Farmhouse 1391

Chapter 1391: The So-Called Difficulties

The Emperor of Nanzhao lowered his head, and after a moment, sighed, "Mother, they must harbor treacherous intentions."

"Must harbor treacherous intentions?" The Empress Dowager froze, awkwardly saying, "How can I not understand what you mean by must? You mean they are nothing like what you said now, but you..."

The Emperor of Nanzhao gently nodded and said, "Indeed, I haven't told anyone, only you, because like you, I trust no one else!"

Then, the Emperor of Nanzhao told the Empress Dowager what Yu Jizi had said to him, and about the matter of the scroll.

The Empress Dowager was secretly astonished, struggling to say anything for a long time.

The Emperor of Nanzhao said, "Mother, this temptation is simply too great for me. Think about it, throughout history, how many emperors have sought immortality? They exhausted their machinations, spent vast human resources and material means, and achieved nothing. But now your son is about to succeed; I will become immortal, a ruler unparalleled in history.

What is the small Nanzhao? What is the mighty Zhuzhao Country? I want this world; I want everyone to bow beneath my feet..."

The Empress Dowager was stunned for a moment, then murmured, "Did you believe it? If the Great Shaman says it, you believe it? But what if it's fake, and you end up offending Zhuzhao Country."

The Emperor of Nanzhao's eyes shone, he was beside himself with excitement, and he said, "No, it's real, Mother, it's real. Look at the Great Shaman, have you ever seen an old man like him? He is a living example..."

The Great Shaman is indeed perplexing.

However...

The Empress Dowager exclaimed, "No, you can’t do this. This is not only faithless and unworthy; it would bring disaster to the people. This is not something an emperor should do. You can’t pursue remote immortality at the expense of your people."

"What to fear?" The Emperor of Nanzhao said displeased, "Our men and women of Nanzhao can all rise to battle; they do not fear war. As long as they dare come, our sons and daughters will defeat them overwhelmingly. The terrain of Nanzhao is naturally fortified everywhere.

Everyone wants to annex us, but for thousands of years, no one has managed. As long as they dare come, we guarantee their return will be impossible."

"But... The people’s lives are already very tough, you cannot..."

"No, I must do this." The Emperor of Nanzhao said, "Mother, once I become someone like the Great Shaman, I will surely lead my people to live like fairies, and Nanzhao will become a paradise on earth."

The Emperor of Nanzhao’s face was full of a mad expression, as if in the next moment he would become a fairy.

Such a face made the Empress Dowager feel a bit fearful.

When a person is too obsessed with something, they become mad, even unrecognizable to their kin.

This made the Empress Dowager quite afraid.

At this moment, a maid urgently ran in to request an audience, causing the Emperor and the Empress Dowager to stop their argument.

"What is so urgent? Is there no sense of decorum?" The Emperor of Nanzhao said irritably.

The maid quickly said, "It... the Fifteenth Prince has returned."

The Empress Dowager looked at the Emperor of Nanzhao, who sighed irritably, "Let him come in."

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

The maid retreated, and the Empress Dowager sighed softly, "Why not return that Princess of Zhuzhao to him? Just a woman, if he likes her, let him have her."

The Emperor of Nanzhao furrowed his brow and nodded gently, "It's possible to give her to him, but not now."

Chapter 1392: The Ambition of the Emperor of Nanzhao

"Then…" The Empress Dowager looked at the somewhat deranged Emperor of Nanzhao and suddenly couldn't continue. After a moment, she added, "Forget it, he is your brother after all. Mother believes you won't mistreat him. Where have you imprisoned him?"

The Emperor of Nanzhao said, "In the dungeon, locked up together with Gu Youyou and the others."

Thinking that they hadn't captured Jin Zijin, he couldn't help but feel agitated, saying, "Jin Zijin escaped with Yue Rujing, and there is another person even more impressive than the Great Shaman. Sigh, Mother, I'll leave the matter of the fifteenth to you. Persuade him to open his mind; it's just a woman, he can have as many as he wants, but he mustn't ruin my grand plans."

"Alright, you go ahead and get busy," the Empress Dowager said.

The Emperor of Nanzhao avoided the path that the Fifteenth Prince would take to enter and left the Empress Dowager's bedchamber through the back door.

The Empress Dowager looked at the swaying door and really didn't know what to say.

She revered Witch Doctors, yet she wasn't foolish enough to believe in the myth of immortality.

She didn't spell it out because she saw that the Emperor of Nanzhao was already obsessed to the point of madness.

If you were to say what the greatest allure to an ordinary person is, it would surely be making an ordinary person emperor all of a sudden.

But to an emperor, the temptation of immortality was definitely greater than making an ordinary person emperor.

The Fifteenth Prince entered the Empress Dowager's bedchamber. By this time it was already dark. Through the dim lighting, the Empress Dowager saw the Fifteenth Prince's pale face and his casually treated arm.

"What's happened to you? Running around like this, aren't you going to take care of the wounds on your arm?" The Empress Dowager quickly got up, heartachingly pulling his injured arm.

The Fifteenth Prince pushed the Empress Dowager away and said, "Tell me, where is Liuying?"

"You, you should take care of your wound first," the Empress Dowager said anxiously.

"No, you tell me first where Liuying is?" The Fifteenth Prince asked urgently.

The Empress Dowager was stunned on the spot, her face full of helplessness, and said, "This is a long story. If you believe in Mother, bandage your wound first."

The Fifteenth Prince was taken aback. The Empress Dowager seized the opportunity to approach him again, saying, "Come, sit down first."

This time he did not resist and nodded slightly.

The Empress Dowager called a servant in to re-treat and bandage the Fifteenth Prince's wound.

The Fifteenth Prince asked, "Can Mother tell me now?"

The Empress Dowager ordered everyone out of the bedchamber before whispering to the Fifteenth Prince, "I have already spoken to your imperial brother. He promised me he wouldn't let anything happen to Jin Liuying. Rest assured and wait here; I will definitely return her to you."

"I must see her now," the Fifteenth Prince exclaimed excitedly.

"It's not possible now." The Empress Dowager sighed deeply and said softly, "I don't know how to tell you about this matter, but Mother has done her best. Your imperial brother is not quite himself. Instead of chasing after Mother for your wife, you should pay more attention to your imperial brother. Mother has a premonition that something terrible might happen in our Nanzhao."

The Fifteenth Prince was startled and asked, "Mother, what exactly has happened?"

Seeing the Empress Dowager so serious, he also put away his casual attitude and became serious.

"Some great trouble has arisen."

The Empress Dowager hesitated for a long time, feeling that the matter, which was harmful and of no benefit to the Emperor, should be kept from as many people as possible. She said, "Mother has unspeakable reasons and can't tell you everything. This matter is related to the Great Shaman. Your imperial brother suddenly turned this way also because of the Great Shaman. Tell your nephews, your imperial brother may be a bit confused, but he is the Emperor. You all… sigh, in short, your imperial brother is already possessed by obsession, and the Nanzhao Country is counting on you all."

Chapter 1393: Escape

The Empress Dowager's ambiguous words had already let the Fifteenth Prince realize that something major had happened. He nodded lightly, unable to take care of his wife at the moment, and said, "Then, Empress Dowager, I'll leave Liuying in your care. I'll go to the Witch Doctor Village to see."

Early in the morning, he was brought into the Imperial Palace for a game of chess. After Liuying was captured, he still didn't know anything.

It seems he needs to figure out what exactly is going on first.

"Yes, go quickly. Be careful of your injuries."

Seeing the Fifteenth Prince leaving, the Empress Dowager still did not dare to rest.

She called someone in and said, "You go and find out where the Fifteenth Princess has been detained."

"Yes, Empress Dowager!"

"Give instructions to the guards to take care."

…

Yue Rujing and Jin Zijin, along with Tian Jizi, fled toward Zhuzhao Country, while on the other side, the Nanzhao Emperor's pursuing troops had also arrived.

"Capture them! The Emperor has ordered that they must not return to Zhuzhao."

The one leading the chase was General Duan.

Seeing the large number of pursuers, Yue Rujing swiftly drew his sword and said, "Senior, you take Master and leave first. I'll deal with this bunch who are rushing to their deaths."

Jin Zijin held him back and said, “No way, Youyou is still in their hands. If we start killing, there will really be no way to explain.”

“Oh, Senior, what is there left to say at this point? If these treacherous ones dare to harm the adviser, I’ll personally lead troops to destroy them.”

Tian Jizi waved his hand and said, “Stop, if you have the strength, hurry up and carry me for a while.”

Yue Rujing: “…”

Tian Jizi said, “You, when will you grow up? Just go quickly.”

“We’re far from Zhuzhao Country, we can’t go any further. Look behind us…”

“I’ve already written a letter to your father. He should be waiting ahead at that mountain to assist us. Once we reach that mountain, we’ll be safe.”

“Ah…? My father is here, good, good, let’s run.”

Yue Rujing sheathed his sword and started running, making Tian Jizi grit his teeth in anger.

“Little rascal, come back and carry me…”

Jin Zijin picked him up and said, “Ajing is injured worse than I am, let me do it.”

Tian Jizi lay on Jin Zijin’s back, cursing, and said, “He knows he’s injured worse? Just now he still wanted to go back to kill some.”

General Duan caught up and shouted to the people ahead, “Quick, chase them, they’re right ahead.”

The mountain road at night was hard to traverse, and everyone was moving slowly. Just as they were about to catch up, they saw spots of firelight coming from the mountain ahead.

The people on the mountain shouted loudly, “Is it the Crown Prince? Minister Yue Tingfang has been waiting here for a long time.”

The voice amplified itself in the valley, reaching General Duan’s ears, and he immediately ordered his men to stop.

“Wait, everyone come back.”

“General, Yue Tingfang is ahead, what do we do now.”

General Duan retorted in frustration, “My ears are not deaf, retreat.”

The commanders hesitated, reluctant to leave when the target was so near.

“But the Emperor said…”

General Duan interrupted with a sneer, “The Emperor? Hmph, the person ahead is Yue Tingfang; look at their numbers, can we possibly take them down with just a few of us pursuing them?”

“So now…”

“Let’s go back.”

The group: “…”

They had chased for an entire day and night, from dawn to dusk, and from dusk to dawn again, and the target was right in front of them, only to meet Yue Tingfang?

Fine, since General Duan ordered a retreat, then retreat it is.

Chapter 1394: Dungeon

General Duan smiled coldly and whispered to his third son, “The Emperor’s sudden change of face is not right. Ride a fast horse back and tell your elder brother to pay more attention to the Emperor’s movements.”

The third young master of the Duan family was taken aback. Recalling the scenes, indeed, there seemed to be numerous suspicious points.

Is this why father didn’t want us to pursue them ruthlessly?

He thought to himself: Indeed, the old ginger is hotter than fresh.

Yue Rujing saw from afar the figure under the brightest flame and shouted loudly, “Dad, dad, thank goodness you came; otherwise, you’d have no descendants.”

Yue Tingfang: “…”

Yue Tingfang called a few people to come forward and help Yue Rujing over. He, too, had reached his limit and collapsed onto the ground.

“Ajing, where are your master and senior brother?”

“Dad, Master and the others are behind,” Yue Rujing said, raising a hand while lying on the ground.

Yue Tingfang glanced at him and hurriedly went personally with a few people to bring Jin Zijin and Tian Jizi along.

Upon seeing those approaching from the front, Tian Jizi asked Jin Zijin to put him down and said, “My current situation should not be known to others. Let’s go.”

“Master, can you hold on?” Jin Zijin asked worriedly.

“Yes, this old bag of bones, even if I were to pass away now, is much stronger than the average person. It’s just that earlier, I used too much energy to suppress Yu Jizi.”

Yue Tingfang, leading the men, saw Jin Zijin and Tian Jizi, and Tian Jizi quickly said, “Quickly, help Zijin back; he’s injured.”

Yue Tingfang was slightly startled and promptly ordered his men to escort them back into the valley.

As dawn approached, Jin Zijin and Tian Jizi went into a tent together, and Tian Jizi said to Yue Tingfang, “Rest for an hour. Leave at daybreak. Both Zijin and Ajing are injured, so make sure no one disturbs them.”

Yue Tingfang hurriedly organized defenses to allow them time to rest and heal.

Meanwhile, in Taihe City, Gu Youyou and the others had already spent a day and night in the dungeon.

The most unbearable thing in the dungeon wasn’t the various smells or the occasional rats, but the mosquitoes.

Those mosquitoes were much bigger than the ones in Zhuzhao Country. With one bite, a huge bump would appear immediately, and there was an overwhelming number of them.

The four of them could only take turns sleeping, leaving one person awake to swat mosquitoes.

Fortunately, the four of them were locked up together; otherwise, none of them could sleep.

“If I had known, I would have brought that insect repellent,” Searcy sighed.

Compared to when she first arrived, Jin Liuying, now almost on the brink of collapse.

She cried softly, “How could this happen? The Prince hasn’t come to save me. I so want to go home…”

She was just a fifteen-year-old girl, pampered from a young age, who would never have imagined spending a night in such a place.

To make it till dawn was already her limit.

Gu Youyou glanced at a small vent window above the dungeon and gently patted her shoulder to comfort her, “Don’t worry, your Prince won’t abandon you. He must be figuring out a way to save you now. You have to persevere, can’t cry, and let others laugh at you. You are the Princess of Zhuzhao Country.”

“I…” Jin Liuying nodded lightly, burying her head in her knees, “Okay, I won’t cry.”

A moment later, she tilted her head again and asked, “Master, will big brother come too?”

“He…” Gu Youyou wasn’t sure about their current safety. If they were safe, she’d rather he not come.

Chapter 1395: The Meal Delivery Has Arrived

Searcy took over the conversation, chuckling, “If they come, they’ll probably end up like us, locked up and feeding mosquitoes.”

Gu Youyou: “…” Searcy’s mouth really is the most annoying.

“Ah, will my big brother be caught too?” Jin Liuying exclaimed.

“Of course, your big brother is their ultimate target, right?” Searcy said.

“What will happen if they catch my brother?”

“Your brother is worth much more than us. The Emperor of Nanzhao is so poor; if it were me, I’d trade him for a city.”

“Ah, then it’s better if my brother doesn’t come; the farther he runs, the better…”

“This is Nanzhao Country; he’d have to be able to run away, don’t forget, Yu Jizi is still around, that guy runs faster than a horse.”

Gu Youyou couldn’t listen any longer and angrily said, “Enough, haven’t you finished yet? If you’re done, go and swat the mosquitoes. Your family’s coachman has been swatting them all night.”

Gui Yunxi laughed, “It’s fine, you all talk, I’m not tired.”

Gu Youyou said flatly, “I’m afraid that if by any chance there’s an opportunity to escape, you won’t have the energy.”

“Humph, come and rest.” Upon hearing Gu Youyou’s words, Searcy stood up to take over for Gui Yunxi.

After daybreak, a maid carrying a basket entered the dungeon, and Gu Youyou overheard her talking to their guard, realizing she was a maid from the Empress Dowager’s side.

“Princess of the Fifteenth, are you here?” The maid stood at the entrance of the dungeon carrying the basket, shouting loudly.

Jin Liuying was greatly surprised and said to Gu Youyou, “Master, are they sent by the Prince?”

Gu Youyou whispered to her, “No, they’re from the Empress Dowager, just answer her and see what she wants to do.”

“Mm, okay.”

“I’m here, at the very inside.”

The maid heard Jin Liuying speak and then carried the basket to the innermost cell of the dungeon.

The conditions in the dungeon were predictable; it was the first time this maid had come to such a place in her life. She held her nose, nearly about to vomit.

She put down a basket beside the cell and said, “Princess of the Fifteenth, this is breakfast ordered by the Empress Dowager for you. Eat slowly, this servant will take her leave.”

Without waiting for Jin Liuying to respond, she left holding her nose, not even taking the basket away.

“What kind of people are they, really!” Searcy cursed and swore, approaching the basket.

Inside were a few stacks of pastries, some rice porridge, and small dishes.

The items weren’t much, but they were delicately made.

There wasn’t enough for four people, though it was too much for one person.

Searcy served all the food out so it was visible to everyone, and the four of them appeared a bit awkward.

Jin Liuying said, “Let’s eat together, the food here in the cell is inedible, even a little bit each is better than nothing.”

“This is for you!” Searcy, unusually, blushed.

Gu Youyou took out a clean silver needle, inserting it into that breakfast, ensuring it wasn’t poisoned before she felt at ease.

She said, “Let’s all eat together; if there’s a chance to escape, we can’t run on empty stomachs.”

“Mm, okay, let’s eat together.”

Gu Youyou’s words about escaping together rekindled hope in everyone.

Among them, Jin Liuying was undoubtedly different from the others, which was evident just from this breakfast.

After eating breakfast, Gu Youyou softly said to Jin Liuying, “Liuying, promise your master one thing.”

“Mm? What?” Jin Liuying wiped her mouth with her sleeve, discontentedly rubbing it over and over.

Gu Youyou said, “If you have a chance to get out, don’t worry about us; just go.”

Chapter 1396: Your Rescuer Has Arrived

“Ah…?” Jin Liuying put down her sleeve, startled, “No way, how can I not care about you? If we’re getting out, we all get out together.”

She grasped Gu Youyou’s arm, her face full of worry.

Gu Youyou sighed softly, “Silly child, you’re different from us.”

“But I can’t just leave you behind.”

“It’s not about leaving us behind. You get out first. You can’t save us from here. Get out first, then think of a way to save us.”

Searcy swallowed a pastry whole, saying, “Yes, staying here is also a punishment. The cell is so small, you’re taking up space. Better to leave early, and remember to bring a bottle of bug repellent when you come to visit us.”

Jin Liuying: “…”

She lowered her face, sobbing softly, “Master, do you know that I’ll get out, but you all…”

“I don’t know, I’m just saying if. Look, your Prince won’t abandon you. The Empress Dowager even sent you breakfast, unlike us. If your Prince comes to save you, don’t say anything, just leave with him first.”

Jin Liuying’s face turned somber, and she sighed, “That’s just your guess. What if he doesn’t come?”

Gu Youyou didn’t respond, and the atmosphere in the dungeon turned tense again.

After a while, Gu Youyou heard someone else coming in.

“Fifteenth Prince? His Majesty said you’re not allowed in.”

Gu Youyou suddenly looked up, “He’s here, Liuying, your Prince is here.”

“Where?” Jin Liuying stretched her neck to look.

Gu Youyou pulled her back, saying, “Don’t rush. He’s outside negotiating with the prison guard. Sit back down, don’t let anyone notice anything strange.”

Searcy and Gui Yunxi stared at Gu Youyou in bewilderment.

They hadn’t heard anything. How could she hear it?

Gui Yunxi asked softly, “Doctor Gu, are your ears more sensitive than most people’s?”

Gu Youyou replied calmly, “Yes, I was born with sharp ears, so keep it down at night, it’s too piercing.”

Gui Yunxi and Searcy shared a compound behind them at the inn.

Hearing Gu Youyou say this, they blushed immediately, feeling ashamed enough to want to crawl into a hole.

Searcy gritted her teeth, “Why didn’t you tell us earlier? You’re shameless!”

Gu Youyou said helplessly, “I can hear half the street, imagine greeting everyone. People would think I’m a lunatic and lock me up.” Of course, she was exaggerating to scare them.

Outside, the Fifteenth Prince’s negotiations with the prison guards failed, only allowing a maid to come in with food.

Gu Youyou held back the still arguing Searcy, whispering, “The Fifteenth Prince can’t come in, but a maid will bring food. Those who aren’t full, here’s your chance!”

Jin Liuying sat on the ground, dejected, saying nothing.

Her Prince couldn’t get in, and she had no appetite to eat.

Just as Gu Youyou predicted, a maid came in with a basket.

After entering, she quickly set down the basket, pulled out a hairpin, and started picking the lock on the cell.

Facing the astonished gazes, she said, “Princess, quickly take off your clothes. The Prince asked me to come swap you out.”

Jin Liuying froze, not moving, while Searcy was already grabbing the basket full of food.

Gu Youyou pushed Jin Liuying, saying, “Hurry up! Don’t you understand? Your Prince is here to save you. Quickly change clothes with the maid.”

Chapter 1397: The Person Sent for the Exchange

"Ah? And you all?" She didn’t expect them to leave in this manner, and suddenly felt a chill in her heart.

Even she had to sneak out; it was unimaginable the difficulty Gu Youyou and the others would face trying to leave.

"Don’t worry about us for now, just take care of yourself. Remember what I said, don’t concern yourself with anything else. Just focus on leaving first, and listen to your Prince. He won’t harm you."

If he wanted to harm you, he wouldn’t have gone through all this trouble to save you.

Gui Yunxi consciously stood in the corner while Gu Youyou helped Jin Liuying and the maid change clothes.

The maid was about the same build as Jin Liuying, with thick bangs, and since maids usually walked with downcast eyes, at a glance you couldn’t tell it was fake.

Jin Liuying changed into the maid’s clothes, carried an empty basket and left, standing outside the re-locked cell, she couldn’t bear but to keep looking at Gu Youyou.

Gu Youyou gave her a bright smile and said, "We’ll be all right, hurry along now, act naturally, and don’t let anyone find out."

"Okay, I’m going. Master, take care."

Gu Youyou heard Jin Liuying leave the dungeon and then heard she had left with the Fifteenth Prince, only then did she relax.

She collapsed to the ground, turned her head, and asked the maid replacing Jin Liuying, "What’s your name?"

The maid kept her head lowered and whispered, "My name is Xiaomei, I have been a servant at the Prince Residence since I was six."

Gu Youyou looked at the lock and said, "You’re quite skilled at unlocking."

Xiaomei whispered, "That’s a family skill; my parents are also servants in the Prince Residence."

Gu Youyou paused and said, "Are you afraid? Helping the Princess escape is punishable by death, are you scared?"

Xiaomei kept her head down, paused for a moment, shook her head gently, and said, "I’m not scared. The Prince gave my parents a lot of silver to cancel their Servitude Contract. From now on, they won’t be servants anymore, and they can lead a normal life with my little brother."

So...

Gu Youyou didn’t ask further.

"Thank you for saving Liuying," she said in a low voice after a moment.

...

This was the second day since Gu Youyou and the others were imprisoned, the people had already gathered at the gates of the Imperial Palace to demand an explanation from the Nanzhao Emperor.

Given the unique situation in Nanzhao, the Emperor could not ignore the questioning of the citizens and had no choice but to step out and explain.

He held a carrier pigeon and said to the people below, "Do you know what this is?"

"A bird?"

"A pigeon?"

"Don’t know?"

After a bit of suspense, the Nanzhao Emperor loudly told the crowd, "This is a carrier pigeon, used for sending messages. It’s a bird bred by the people of Zhuzhao Country for communication. Two days ago, we inadvertently intercepted such a bird, and discovered an enormous secret."

The crowd was extremely surprised, wondering if this pigeon was the reason the Emperor suddenly ordered the arrest of Doctor Gu?

The Nanzhao Emperor continued loudly, "The secret we found in this carrier pigeon’s cylinder is that the people of Zhuzhao Country never intended to have friendly relations between our two countries; sending the Princess for marriage was merely a deception.

Their Crown Prince, during his time in Nanzhao, visited various villages, ostensibly for cultural exchange, but in truth, he deceived our Poisonous Insect Doctors, obtaining from them the secret formula for breeding Poisonous Insects.

The Princess they sent for marriage has been constantly painting since her arrival, and her paintings are of Nanzhao Country's map, with the intent that when Zhuzhao Country invades us, they can trap us all."

Chapter 1398: The Doctor Became a Lifesaving Talisman

Hearing these words, everyone was filled with fear.

Someone said, "If the map of our Nanzhao Country's terrain really falls into their hands, then things are truly dire. For hundreds of years, our Nanzhao Country has stood strong, all because no one could penetrate our mountains."

"Indeed, the Emperor of Zhuzhao Country harbors ill intentions; we cannot let them go."

Another person said, "What about Doctor Gu? She once saved the Empress Dowager and has saved many people. What is all of this for?"

The Nanzhao Emperor, with a hint of sadness on his face, said, "Doctor Gu saved the Empress Dowager, and I have always been very grateful to her. How I wish she was innocent and had no dealings with those with ill intentions. But… you must understand, she is the Crown Princess of Zhuzhao Country. No matter what she has done, can you really trust the Crown Princess of Zhuzhao Country?"

There were two voices among the people.

"We can't trust her; she's doing this to win people's hearts."

"No, we believe Doctor Gu was sent by the Shamaness to help us. She has cured illnesses that even many witch doctors couldn't, she saved my son's life. Your Majesty, please do not trouble Doctor Gu." An old woman knelt down.

The Nanzhao Emperor's eyes showed a flash of severity, and he hurried down from the platform to help the old woman up, saying, "Old lady, she also saved the Empress Dowager's life. Naturally, I will not

trouble her. But I cannot leave her unattended either. None of her associates have been caught; I have no choice but to confine her, lest she gets rescued by them."

The old woman, trembling, gazed at the Nanzhao Emperor and said, "Then Your Majesty won't harm Doctor Gu, right?"

"As long as she doesn't harm us, I naturally won't harm her."

"Very well, just knowing Your Majesty understands reason and is someone who repays kindness eases my mind. Warfare is something I don't understand as an old woman, but I just hope that if a fight does break out, Your Majesty won't implicate Doctor Gu."

"Very well, old lady, you should head back. As for Doctor Gu, I will ensure there's a satisfactory outcome for everyone. Right now, confining her is indeed a temporary measure."

At this moment, the Fifteenth Prince had already rescued Jin Liuying.

He used his most trusted personnel to quickly send the carefully disguised Jin Liuying to Zhuzhao Country.

"Prince, I don't want to leave, don't make me go…" She cried and protested, unwilling to leave, and the Fifteenth Prince personally escorted her out of Taihe City, sprinting towards Zhuzhao Country.

"Listen, go back for now, I'll certainly come to get you."

"What exactly happened?"

The Fifteenth Prince shook his head and said, "It's a matter within our Nanzhao Country, unrelated to you. But if you don't leave, you'll certainly become a sacrifice. Go back first, and I'll fetch you once the situation stabilizes."

"What about my master and the others?"

“They’re fine; they’re doctors.”

When did the status of a ‘doctor’ become a life-saving charm in Nanzhao Country? It all relates to their efforts during this period.

…

Jin Zijin and Yue Rujing brought Tian Jizi to Lingnan, while Jin Liuying was escorted away overnight, and the Nanzhao Emperor awaited the next directive from Yu Jizi.

In recent days, Yu Jizi paid no attention to the brewing storm in Nanzhao Country; he was preparing things. Thus the blueprint of the Poisonous Insect array that could replace his life, everything useful was packed into the cart.

Once he cautiously finished preparing everything, he went to the dungeon of Nanzhao Country.

“G-Great Shaman?” The guard looked at him in disbelief, “The Great Shaman coming to the dungeon… ah…”

Chapter 1399: The Prison Breakers Have Arrived

The prison guard’s words were abruptly cut off.

Yu Jizi sprinkled some powder on the prison guard, then slipped into the dungeon like a ghost.

At this moment, Gu Youyou was responsible for catching mosquitoes. Yu Jizi’s voice was very soft, but when he entered the dungeon to kill, the muffled sounds still reached Gu Youyou’s ears.

She stopped her actions, and immediately a large mosquito bit Searcy awake. Annoyed, she said, “How are you catching mosquitoes? I’m being bitten to death.”

“Shh, someone’s here to break out of prison,” Gu Youyou said.

Searcy was taken aback, and before she had time to react, a figure had already entered the dungeon.

They saw Yu Jizi, with white hair, standing under the only weak light on the wall, seemingly amused. They were instantly startled wide awake.

Someone came to break out of prison, and it turned out to be this old man.

“Take you somewhere. If you behave well, I will cut off the past grievances and won’t bother your lives anymore. You have ruined my plans multiple times, but I can let it go.”

Searcy said through gritted teeth, “You think you can cancel everything with a word? Do you believe the hundred-plus members of the Ghost Doctor Family died for nothing?”

Yu Jizi looked at Searcy indifferently, “You are of the Lu Family; what does the Ghost Doctor Family have to do with you? Young girl, learn to recognize reality, or you won’t even know how you died.”

“You…”

“Searcy, step back.” Gu Youyou held her back, “Go wake the coachman and Xiaomei, we’re leaving.”

“You’re really going with him? I’d rather stay here and feed the mosquitoes.”

Yu Jizi laughed heartily and said, “Whether you want to stay and feed the mosquitoes is up to you. Gu Youyou, let’s go.”

With a wave of his hand, the lock on the cell broke with a sound.

Gu Youyou paused as she looked at the open door and asked, “What do you want from me? You put in so much effort to lock us up, and now you’re letting us out. I assume what you want won’t be easy.”

Yu Jizi smiled faintly, “I heard your medical skills are good; naturally, it’s related to that.”

Gu Youyou was puzzled for a moment, finding it very strange.

With his twisted nature, who would Yu Jizi want her to save?

Wasn’t it to lure out Jin Ziyuan?

“Okay, but medical skills aren’t almighty, I can only promise to do my best.”

“Good, haha, that’s all I need to hear. Let’s go.”

Gu Youyou hesitated for a moment, but still stepped out of the cell.

She said, “Searcy must come with us; with her help, the success rate is higher.”

“Alright.” Yu Jizi did not refuse.

“We need to return to the post station once; all my tools are there, it would be troublesome to remake them.”

“Fine, let the coachman return to fetch them; someone will assist. You follow me first.”

At this moment, Gui Yunxi and Xiaomei had also awakened and were astonished to see Yu Jizi standing outside the cell.

Gu Youyou sighed lightly and turned to Gui Yunxi, “You heard everything, right?”

Gui Yunxi opened his mouth to speak, but was silenced by a cold glare from Searcy.

Helplessly, he nodded gently.

Gu Youyou and Searcy took Yu Jizi's carriage to quickly leave Nanzhao, while Gui Yunxi took Xiaomei back to the post station to collect their belongings.

Just like many years ago, Gu Youyou and Searcy sat inside the carriage, only this time the driver was Zhiqiu. The whereabouts of Yu Jizi were unknown, but they guessed he was probably sitting on the roof of the carriage.

"That old man, why hasn't he fallen to his death yet?"

Chapter 1400: The Person Is Gone

"Alright, save your strength," Gu Youyou said calmly.

"How dare you say that? It's fine if you were caught, but why drag me along?"

Gu Youyou gave her a blank look and said, "With your lousy temper, if I were taken away and you stayed behind, how long do you think you'd survive?"

Searcy: "..."

"It wouldn't be easy falling into the hands of that old immortal either."

"At least we can live to return to Zhuzhao Country."

"How do you know he'll take us back to Zhuzhao Country?"

"I guessed."

"Guessed?"

"Yes, alright, stop talking. Let’s see what he plans to do. I’m exhausted, going to sleep. Do not disturb."

Searcy pushed away the head leaning against her and angrily said, "At a time like this, how can you even sleep?"

"What do you want to do if not sleep? Admire the scenery? I’m not like that girl Liuying."

Thinking of that girl Liuying, who knows how she’s doing now.

For a moment, both fell silent.

They were both captives of Yu Jizi, apart from some bickering, they really didn’t know how to relieve their worries.

...

The prison was attacked, and the prison guard died without a trace, leaving only a few drops of blood on the wall.

After this series of events, the Nanzhao Emperor’s face turned ashen with anger.

"Where did they go? Who has been here lately?"

The prison guard on duty the day before replied tremblingly, "Yester... yesterday, a palace maiden from the Empress Dowager came once, and later... later the fifteenth Prince came once, but... but I didn’t let him in, he only sent in a maid with food."

The guard beside the Nanzhao Emperor asked coldly, "Did you check during the change of shifts? Were the people all there?"

"Yes, yes, I checked. They were all there."

They changed shifts at night; during the day, apart from the Empress Dowager's palace maiden and the fifteenth Prince sending food, everything was normal. At night, all the guards were dead.

The guard returned from the dungeon and said, "Your Majesty, there were indeed two lunch boxes, the food was eaten clean, and the lock... the lock..."

"Hm?" The Nanzhao Emperor's face was ashen, the anger in his eyes almost bursting forth.

"What about the lock?"

The guard said, "The lock is broken, and broken in a peculiar way."

"Peculiar?"

The Nanzhao Emperor was stunned, stepping into the filthy dungeon.

A large iron lock lay quietly in the dungeon; the surface appeared to have been forcibly broken.

But how many people in the world can be so strong, breaking such a lock with force?

If it was said that Jin Zijin came back to rescue them, it's impossible.

After General Duan returned, he said Jin Zijin and his people were injured and had been rescued by Yue Tingfang, so there wasn't enough time.

Then...

The Emperor angrily said, "Where is the fifteenth? Go summon the fifteenth Prince."

Back in the Imperial Palace, in the Empress Dowager's quarters, the fifteenth Prince, the Nanzhao Emperor, and the Empress Dowager had a secret conversation.

"Brother Emperor, I admit I swapped Liuying out, but Gu Youyou and the others were truly not rescued by me. If I wanted to rescue them, why would I save Liuying first? Wouldn't that be redundant?"

The Empress Dowager spoke in defense, "Yes, that maid beside the fifteenth can unlock things. Why would he need to break the lock outright? He couldn't even do it himself."

"Indeed, and those prison guards, not a trace of them left, likely eaten by some sort of poisonous insect."

The Nanzhao Emperor frowned and said, "Who would use precious poisonous insects to save them? They are just a few doctors from Zhuzhao Country. Even if some hold certain sentiments, they wouldn't dare to commit murder and storm the prison."