Farmhouse 1571

Chapter 1571: Expose the Rumormonger

Initially, it was thought that since Gu Youyou had won, the matter would be settled just like that. Unexpectedly, Gu Youyou had no intention of letting it go.

Once her troubles were explained clearly, she turned her gaze towards Minister Zhang, with a cold expression she said: "Minister Zhang, the Emperor's words were very clear. I suppose you will no longer accuse me of deceiving your daughter?"

Originally agitated and embarrassed, Minister Zhang was further infuriated by Gu Youyou mentioning him directly, so much so that his beard was tilted in anger. He said, "What do you want?"

"Hmph, what do I want?" Gu Youyou snorted coldly, "I'd like to ask Minister Zhang, what do you want, considering who started these rumors?"

Minister Zhang felt the situation was turning for the worse, but still insisted, "Does Princess Ning mean to imply that I started these rumors?"

Gu Youyou said coldly, "We shall soon find out whether it's true or not."

After speaking, Gu Youyou turned and bowed to the Emperor, saying, "I request father's permission to bring someone in."

No one knew what Gu Youyou intended to do, clearly, she did not plan to settle things quietly and was about to launch a counterattack.

Everyone was quite intrigued.

After all, Gu Youyou was a remarkable woman who had created one miracle after another. They had witnessed her build her own commercial empire, and knew of her exquisite medical skills, which conquered not only the people of Zhuzhao Country but also those of Nanzhao Country.

Even now, Nanzhao Country still circulated rumors of the Shamaness reincarnating in Zhuzhao Country.

"Granted!" The Emperor also eagerly anticipated Gu Youyou's performance.

Not long after, a middle-aged woman was brought in.

She had been trembling in fear outside the palace gate, and upon seeing a room full of ministers and the Emperor himself at the highest seat, she became so frightened that her legs went weak, unable to stand.

Only with the support of two guards did she avoid collapsing.

Eunuch Wan shouted with his duck-like voice, "Kneel down!"

His shout frightened the woman into a heap of soft mud, and even the two guards couldn't hold her up, so she sank to the ground.

In the Taihe Hall, she was likely the only one seated besides the Emperor.

"Youyou, what's with this peasant woman?"

Gu Youyou, looking at Minister Zhang's now very unsightly expression, smiled faintly and said, "Reporting to father, Youyou followed the clues back to find that all the rumors originated from her, and that someone had given her a large sum of Silver to do this. Yet, Youyou doesn't understand, if anyone had doubts, they could have just asked me directly. Why did that person go as far as spending Silver to deliberately magnify the issue and spread it throughout the city?"

The Emperor turned to the woman crumpled on the ground and asked, "Who gave you Silver to spread the rumors?"

Aunt Chen, trembling all over, said, "This humble woman does not know, every time he gave me Silver, he would cover his face!"

Gu Youyou said with a half-smile, "Take a look at these people, do you see anyone who resembles him?"

The entire hall stirred; what did she mean by this?

They were officials of the Imperial Court, who would do such a thing? Moreover, having a peasant woman identify them, weren't they being completely disregarded?

But seeing the Emperor sitting high above without any objection, still silent, as if reverting to a state of deep meditation.

It was Eunuch Wan who subtly grasped the situation and kindly explained to everyone: "Esteemed officials, this is also for your good. We can't have the actions of a single black sheep leading to everyone being suspected, can we?"

Chapter 1572: Threat

The Emperor did not refute, so Eunuch Wan's words represent the Emperor.

Since this is what the Emperor means, what else can they do? No matter how uncomfortable they feel, they can only endure it.

Madam Chen was granted permission, and she began to look at the Ministers present one by one, wiping the cold sweat that flowed down her cheeks as she looked.

Had she known this would happen, she wouldn't have accepted the silver even if it meant death, nor done this business.

If the Emperor gets angry and kills her, what use is the silver no matter how much she has?

Looking around, she locked onto a person.

That person acted composed, but when he saw her looking at him, he suddenly glared, scaring her into a shiver.

It’s him, he is very accurate in recognizing people, and even without seeing the face, just from the physique he knew it was him.

Moreover, there’s a streak of gray hair at the temples, it’s definitely him.

But for him to be standing here, surely he must be a high official.

If she identifies this high official today, she might not be able to survive, right?

But if she doesn’t point anyone out, will the Emperor spare her?

Madam Chen was in a dilemma, large beads of cold sweat popping out from her scalp.

Suddenly, she recalled that she also received another person’s gold, and that person sent someone in the morning to tell her that if it came to identifying someone, she should name him, and he would reward her with more gold and ensure her safety.

At this point, whether she speaks or not, it’s a dead end, so she might as well believe that person’s words and point out Chancellor Zhang.

Maybe he really has a way to save her life.

So much gold and silver, she’s never seen in her life, if she loses her life like this, she’s really not reconciled...

Thinking of this, Madam Chen made a desperate decision, shaking as she met Chancellor Zhang’s gaze and gritted her teeth, "It’s... it’s him!"

Chancellor Zhang was stunned, then angrily said, "You may eat indiscriminately, but you should not speak indiscriminately! On what basis do you say it’s me?"

Madam Chen gritted her teeth and said, "I recognize your physique, and the hair on the left side."

Chancellor Zhang instinctively touched the fastest-growing gray hair by his ear.

Madam Chen continued, "It was you who gave me silver, telling me that Prince Ning and Princess Ning had long been husband and wife, and that the selection of a princess back then was just for everyone's amusement. You also told me to spread this matter as widely as possible until the whole city knows."

"You, you vile woman, how dare you accuse me!" Chancellor Zhang glared furiously, "Do you know what the penalty is for slandering an official of the Imperial Court?"

Madam Chen's mental fortitude was already weak, and she couldn't withstand such intimidation, immediately collapsing under Chancellor Zhang's threat.

Her mouth hung open, unable to speak coherently for quite some time.

Gu Youyou feared Madam Chen couldn't withstand the pressure, so stepped forward a few steps, standing between her and Chancellor Zhang, and said coldly to Chancellor Zhang, "Chancellor Zhang, out of so many people, she didn't accuse anyone else but you, and how can you accuse her of speaking nonsense? She's already very scared, and you're not helping by scaring her into silence; wonder whether this counts as a crime?"

"You... Gu Youyou..."

"Bold!" Gu Youyou interrupted him, and coldly said, "Outside, you could call me by name, and I would consider it respecting the elder and loving the young, not fussing over it. But here in Taihe Hall, in such a sacred place, you dare to call my name to my face, aren't you disregarding the Imperial Family's authority?"

Gu Youyou rarely spoke with such intensity, but unexpectedly her presence did not lose to anyone in Taihe Hall.

She was clearly just a commoner, yet she had an innate regal aura, not something a nouveau riche could pull off, and her shout intimidated the arrogant Chancellor Zhang.

Chapter 1573: Prime Minister Zhang Has Lost All Face

"Ning Wangfei!" Zhang Chancellor's voice had quieted a lot, but he still appeared very dissatisfied.

Gu Youyou sneered, dissatisfaction is fine, we can take our time, slowly let you be convinced.

"Forget it, I see this madam has already been frightened silly by Zhang Chancellor, unable to say anything sensible. It's enough that she can identify that person as Zhang Chancellor, the rest doesn't need her, doesn't need Zhang Chancellor to speak, I'll say it."

The emperor habitually considered himself invisible, although he didn't speak, he clearly saw every person's expression in the court. Over the years, he relied on this trick to watch them fight below, always distinguishing their inevitable connections, their divided factions, and why they bear grudges or have deep relationships.

Looking at Gu Youyou exuding a natural noble aura, he finally understood why his son took a fancy to her.

She's different, she is indeed not like any other woman in the world.

And everything she has today is earned by her, she deserves it.

Gu Youyou stood straight, her tone neither hurried nor slow, but her gaze on Zhang Chancellor carried a hint of satire, enraging Zhang Chancellor immensely.

"Let's first discuss why Zhang Chancellor targets me, I guess, no, there's no need to guess, it's certain. Zhang Chancellor wanted to marry his second daughter, Miss Zhang Shiyu, into the Ningwang Residence, I didn't agree."

Everyone's expressions were varied, some were odd, yet they understood.

That’s the kind of person Zhang Chancellor is, he wants his family’s bloodline to be within the next generation of the royal family. He was intent on marrying his daughter to the next Crown Prince. Previously, he fancied King Jin, so the eldest Miss Zhang married into the Prince Jin Residence, but the position of Princess Jin was taken by the Lin Family’s lady, so they poisoned the women in the residence.

Unpredictably, the eldest Miss Zhang and Madam Zhang were lost in vain, as King Jin was incapable of fathering children.

Gu Youyou continued, "Everyone knows that Miss Zhang from the Zhang Family is toxic, I’m a doctor and I’m still scared. In case she poisons someone in the residence, and I can’t prevent it, what can we do? No matter how many tricks Zhang Chancellor tries, that Miss Zhang can forget about entering Ningwang Residence, my Prince thinks the same way."

"Don’t push too far, my daughters from the Zhang Family are all good."

Jie Huanzhi snickered, "Then is your eldest Miss Zhang good too? Her poisoning is always a fact, right?"

Zhang Chancellor was speechless, he was already so flustered by them that his mind couldn’t function.

Gu Youyou smiled slightly and continued, "Perhaps people don’t know, Zhang Chancellor has visited our residence twice now, all for the lifelong affair of the second Miss Zhang. The first time my Prince refused him, he still didn’t give up, and came once more not long ago. Various forms of coercion and bribery by Zhang Chancellor are unnecessary to mention, but that Miss Zhang surpassed him, actually hitting her head on our pillar, injuring it, threatening with suicide. I just want to live a peaceful life, Zhang Chancellor, please trouble someone else, stop troubling us."

Gu Youyou’s words left everyone sighing, staring at Zhang Chancellor in disbelief.

At this moment, Zhang Chancellor even had the urge to kill Gu Youyou.

Thinking that he still had Gu Wu in his hands, this revenge would surely be returned someday, he suppressed his anger.

Jie Huanzhi seized the opportunity to ridicule Zhang Chancellor, "Hahaha, so Zhang Chancellor is this kind of person, you are truly shameless, actually bringing your daughter to someone else's home and threatening with suicide, extending your head to be a concubine. Aren't all your daughters from the Zhang Family supposed to be excellent? Why, is there no one willing even for concubinage?"

Chapter 1574: Fainted

"Isn't that right? Who would dare to take Zhang Family's daughter who curses others' children?" Gu Youyou added.

Zhang Minister wriggled his lips, pointing a finger at Gu Youyou, but ultimately failed to say a complete sentence before fainting from anger.

A trace of disdain slipped through Gu Youyou's eyes; this tactic was quite similar to the Empress of old—feigning a fainting spell when she couldn't win an argument.

However, today she did not plan to let him off, fainting or not.

Gu Youyou turned to the Emperor and said, "Father, I see that Zhang Minister clearly harbors ill intentions, using such crude methods to plot against me and Prince Ning. I ask Father to uphold justice for us."

The Emperor glanced indifferently over everyone in the hall and said, "Zhang Minister's use of such a crude method truly disgraces the name of a scholar. As a minister of the court, he should set an example, but he hasn't. Nonetheless, considering a father's deep care for his daughter, he will not be severely punished. From this day forward, Zhang Minister is to be confined to his residence for a month for reflection, prohibited from leaving without my personal edict, and his salary is to be docked for a year. Youyou, what do you think?"

Gu Youyou's eyes darkened; she couldn't quite understand why the Emperor kept sparing Zhang Minister. So many ministers had been purged, yet Zhang Minister remained unscathed. Since the Emperor had spoken, what could she do?

Thankfully, she hadn't suffered much loss, and it was not easy to topple Zhang Minister over such a trivial matter.

She replied, "I have no objections, Your Majesty!"

"Very well, you may go!" Gu Youyou stepped back, and the Emperor summoned others to carry Zhang Minister out of the hall, directly out of the palace.

...

The rumors that had been circulating for more than half a month finally calmed down after the confrontation between Zhang Minister and Princess Ning on the court.

The Emperor personally wrote a decree, announcing to the world and clarifying the entire sequence of events.

From then on, whenever anyone mentioned Prince Ning, they would sing his praises, saying he was loyal and devoted, having not abandoned the wife he knew in his days of adversity, unlike those men who discard their hardworking wives after achieving success like a top scholar and marry into high-ranking families.

And the Emperor was also wise and capable, establishing this selection of consorts rule, which further earned Princess Ning public approval; she married into the Imperial Family not through pity from others, but through her own merits.

Everyone knew her uncle was Lin Xingyi, and though the Lin Family wasn't of high birth, they had made a name for themselves in Beijing through genuine talent and learning.

Some families rejoiced while others grieved; Ningwang Residence saw the clouds part and the sun shine, while the atmosphere in Zhang Residence was bleak, with everyone wearing a solemn expression.

"Father, it's all because of that old beggar; he even spends our family's silver indulging himself. Should I call a few people to bring him back for a proper beating?"

Zhang Minister was angry, yet still rational.

"No, it’s not his fault. I didn’t expect Gu Youyou to be so formidable, and even the Emperor speaks for her. I think we need to carefully reconsider the later plans; whatever trouble Gu Wu stirs won’t amount to much because Gu Youyou will surely have a way to resolve it."

"Then what should we do?" Zhang Shiyu raised her voice.

"Let your father think about it; such matters can’t be rushed."

Zhang Minister was not in a hurry, but Miss Zhang was impatient. She exclaimed, "Father, I’m already of an age where I can’t afford to wait while you think about it. By the time you’ve figured it out, it’ll be too late."

Zhang Minister replied helplessly, "I told you, these matters can’t be rushed. Although this round of rumors was dispelled by Gu Youyou, some things about her time in Lotus Village are more or less known. You might think Father has failed, but in reality, we haven’t; it’s all groundwork laid to topple her in one go in the future."

Chapter 1575: He Was Once a Dazzling Figure Too

Sighing deeply, "Shiyu, you can’t rush things, especially when dealing with someone like Gu Youyou!"

"Then you just think slowly, anyway the Emperor has confined you for a month!" Zhang Shiyu stomped her foot in frustration and left in a huff.

Just as she stepped out, she ran into Gu Shuisheng, who was holding a book, feeling irritable, and Zhang Shiyu vented her anger on him.

"Little beggar, who let you come here? This is a crucial study room." Seeing the book in Gu Shuisheng’s hands, she grew even more agitated.

Zhang Shiyu snatched the book from Gu Shuisheng’s hands angrily, "What is a beggar like you doing with a book? Do you even know what this is? A book, huh, you, a beggar, probably don’t even recognize your own name, yet you’re reading!"

Her tone and eyes were filled with disdain, but Gu Shuisheng, having lived as a beggar for years, had seen all kinds of people, endured all kinds of scorn. Those who had given him alms, and those who, with a torrent of abuse, refused to give him anything—he had seen them all.

So facing Zhang Shiyu's insults, he had no reaction, simply standing in front of her with dignity, allowing her to vent.

After a few words of scolding, Shiyu felt much relieved, looking at the stoic, statue-like Gu Shuisheng, and felt speechless.

She rolled her eyes at Gu Shuisheng, tossed the book onto his head arrogantly, and left with big strides.

Gu Shuisheng looked down at the book lying askew on the stone slab, then bent over to pick it up and headed towards Chancellor Zhang's study.

Chancellor Zhang, at his age, hadn't he faced countless setbacks? After being infuriated by Gu Youyou at court, he quickly regained his composure and renewed his fighting spirit the very next day.

Gu Shuisheng gently knocked on the study's door with the book in hand.

Before long, Chancellor Zhang's voice came from inside.

"Come in."

Gu Shuisheng pushed open the door, stood a short distance from Chancellor Zhang, and said, "Chancellor Zhang, did you call for me?"

"Mm." Chancellor Zhang, writing intently, paused for a moment, then said softly, "You ran into Shiyu?"

Gu Shuisheng hesitated, saying, "Yes, I met Miss as she was leaving."

"Did she scold you?" Chancellor Zhang asked again.

Gu Shuisheng pressed his lips together and whispered, "No!"

"Ha, not at all!" Chancellor Zhang laughed, hanging the brush on the stand and starting to grind ink.

"Her loud voice was so clear I could hear it. She called you a little beggar and looked down on you for holding a book, and you still say no?"

Gu Shuisheng was silent for a moment, then said, "What Miss said is true; I am indeed a beggar."

"Tsk tsk..." Chancellor Zhang was momentarily stunned, unsure what to say to him.

After a brief silence, he said, "Don’t act with me; I know you weren’t originally a beggar. Let’s not beat around the bush. The essay you wrote for me last time, I read it. Although I don’t entirely agree with your views, your writing skills are evident, and quite impressive. Few essays catch my eye... think carefully, do you really want to continue being a beggar?"

Gu Shuisheng pressed his lips together and remained silent.

Chancellor Zhang didn’t mind quarreling with people, but the silent types frustrated him the most.

What kind of upheaval must one have experienced to become like this?

His demeanor and intellect suggested that he once led a very prominent life, yet now, being called a beggar elicited no reaction, which piqued Chancellor Zhang’s curiosity and also filled him with regret.

Chapter 1576: Obsessed with a Point of View

Zhang Chancellor, in a huff, quickened the pace of preparing the ink, making it so thick that it was almost unusable. Angrily, he added some water, seemingly overdoing it.

"In my lifetime, I've only encountered one person as unappreciative as you. With the scholarship of the Zhang Family, countless people wish to associate with me. Ha, I give face to no one, only valuing true talent and learning."

Finally, when the ink reached the desired consistency, Zhang Chancellor's lips curled into a satisfied smile, and he said, "Think carefully, decide whether you want to be a beggar or follow me. Being my protégé, I can let you participate in this year's examinations. You've studied for years, consider if you wish to waste it to become a beggar. How would that be worthy of Confucius?"

Perhaps the last sentence struck a chord with Gu Shuisheng; studying is also a form of faith. Students pay respects to Confucius on their first day of school. Having accumulated a lifetime of knowledge, how could one willingly accept that it's useless, spending a lifetime despised as a beggar?

Zhang Chancellor occasionally glanced at him, only when seeing Gu Shuisheng's expression finally show some movement did he slowly say, "Don't worry, I understand that someone like you isn't willing to return to the past. No matter how good your former home, you'd rather spend a lifetime as a beggar with someone like Gu Wu. How others treat you is their business, but how you treat yourself is yours."

Zhang Chancellor sighed deeply, sat down, and picked up his writing brush to write furiously.

"If you treat yourself poorly, you're letting yourself down. A lifetime is but a few decades, not for others to see, but to make the most of your time on earth. To do oneself harm only pains those close and pleases enemies. Shuisheng, I don't care who you were or whom you once served. If you're willing to give yourself a chance at life, I'll submit your name. Gu Shuisheng, whether you earn a reputation is for you to seize; it has nothing to do with your past."

Gu Shuisheng was swayed by Zhang Chancellor's words, but having been disheartened for so many years, even momentous matters hardly showed on his face.

Zhang Chancellor glanced at him indifferently, snorted, and said, "Your expression suffices. You're such a person, I don't expect you to respond. Fine, you may leave. Tomorrow, I'll send someone to report your name. But remember, I only help those with genuine talent. Whether you succeed or not is up to you; I won't assist further!"

Gu Shuisheng lightly nodded with pursed lips and then strode away.

Watching the young man’s departing figure, Zhang Chancellor, deep in thought, gently squinted his eyes.

After a while, he murmured, "The person is fine, just too stubborn!"

...

On the outskirts of Beijing, a luxurious carriage was slowly approaching the city gate. Outside the carriage was a group of robustly dressed individuals in black. Seeing the carriage had entered the outskirts’ safe area, they withdrew from around it and soon vanished without a trace.

Soon, a driver in a straw raincoat called loudly into the carriage, "Madam, Beijing is just ahead. Shall we go directly to Doctor Gu or to your former residence?"

Former residence? What former residence does she have?

Madam smiled bitterly and said, "Let’s go to Doctor Gu first; then find an inn!"

Chapter 1577: Madam Ru Has Arrived

After waiting for several months, one morning, as Madam was talking to Jin Ziyuan about his childhood, he finally reacted and tears welled up at the corners of his eyes.

Originally, Gu Youyou had told them to pay attention to his fingers and the fluttering of his eyelashes, but none of these occurred, and instead tears flowed, which left them puzzled. They called several local doctors skilled in medical practices to examine him, yet no one could understand his condition. Therefore, even though they were reluctant, they had no choice but to come to Beijing.

The horse-drawn carriage entered Beijing, a lavish one with a touch of Western Regions’ style, evoking thoughts of Madam from years past.

But hadn’t Madam disappeared many years ago? Ever since the Fifth Prince was killed, Madam had vanished. Could this carriage belong to her?

Everyone followed the carriage with curiosity, guided by its fragrance, all the way to the entrance of Ningwang Residence.

The guards at the gate were also astonished to see such a luxurious carriage stop in front of the residence.

Soon, a dignified middle-aged woman, supported by a maid, stepped down from the carriage. Upon closer inspection, it truly was the long-unseen Madam.

Madam was already a middle-aged woman in her forties, yet living in Xining for years seemed not to affect her. She still looked like a youthful young woman, showing none of the aging typical of someone over forty.

Such an exquisite beauty, yet her fate was unfortunate.

Having married twice, both husbands died tragically.

Although the Emperor had decreed not to pursue the crimes of Madam and Jin Ziyuan, her arrival in Beijing was still not entirely favorable. Everyone thought she would never appear in Beijing again, and now, who knows for what reason she has come.

The maid beside Madam handed a note to the guards at the gate. Madam gently said, “We are here to seek an audience with the Princess of Ning. She once told us we could visit her anytime. I ask you, gentlemen, to relay our request.”

Even the exquisite makeup couldn’t hide the heavy bags under Madam’s eyes, nor the fatigue emanating from her due to long-term sleep deprivation.

The guards took the note and said, “Please wait a moment, Madam!”

He turned and entered the inner courtyard, and shortly thereafter, Gu Youyou hurried out from the residence.

“Madam?” she was utterly surprised, having heard nothing about Madam’s arrival, yet here they were.

“Doctor Gu, Ziyuan has shown signs!” Madam’s voice was a bit hoarse. Gu Youyou paused slightly, then rushed to have Jin Ziyuan taken from the carriage into the residence.

“Xiang Chun, quickly go call Searcy, and you all arrange for Madam’s carriage and attendants!”

Ningwang Residence housed a ward prepared by Gu Youyou specifically for patient treatment, and Jin Ziyuan was placed in one of these rooms.

Soon after, Searcy arrived.

“Jin Ziyuan was brought here?” Searcy, upon seeing the frail figure on the bed, was greatly astonished and said, “How did he become so emaciated?”

Jin Ziyuan had already become skin and bones; ancient medical practices weren’t advanced, and such patients would have died long ago. It was only because of Searcy and Gu Youyou that Jin Ziyuan had survived until now.

Yet Searcy had never encountered such a patient and didn’t know.

Gu Youyou explained while examining Jin Ziyuan’s physical condition.

“Vegetative patients can’t feed themselves and end up like this. Many vegetative patients don’t die from illness but die from starvation.”

At the thought that her son might starve to death, Madam began to cry again!

Chapter 1578: Eldest Cousin Is Pregnant

Gu Youyou had no choice but to say, “Madam, don’t be upset. Can you tell me what’s his situation now?”

Madam Lu stopped sobbing and said, “Just the day before we were set to leave, I was talking to him like I usually do, telling him stories from his childhood. As he listened, he started to cry. I thought he was waking up, so we hurriedly set out for Beijing in a carriage. But alas, since then, he hasn’t reacted at all, and I’m not sure how he’s doing now.”

Gu Youyou examined him and felt that Jin Ziyuan’s situation was very dire.

There wasn’t any nutrient solution available here, and he couldn’t absorb much nutrition from Madam Lu’s careful daily feeding. He was severely malnourished by now.

Gu Youyou sighed and said, “Madam, please stay here and continue telling him stories, especially the one that made him cry. I need to discuss this with Searcy.”

Madam Lu opened her mouth to say something but couldn’t bring herself to speak; she just nodded gently and said, “Okay, thank you, Doctor Gu!”

The incidents from that day were about the rebellion of the three princes, an episode she had never wanted to recall in her life. Yet somehow, on that day, she ended up talking about those events.

Perhaps something in those stories touched Jin Ziyuan, making him shed tears.

Though she was unwilling to relive her past, if it could wake her son, she’d be willing to recall it repeatedly or even endure it once more.

As Gu Youyou was about to reach the door, Madam Lu suddenly remembered something and called out to her.

“Doctor Gu!”

“Hmm?” Gu Youyou responded, turning back around.

“Oh right, Doctor Gu, Xiaoran and the others asked me to convey a message to you!”

About the eldest cousin? Gu Youyou raised her eyebrows, sitting back down.

“Please, Madam, go ahead!”

The news about Jin Xiaoran and his wife was a joyous one, and upon thinking of it, Madam Lu’s spirits lifted slightly. She said, “It’s like this, Qianqing is pregnant, and they wanted me to bring this happy news to you!”

“The eldest cousin finally?” Gu Youyou was so overjoyed upon hearing this that she felt a little dazed.

This was indeed a joyous occasion, no, it was two. Lin Qianqing had always wanted a child, and now her wish had come true—this was joy. Second, her medical skills were again going to shock the world; who else could cure such infertility?

Gu Youyou was so happy she didn’t know what to do with her hands and feet, and quickly asked, “Did they say when they would return?”

It was clear that the Emperor actually cared for every one of his children. Letting King Jin go, regardless of the reason, was all for his benefit.

He didn’t want King Jin to stay and become a tool for others; letting them leave was the only way for them to live a different life.

Madam Lu sighed, “They likely don’t plan to return, at least not until after Qianqing has the child. What about the Emperor…? She asked, somewhat worried.

Gu Youyou said, “The Emperor is not as heartless as you might think; he’s actually done a lot for you in secret.”

Of course, this was Gu Youyou’s guess.

Take the matter of plotting against Jin Tianyuan and his brothers, for instance. If the Emperor meticulously plotted to wipe them out, they couldn’t have survived all these years, much less allowed Madam Lu to visit Beijing every few months for a nostalgic stay at the old Prince’s residence!

If he could treat the family of his half-brother rebels this way, how much more for his own son.

Chapter 1579: Sharp Tongue

Madam nodded slightly. In fact, by now, she had long since stopped thinking about revenge. What she could let go of, and what she couldn’t, she had already let go of.

What else is there to be puzzled about? Living healthily is more important than anything. If you die, or like Jin Ziyuan now, lying here without knowing anything, what meaning do all the love and hate have?

"I just hope Ziyuan can wake up. I want to take him and start living anew."

Madam’s thinking is good. She still has many loyal subordinates from back then. If she really wanted to stir things up, it would be difficult for the Emperor again.

To kill or not to kill, it’s a dilemma!

"We will do our best. Searcy has already taken Ziyuan’s blood for testing. His blood is no longer as dark as it was before. Maybe the poison is nearly cured."

"No matter what, I will always wait for him to wake up. He’s my only relative."

...

Searcy, dressed in specialized clothing, was studying the pile of poisons left by Yu Jizi, along with the Youying Pearl.

Back then, Yu Jizi used the Youying Pearl on Jin Ziyuan’s body. After Yu Jizi’s death, the worm he had carefully raised for years naturally became Gu Youyou’s. When they returned, they used the worm to extract the Youying Pearl from Jin Ziyuan’s body. Otherwise, his condition could not withstand the heavy cold of the Youying Pearl.

The Youying Pearl belongs to the Dao Family, but in order to study those mysterious things, Gu Youyou never returned it to the Dao Sect and kept it to research with Searcy.

This was Searcy’s hobby. She would stay day and night in the courtyard, accompanied by all kinds of poisons, without feeling bored.

Hearing someone enter, Searcy knew Gu Youyou had arrived.

Only she dared to enter this courtyard without knocking. Others in the residence wouldn’t dare provoke her. Without lifting her head, Searcy asked, "Is Jin Ziyuan about to die? I see he’s become so thin there’s nothing left but bones and skin!"

Searcy’s words could irritate anyone.

Gu Youyou retorted, "His vital signs are obvious; he’s perfectly alive. Being thin is normal. As long as he wakes up, he can recover his body eventually. But you’re dawdling all day. Have the results come out yet?"

Searcy put down her work, stood up, and looked at Gu Youyou curiously, "How come I notice you’re quite fond of your old flame? If your Prince were like this..."

"Ptooey, ptooey, ptooey..." Gu Youyou stepped forward and covered her mouth, "Your chauffeur would become like this!"

Gu Youyou pushed Searcy away exasperatedly, "Even if he were just a regular patient, I would do my best. If I couldn’t do even that, I wouldn’t be fit to be a doctor. Of course, you, the poison doctor, wouldn’t understand."

Searcy didn’t continue the topic but instead took out a bottle of blood, precisely Ziyuan’s.

She said, "The poison is almost entirely cleared out. His original health was pretty good. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have made it through. Keep administering the antidote. I feel he might really wake up in the next month or two."

"Really? That’s great!" Gu Youyou was indeed worried his current body couldn’t hold on. Thinking it over, she decided to make something like a nutritional supplement to keep him going.

Searcy sighed and then asked, "Are they staying at the residence now?"

"Yes, I have complete equipment here!"

Chapter 1580: Persuaded to Leave

“Let’s forget it, I think you can’t keep them here, lest gossip spreads, which wouldn’t be good, especially since the Prince isn’t in the residence, and he’s your old flame!”

Oh come on!

Gu Youyou angrily said, “You and your filthy mouth! Which eye of yours saw that he’s my old flame?”

“Aren’t you being so nice to him?”

“That’s because we’re both medicine people, we share the same plight. Never mind, someone like you naturally wouldn’t understand what it means to share the same plight.”

After a few arguments with Searcy, Gu Youyou left sullenly.

Searcy's words did remind her. What she saw as undoubtedly acceptable, in this world, truly had its issues. She was right, to avoid trouble, Jin Ziyuan and Madam definitely couldn't stay in the residence, especially since Jin Zijin wasn't here now.

But she told them just an hour ago to settle in peacefully, and now she's chasing them away, what's the logic in that? What would they think!

It was hard for her, Gu Youyou, to say this.

After much contemplation, Gu Youyou called over Xiang Chun.

"Princess, what's the matter?"

Gu Youyou whispered, "Madam and Jin Ziyuan have come. Would it be inappropriate if I let them stay?"

Xiang Chun didn't know about the entanglements between Gu Youyou and Jin Ziyuan, but considering Jin Ziyuan is ultimately a man from outside, if the Prince were here, it wouldn't be much of an issue letting them stay, but now he's not home.

Yet on second thought, Jin Ziyuan is just a living dead, and her Princess is a doctor, which seemed to be no big deal.

No, even if he's a patient, at most he should stay at Jisheng Hall, doesn't Jisheng Hall have wards for patients? How can you treat the sick at the doctor's home?

Right, it's not quite appropriate!

Xiang Chun nodded and said, "The Princess can send them to Jisheng Hall, doesn't Jisheng Hall have wards for patients to stay in?"

That's for regular patients, someone like Jin Ziyuan, Madam surely wouldn't let him stay in Jisheng Hall's hospital ward, she'd be worried.

Gu Youyou slowly said, “You’re quite right, but it’s difficult for me to voice this opinion now because I’ve already reassured them they can stay peacefully. If I go and tell them to stay in the ward now, how would they feel?”

Xiang Chun had been with Gu Youyou for so many years, and as soon as she heard Gu Youyou’s words, she instantly understood and said, “Princess, rest assured, this matter will be handled by your servant.”

Gu Youyou laughed, thinking how thoughtful Xiang Chun truly was. Her grandmother gave Xiang Chun to her back then likely seeing that she could serve well.

“Alright, go ahead, do well and there will be a reward!”

“Okay, your servant will go right away!” Xiang Chun was overjoyed by the praise.

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“Okay, your servant will go right away!” Xiang Chun was overjoyed by the praise.

“Hey, wait a minute!” Gu Youyou happily called Xiang Chun back and said, “Be smart, make sure Madam doesn’t think poorly of it!”

Xiang Chun grinned and said, “Don’t worry, your servant understands!”

“Mm, as long as you understand, go on!”

Madam had already arranged for an upscale inn with a private courtyard. She wasn't planning to stay at Gu Youyou's place in the first place, so when Xiang Chun subtly mentioned that Jisheng Hall had designated hospital wards for patients, Madam immediately stated they had found a better place, quiet and ideal for Jin Ziyuan's recovery.

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