he turned to run.

But Jin Zijin caught him and brought him back.

"These things need to be resolved, who is it that you like? Tell the other clearly."

Yue Rujing turned his head, just in time to see Gu Youyou coming towards him.

He felt a pang of bitterness in his heart and said, "What does it matter who I like? Why don’t you go tell the Nanzhao Emperor to marry both, then?"

Jin Zijin had never seen Yue Rujing like this and couldn’t help but feel worried.

"Ajing, what’s going on?"

Yue Rujing wore an indifferent look, smiled, and said, "Isn’t it just a marriage alliance? Since they both want to retreat to Zhuzhao Country for marriage, why not marry both so they won’t quarrel?"

"Ajing." Jin Zijin gripped his shoulder, and Yue Rujing’s indifferent expression gradually stiffened.

"Ajing, what’s really wrong?"

He lowered his head, not daring to look at him.

After a long pause, he finally said softly, "It’s nothing, I don’t like any of them, I don’t want to see them."

He pushed Jin Zijin aside and said, "Senior brother, don’t force me, I want to be alone for a while."

After speaking, he turned and ran outside.

"Hey, Ajing." Jin Zijin wanted to stop him, but was held back by Gu Youyou, who emerged from the courtyard.

Gu Youyou lightly shook her head at him and said, "Don’t go, maybe he really doesn’t like this forced marriage setup."

"Forced marriage? Ajing must get married, whether he likes it or not. He’s thirty, and all these years he’s been busy with me on those matters, I feel very guilty towards the Marquess Yue."

"Then..." Gu Youyou suggested, "How about I go see him, you see, he seems unwilling to face you on this matter."

Jin Zijin sighed and nodded slightly, "Alright then, you go see him. If he’s really unwilling... then forget it, I won’t force him."

"Alright, good!"

...

Gu Youyou took a lantern and searched until she reached Moon Bay, only then did she find him by the water’s edge.

Fortunately, he liked to wear white clothes, under the moonlight, those white clothes emitted a faint glow, making them quite conspicuous.

She still remembered the first time she saw Yue Rujing, he was wearing the same outfit.

"Yue Rujing, is the evening breeze by the lake comfortable?" Gu Youyou sat on a stone beside him, holding up the lantern.

Yue Rujing was slightly taken aback and turned to look at her.

"Why did you come?"

Gu Youyou looked at the Moon Bay lake water under the moonlight, beautiful as a painting, and smiled faintly, "Someone threw a little tantrum, got angry, so I came out to watch the show."

Chapter 1377: Told a Joke

“You’re just looking at me like that?” Yue Rujing turned his head with a helpless expression.

“Gu Youyou, do you think I’m just someone who acts petty?”

Gu Youyou was startled, realizing Yue Rujing seemed a bit off.

She opened her mouth and said, “You… you’re not!” She thought Yue Rujing must have been hit by something, and when a child is affected, they should mainly be encouraged, not further hurt, or else the consequences could be very serious.

Everyone around him denies him, and if he starts denying himself too, it could lead to depression, which would be troublesome.

She thought for a moment and came up with a bunch of compliments, and said, “How could you be someone petty? You’re more open-minded than anyone. Look at me, I’m the kind of person whose mouth is not very likable, always loves to joke at others’ expense.

Do you remember Lotus Village? At the east end of Lotus Village, there’s a family that raised a cow. That cow was so lazy, it didn’t work but ate a lot, driving the old man who raised it mad. He couldn’t do anything with beating or scolding. Later I went there, caught hold of the cow’s ear, and scolded it fiercely, then… guess what happened next?”

“Hmm, then what happened?” Yue Rujing seemed interested.

Gu Youyou said, “Then the cow couldn’t take it and committed suicide because of my scolding…”

“Ah…?” Yue Rujing was stunned. He thought the cow became diligent, but it actually committed suicide.

He knew Gu Youyou was just telling a joke, but he couldn’t help laughing.

He said, “What exactly did you say to scold the cow to death?”

Gu Youyou said, “Anyway, not as harsh as what I usually say to you, look, you’re still alive and kicking. Isn’t it? Your heart is bigger than a cow’s.”

Yue Rujing: “…”

Is she here to cheer me up, or to rile me up?

Gu Youyou quickly laughed again and said, “Don’t take it to heart, I was just joking. Are you feeling any better now?”

Uh… haha…

“Happy, happy…” Yue Rujing was left both crying and laughing.

A faint glow of fireflies flew over. Gu Youyou rarely saw fireflies and suddenly her eyes lit up.

“Hey, fireflies!” She shoved the lantern into Yue Rujing’s hands and said, “I want to catch it.”

Unfortunately, the firefly flew too high, and Gu Youyou jumped for a long time but couldn’t catch it.

Yue Rujing watched her and smiled gently, saying, “Don’t chase it, I’ll take you to a place with plenty of these bugs.”

“Really? Where?”

“Follow me.”

Yue Rujing took the lantern and led the way, while Gu Youyou walked following him with unsteady steps. Luckily, the place wasn’t far, and soon they arrived at a valley.

Yue Rujing picked up a stone and threw it into the valley, and immediately a large group of fireflies flew up.

Such a huge number of fireflies, like a magnificent fairy tale, Gu Youyou had never seen so many beautiful little creatures and was quite stunned.

Yue Rujing looked at her jade-like face and smiled, saying, “How is it, beautiful?”

Gu Youyou smiled and said, “Beautiful, I feel like I’m in a fairy tale. There must be tens of thousands, it’s so beautiful.”

She lifted her skirt and was about to go into the valley. Yue Rujing quickly stopped her and said, “Don’t go, let me go. Quick, hold the lantern.”

“Okay, okay, be careful, catch a lot for me!”

Yue Rujing smiled, nodded gently, turned around, tore off a piece from the hem of his garment, and quickly twisted it into a semi-transparent white gauze.

Chapter 1378: Yu Jizi Begins to Take Action

“Over there, over there, so many, I want them all.” Gu Youyou was excited like a child.

Yue Rujing’s white figure leapt towards the valley full of fireflies, up and down, down and up, and soon he had caught many fireflies, even brighter than the lantern Gu Youyou was holding.

He handed the captured fireflies to Gu Youyou and said, “Do you think this is enough? If not, we’ll have to go back to find a bag; I can’t tear my clothes any more.”

“Enough, enough.” Gu Youyou accepted the fireflies, nodding, “When I go back, I’ll let them all loose in the house, it will become a sea of stars. Zijin will definitely like it.”

Yue Rujing’s smile immediately froze upon hearing Zijin’s name.

His hand paused slightly, and he said indifferently, “It’s getting late, let’s hurry back, or else my brother will worry.”

“Hmm? You’re not staying a bit longer, what if the Commandery Princess and Miss Duan are still here?”

“Even if they are, we have to go back.” Yue Rujing replied blandly.

…

When they returned, the Commandery Princess and Miss Duan were already gone. Since Yue Rujing was so resistant, Jin Zijin would naturally help ease his situation and not put him in a difficult position.

Yue Rujing greeted Jin Zijin and returned to his own courtyard.

Gu Youyou shook a bag of fireflies in front of Jin Zijin and said, “Went to catch bugs, do you like them?”

Jin Zijin frowned at the white gauze containing the fireflies and said, “Ajing helped you catch them?”

“Yes, in that valley, I couldn’t go down there myself.”

“He actually tore his own clothes?” Jin Zijin paused, then followed Gu Youyou inside.

“How about it? Did he say anything?”

Gu Youyou sighed, “He didn’t say, but I feel he might have encountered something. But since he didn’t mention it, I think you don’t need to ask. People have their own little secrets, don’t they? As long as you keep an eye on him and nothing major happens, it’s nothing serious.”

Jin Zijin thought for a moment and said, “You’re right; it’s his father’s concern.” He sighed and added, “If he doesn’t find anyone he likes here, once he goes back, the Marquess will definitely assign him a girl from Lingnan, because the Yue Family can’t let the line end with him.”

Hearing this, Gu Youyou suddenly felt some sympathy for Yue Rujing.

If it were modern times, there would be many people who don't marry, but here it's not allowed. Among the three forms of unfilial behavior, not having an heir is the worst, so even if it's just for the sake of having a child, he has to marry someone.

Thinking of the Marquess, it seems he was like that too. The Marquess was deeply in love with Xiao Qinqin back then; even when she came to him pregnant with another man's child, he never despised her.

And now, the current Madam is nothing more than a tool appointed by the old Marquess for passing on the lineage, because the Marquess didn't want to marry.

…

The worrying event happened nonetheless, Yu Jizi returned from Yunhe Mountain and the first thing he did was meet with the Nanzhao Emperor.

After they had a secret talk for four hours, Yu Jizi handed the Nanzhao Emperor a sealed scroll, which the Emperor gladly accepted, and swiftly dispatched a troop to encircle the inn where Jin Zijin and the others were staying.

The surrounding residents had no idea what was happening; Gu Youyou had been held in high esteem by the people like a Shamaness the day before, but by the next day, she was surrounded.

"What's going on? So many soldiers surrounding Doctor Gu."

Chapter 1379: Public Opinion

"I heard that their visit to Nanzhao Country is actually a conspiracy. Pretending to establish friendly relations between the two countries is a façade; they truly intend to seize this opportunity to annex Nanzhao."

"What? Is that true? And what about Doctor Gu?"

"Doctor Gu is indeed the Crown Princess Consort of Zhuzhao Country. It's said that once the Crown Prince and Crown Princess Consort accomplish their mission in Nanzhao, the Emperor of Zhuzhao will immediately announce the Crown Prince as the new Crown Prince, and the Crown Princess Consort as the Crown Princess. They will be the future Emperor and Empress of Zhuzhao."

"But she genuinely helped us. She took no payment and healed many people."

"Ah, you fool. They are just trying to buy people's hearts and divide us."

"Exactly, we shouldn't fall for their small favors and gifts. If there's a battle, I'll be the first to join."

"Right, we know the people of Zhuzhao Country have ill intentions..."

There was another voice in the crowd.

"No, Doctor Gu saved my mother, and that's the truth."

"Yes, it was Doctor Gu who fixed my Xiaobao's hand. I don't care if she's the Crown Princess Consort of Zhuzhao Country, I only know she is our benefactor, she is the reincarnation of the Shamaness..."

"You fool, our Shamaness would only protect us; how could she marry into Zhuzhao Country? I think you're being deceived by her."

"How is it deception? Look at my Xiaobao's hand, the fingers can already move. The villagers all saw it; when we brought the severed hand to Doctor Gu, it was snapped in two."

"In any case, the people of Zhuzhao Country are not to be trusted, especially that Princess of Zhuzhao. She's surely part of a conspiracy, I implore His Majesty to arrest the Princess of Zhuzhao..."

Inside the guest house, Gu Youyou sat still in a chair, seemingly unmoved by everything happening outside, and it was hard to discern what she was thinking.

Searcy packed all the items, hiding some deadly poisons within his clothes.

Gui Yunxi fed his horse until it was full, saying, "Let’s seize the opportunity to escape; falling into the hands of these savages would be disastrous. I heard they eat people."

Searcy rolled his eyes at him, saying, "Try to run and see? Do you know how many people are outside?"

"Indeed!" Gu Youyou raised her eyes and said calmly, "We three are powerless, running is the worst policy. We are upright and have no need to flee. If we run, we give them a reason to kill us."

"Then... what should we do? The Crown Prince left early this morning, and he might not even know things have gone wrong."

"He will find out sooner or later." Gu Youyou replied calmly, "Everyone should go about their business. Important things should be properly kept, especially the research on those Poisonous Insects, they must not fall into Yu Jizi’s hands."

Searcy gritted his teeth and said, "Don’t worry, I’ve hidden everything in jars, buried under the azaleas in the garden."

"That’s good," Gu Youyou said, "Let’s first see what they intend to do. The sudden change in the Emperor of Nanzhao’s attitude must have a reason."

Gui Yunxi was surprised and said, "Could it be that Yu Jizi threatened him? Ah, perhaps the Imperial Palace of Nanzhao is already under Yu Jizi’s control?"

Searcy gave him a sharp knock on the head

Gu Youyou raised her eyes and said, "That is unlikely. Yu Jizi has been operating in Zhuzhao Country for many years without openly coercing the Emperor. He holds high prestige in Nanzhao, but it’s far from the control he once had over Zhuzhao Country. Perhaps... there’s some kind of transaction between him and the Emperor of Nanzhao..."

Chapter 1380: Kidnapped

Searcy bit her lip and said, "I knew that old fossil would cause trouble sooner or later. I said we should poison him with a few packs of medicine, but you insisted on dealing with him slowly."

Gu Youyou snorted, rolled her eyes at her, and said, "Go ahead and poison one for me to see? Do you think he has lived this long without reason? You think his brain is like your family's coachman's?"

Searcy: "..."

Gui Yunxi: "..." He felt innocently attacked.

"Alright, when they come to take us away, stay spirited; even if we're prisoners, we shouldn't lose our momentum."

In the Imperial Palace, someone brought the Emperor's decree to the Commander surrounding the posthouse. After reading it, he finally ordered those inside to be captured.

The three of them, Gu Youyou included, had already prepared for arrest and didn't waste words; when they came to capture them, they followed out obediently.

The three were dressed tidily, and even though they wore shackles on their hands, they lost none of their charm.

"Doctor Gu is out, ah, they've put shackles on Doctor Gu."

"It's these people from Zhuzhao Country; we can't let them go."

The onlookers expressed two opinions. Some defended Gu Youyou, believing the Emperor of Nanzhao must have misunderstood by ordering their arrest.

Others were certain their intentions in coming to Nanzhao were impure, demanding they be executed to appease the masses.

Regardless of what was said, as long as there was even one person speaking up for her, Gu Youyou felt her efforts during this time were worthwhile.

Nanzhao Country is different from other nations; their faith overrides everything. If the Emperor angers the people with faith on the line, he could be quickly overthrown.

So, truly assigning some crime to her, the Emperor of Nanzhao must heed public opinion.

Previously, the mother of the child with a severed hand squeezed through the crowd, holding her child, following them as they walked forward.

She wept softly and asked, "Doctor Gu, Doctor Gu, if you're in difficulty, speak to His Majesty properly. He's a benevolent Monarch and won't trouble you. Don't let any misunderstanding lead to harm."

Gu Youyou responded with a gentle smile, "Thank you for your concern, Xiaobao's Mother. I believe the Emperor of Nanzhao is a wise Monarch and won't wrong any good person."

"Yes, no matter the situation between Zhuzhao Country and Nanzhao Country, Doctor Gu is a good person."

"Nonsense, you've all been deceived by her. She's from Zhuzhao Country, always eyeing our land. How could she be a good person?"

"Li San, why is your mouth so foul? Then tell me, what did Doctor Gu do to become a bad person?"

"Just because she's from Zhuzhao Country."

"That doesn't prove they are bad people."

"People from Zhuzhao Country deserve to die; she's a bad person."

Searcy smirked coldly, turned and looked at the man named Li San, and said, "The Great Shaman is also from Zhuzhao Country, you know. We came to Nanzhao at the invitation of the Great Shaman to help you. Why not arrest him too, then?" Hmph, if we can't have it easy, then no one should.

Searcy's words spread like a shockwave, and the Commander escorting them forward, seeing things were going badly, immediately shouted angrily, "No talking! Quick, take them away."

Searcy no longer needed to speak; one sentence was sufficient.

She laughed loudly, quickening her pace.

The people behind were stunned.

"What? The Great Shaman is also from Zhuzhao Country?"

"How can it be, the Great Shaman..."

But no one could clearly explain the Great Shaman's origins. Like Gu Youyou, the Great Shaman had helped many people and held a high place in the hearts of ordinary people, second only to the legendary Shamaness.