Farmhouse 1641

Chapter 1641: Time Is Up

The County Magistrate and the village leader walked up to Gu Wu. The County Magistrate said blandly, "It's better to meet your end in Beijing. Saves me from having to escort you back. All the tools for escorting prisoners I brought were for nothing!"

Gu Wu: "..."

The village leader sighed and shook his head, standing in front of Gu Wu hesitating to speak. After several attempts, he finally managed to say something.

"Gu Laosan, make your way well. When you get over there, sincerely apologize to your older brother and sister-in-law, and to your wife and father. Only when they've forgiven you can you be reincarnated. Otherwise, they'll be coming after you for debts in the next life. Ah, live a good life in the next life!"

Gu Wu felt completely disheartened, nodding lightly, he reminded the village leader, "The incense is burning low!"

The village leader glanced at the incense and said, "Oh, then I'm leaving."

Finally, it was Gu Shuisheng.

He knelt before Gu Wu and knocked his forehead on the ground three times with crisp sounds before getting up and leaving.

Everything that needed to be said had already been said; he had nothing more to add.

Gu Youyou sat quietly on a clean chair, watching him intently, and asked, "Do you have any questions? Go ahead and ask."

Gu Wu squinted his eyes, looking at Gu Youyou for a long while before he spoke blandly, "Who are you really? You are not my niece, Gu Youyou."

Gu Youyou did not deny it. She nodded lightly and said, "Yes, I am not your niece, Gu Youyou!"

Gu Wu's pupils instantly dilated, the iron chains on his hands and feet clinking noisily, as he asked excitedly, "Who exactly are you? Where has Gu Youyou gone?"

"Her!" Gu Youyou struggled to find the words. She looked up and blinked back a tear about to fall, took a deep breath, and sighed softly, "She's probably dead, the whole family is dead, isn't it all your doing?"

"What did you say?" Gu Wu looked at Gu Youyou, his eyes full of terror.

Gu Youyou laughed heartily, "Are you scared? I'm quite scared too. Do you remember what Huo Li said in the court? Yu Jizi wanted to find the secret to immortality, but unfortunately, he couldn't, which turned out to be an advantage for me. After you all killed Gu Youyou, I ended up in this young body."

Gu Youyou spun in front of Gu Wu and said, "Look, don't you think I am her, and she is me? Look how well I fit with this body?"

Gu Wu turned deathly pale and instinctively shrank back.

Gu Youyou whispered, "I'm fine, but she's not. She's dead. Do you think she died with a grudge? I bet she did. She was so young, didn't even get a proper look at this world, and was sent into the darkness by you. Now she might be waiting in a corner down below for you. Once you get there, she'll strangle you."

Gu Youyou slowly approached Gu Wu, whose face had turned blue from panic and looked terrifying.

"No, don't come near me. You're nothing but a vengeful ghost."

Gu Youyou gave a cold laugh, perhaps I am!

"Stay away, help, save me..."

Gu Youyou, with a cold expression, grabbed Gu Wu’s chin and forced the packet of black powder into his mouth.

"What did you make me eat?"

"Something to send you on your way," Gu Youyou said coldly.

"You are not Gu Youyou; you are a vengeful ghost!"

Gu Youyou cast a cold glance and exited the ugly and filthy cell.

Through the bars, she watched indifferently as Gu Wu clutched his neck, struggling bitterly.

As the poison took effect, he began clutching his entire body. In no time, a thick layer of frost formed over him.

Chapter 1642: Why Can’t We Touch Prime Minister Zhang?

"Cold, I’m cold!" Gu Wu chattered through his teeth to utter these words.

But no one would attend to him. The only other person in this dungeon, Gu Youyou, was watching him die with cold eyes.

When he turned into a frozen block, unable to move another inch, a tear finally slipped from the corner of Gu Youyou’s eye.

Recalling many years ago, her grandfather, Gu Feng, was already gravely ill.

He quietly told Gu Youyou, "Grandfather feels that your parents died under suspicious circumstances!"

Later, she promised her grandfather she would definitely avenge her parents. So many years have passed in a flash, and she considered that she had personally avenged that pitiful family.

...

Jin Zijin rarely took the initiative to enter the palace. Recently, he had taken the initiative to visit the palace twice.

The emperor, dressed with the help of a palace maiden, saw Jin Zijin and spoke before he could say anything, "Let’s first go to Renshou Palace together; whatever you have to say, say it later."

Jin Zijin nodded gently and followed the emperor to visit the Empress Dowager.

Gu Youyou was also there; she came every day.

The Empress Dowager no longer had the strength to speak, struggling for a while before she could utter three or five words.

She couldn’t eat anything either, only able to drink some thin broth.

"You’re here!" Even these two words were extremely difficult for her to say.

"Mother!" The emperor stepped forward and took the soup bowl from the palace maiden’s hands.

Just a few months ago, the Empress Dowager was sitting where he now sat, feeding him using the bowl and spoon he now held. Who could have thought things would change in just a few months?

Everyone knew this time the Empress Dowager was truly ill.

"Mother, how do you feel today?"

The Empress Dowager tugged at the corners of her mouth and said, "Much better!"

The emperor would ask this every day, and the Empress Dowager would reply the same way daily.

Jin Zijin looked at Gu Youyou, and Gu Youyou shook her head gently at him.

After taking a sip of soup and regaining some energy, the Empress Dowager said to Jin Zijin, "Everyone go, I... am fine!"

She didn't want others to see her in bad shape; when she still spoke clearly, she told the emperor and Gu Youyou that she didn't want any visits or to see all those faces, whether genuinely or falsely weeping.

She wished to see her descendants happy and joyful.

After patiently feeding her the soup, the emperor led Jin Zijin back to Qianqing Palace.

All the way, the emperor was silent. Only after reaching Qianqing Palace did he sit down and say to Jin Zijin, "Did you come to see me about Chancellor Zhang?"

"Yes." Jin Zijin nodded lightly and asked, "The Empress Dowager..."

The emperor raised his hand to stop him from continuing and said, "Everyone has their day; the Empress Dowager can accept it, and so can I. Let's talk about official matters."

Jin Zijin's eyes darkened slightly, saying, "You spared Chancellor Zhang, could it be that he has something on you?"

The emperor leaned back in his chair and said softly, "I won't touch him because he's not worth it."

"Oh...?" Jin Zijin laughed, "Knowing what kind of person he is, you still think he’s not worth it?"

"Chancellor Zhang indeed is not a good person. Yet, regardless of his selfishness, when it comes to right and wrong, he makes clear judgments; those he recommends almost always become pillars of the state. Such a person can be used, but we must guard against him too."

The emperor looked at Jin Zijin and sighed deeply, "Zijin, The Art of Sovereignty means not distinguishing right from wrong too clearly. A person with true talent and learning but poor character and a loyal, hot-blooded person who doesn’t contribute to the country—so long as the person with poor character does nothing to harm the state, we should use the person with poor character yet real talent. That kind of talent is what benefits us!"

Chapter 1643: He Is Not Suited

Jin Zijin was silent for a moment and did not deny the Emperor’s words.

He said, "I understand, which is why I say I am not suited to be Emperor. Because I cannot do what you say, I won’t keep anyone who dares harm my family. Everyone says you are a good Emperor, and you truly are."

The Emperor had already gradually accepted that Jin Zijin would not become Emperor.

Perhaps he was too stubborn, always thinking to use the best things in the world to make amends to him, always believing that the arduous work he put into safeguarding the empire could only be inherited by his son with Xiao Qinqin.

Yet as a father, he had overlooked an important matter.

What he thought was the best, Jin Zijin did not think was good; the throne might be a burden to him.

He wholeheartedly wanted to hand over a clean throne to him but did not realize that the stains on this seat would ultimately rely on him to clean.

Now the world is peaceful, and the people need a peace-loving Emperor.

Therefore, the Emperor no longer intended to force him, or to force the subjects of the empire.

He said, "Zijin, your talent is indeed not suited to being a peace-loving monarch; you distinguish right from wrong too clearly."

Jin Zijin hesitated for a moment, then quietly said, "You've finally understood this point."

The Emperor sighed and said, "This is what I owe your mother, if you do not want it, I will compensate her with other things."

Jin Zijin's brows furrowed with a hint of resentment and said, "She does not need any compensation!"

The Emperor did not continue the topic, took off his outer robe, and said to Jin Zijin: "You should go back, I'm tired!"

Jin Zijin glanced at the Emperor who had turned away, and he too turned and walked out step by step.

Your empire, your ministers, how you wish to deal with them is your affair.

The Dragon Throne is singular, so whoever sits in that seat is destined to have no family.

...

Miss Du's belly grew bigger and bigger, making Gu Youyou and her husband more and more envious.

Gu Youyou indicated that she had been diligently conditioning her body, but despite her efforts, it was still difficult to get pregnant due to previous injuries.

Watching her drink another bowl of the dark sludgy medicine, Jin Zijin frowned and said, "Perhaps we should just wait until we move to the new home. The environment there will be better for pregnancy!"

Gu Youyou: "..."

"Hasn’t it been so long, is the new home ready?"

"How long? It’s been only a little over two months since we started planning. Do you really think building a straw house is that quick?"

Well, her factory still wasn’t finished either.

Gu Youyou cheerfully gulped down the bowl of medicine.

She rinsed her mouth and stood up, "I have to go to Xiguang Residence, Boss Chen returned from Yangguan City yesterday and mentioned he had urgent business to discuss with me."

"Okay, you go, I’ll go check on Xuyao!"

Jin Zijin helplessly watched his busy wife; where others see wives waiting with their children for their busy husbands to return, in their case, it was the other way around, with husbands waiting with children for wives to return.

Or sometimes they both were busy, leaving the maid to wait with their child for the parents to return.

After Gu Youyou finished discussing official matters with Boss Chen and took a short rest, she intended to leave but saw Zhang Shiyu causing a ruckus in the hall upstairs.

Since Prime Minister Zhang did not gain any advantage last time, both father and daughter had behaved for a while, reportedly not leaving the house for many days.

Unexpectedly, it had only been ten days, and Miss Zhang couldn’t stay put and had come to Xiguang Residence to cause trouble.

"What’s happening downstairs?" Gu Youyou stood on the second floor, gazing down at Zhang Shiyu.

Chapter 1644: Design Required

The assistant next to Zhang Shiyu quickly said, "Boss Gu, Miss Zhang’s family wants to build a set of the Sunshine Flower Room. We gave her the sample, but she’s not satisfied and insists on having you design it personally."

Gu Youyou smiled faintly, gracefully descending the stairs.

Walking up to Zhang Shiyu, she said, "I’m not a professional Sunshine Flower Room designer. Are you sure you want me to do it?"

Zhang Shiyu chuckled lightly, saying, "How can Princess Ning underestimate herself? Your reputation as a talented designer is known far and wide. Weren’t the most original sets of Sunshine Flower Rooms in the Xiguang Residence all drawn by you? Why claim you’re not professional now?"

The most original designs were too contemporary and didn’t quite match the aesthetics of ancient people.

After a brief moment of amazement, they figured out the types they preferred, so Gu Youyou can no longer be considered a Sunshine Flower Room designer.

However, Gu Youyou also knew Zhang Shiyu wasn’t here to customize a Sunshine Flower Room. She was clearly here to stir up trouble.

Alright, just in time for the grudge left from last time to be addressed.

Gu Wu was dead, but the Zhang Family remained unharmed. Gu Youyou had been holding onto a grudge, and since she couldn’t touch that old fellow, dealing with the younger ones could at least regain some interest.

Gu Youyou gestured for her, saying, "Miss Zhang, shall we go to the VIP room to discuss in detail?"

Gu Youyou led Zhang Shiyu into a separate room, prepared for customers with status and rank.

Soon, a maid came in to serve tea and pastries.

Gu Youyou picked up a pen and began to ask, "Miss Zhang, what kind would you like?"

Zhang Shiyu picked up her teacup intending to take a sip, but upon hearing Gu Youyou's question, she put it down, saying, "Isn't that your job? Why are you asking me?"

Gu Youyou smiled faintly, saying, "So, Miss Zhang has no requirements, and you'll take whatever I design?"

"Hmm!" Zhang Shiyu said authoritatively, considering herself a guest and Gu Youyou as the seller here.

But it's fine, she thought. She's a businesswoman; as long as Zhang Shiyu pays, what's wrong with drawing a few pictures?

Gu Youyou casually drew a crude design and showed it to Zhang Shiyu.

"How about this? Small frame, large glass, transparent!"

The drawback is that the glass would easily break after a few days, but Gu Youyou didn't mention that.

Zhang Shiyu frowned, saying, "What is this supposed to be? It's even worse than the sample card. It's hideous!"

"This is a minimalist style!" Gu Youyou explained with a smile.

"Change it, change it. I don't want this, no matter what style it is!"

Gu Youyou put away her smile, placed the pen on its stand, and said, "My design drawings aren’t cheap. One is 120 silver, but since we’re old acquaintances, I’ll cut a deal; you can have it for 100."

"What?" Zhang Shiyu stood up excitedly, pointing at the hasty sketches on the paper, saying, "Just a few random strokes for 100 silver? Why don’t you just rob me?"

"This is a design drawing, selling intellectual effort!" Gu Youyou said calmly with her arms crossed.

Zhang Shiyu sneered, "A painting isn’t even sold for 100 silver, and yours..."

"This is a design drawing!" Gu Youyou emphasized again, "Every designer has their own price. It’s clearly written in the lobby; 120 silver is my rate, but it’s not the most expensive here. Clear and honest pricing. If Miss Zhang finds it expensive, she shouldn’t have asked me to draw. The new designer takes only 20 silver. Would you like me to bring him in?"

Chapter 1645: Secretly Poisoning

And the legitimate daughter of the Zhang Family should use a cheap designer? Isn’t this a slap in her face?

Although she was extremely vexed by Gu Youyou, she could only honestly take out one hundred taels.

The one hundred taels silver note was placed on the table by Zhang Shiyu, and she said, "I heard that every time you take money from a customer here, you give a receipt?"

"That’s right!" Gu Youyou nodded slightly and said, "Miss Zhang, please wait a moment!"

Gu Youyou went out of the room to call the accountant to come over.

However, after Gu Youyou left the room, she didn’t close the well-soundproofed door tightly but left a gap.

Sounds came from inside the room, and Gu Youyou heard the sound of a cork being removed.

She quickly pressed her ear to the crack of the door and also heard the sound of water being stirred.

Well, it seems Zhang Shiyu has bad intentions. If she’s not mistaken, it’s likely she’s drugging the water.

Next, is she going to tempt her to drink that drugged water?

She couldn’t figure out why Zhang Shiyu would dare to go crazy enough to poison her.

Surely, she wouldn’t be stupid enough to exchange the lives of the entire Chancellor Residence for her own.

Gu Youyou understood in her heart, went downstairs, and called the accountant upstairs.

The accountant quickly wrote out the receipt and took Zhang Shiyu’s one hundred taels of silver.

Then she boldly placed a silver note worth one thousand taels down, saying to Gu Youyou, "I have high demands, not sure if one thousand taels will be enough, but let’s put one thousand on your account first!"

The accountant looked reluctantly at Gu Youyou, but Gu Youyou didn’t care; why would you push away such an eager client, especially one who is generously spending?

She cheerfully took the silver note and said, "Alright, Mr. He, quickly issue the note for Miss Zhang!"

Although the accountant felt it was a bit improper, since the boss had given the command, he said nothing more and issued the note.

After clearing the silver notes, Gu Youyou said slowly, "Three notes only. We will arrange another designer for you!"

After speaking, Gu Youyou picked up the pen and started drawing again.

After all, since the customer paid a generous price, Gu Youyou didn’t hold back and drew more seriously this time.

Zhang Shiyu watched for a while, her gaze landed on a teacup, then she picked up the teacup and walked to Gu Youyou’s side, pushing her with her elbow, saying: "Have some water before you continue drawing!"

Gu Youyou sneered inside; she couldn’t even hide her intentions smoothly, and still dared to harm others?

Their relationship was like fire and water, both had clear minds. If I hand you a cup of water, would you drink it?

All these years, it seems Zhang Shiyu is just as she was back in the Imperial Palace, only daring to maliciously harm others without worrying about consequences, and paying no attention to the flaws left behind.

Back then, for the sake of everyone’s face and considering her young age, she let it go.

But this time... there’s a saying that goes, he who digs a pit for others falls in himself!

"Put it down, I won’t drink until the work is done!"

Zhang Shiyu was taken aback, but could only patiently wait for her to finish the drawing.

Gu Youyou drew this painting very slowly, and after four hours, she finally completed the drawing.

She put away the pen, blew the ink dry, and smiled at Zhang Shiyu, saying: "Miss Zhang, how do you like this?"

This was drawn meticulously by Gu Youyou. Her drawing skills were already good, so this picture naturally had some charm.

Additionally, Zhang Shiyu indeed wanted a Sunshine Flower Room, and was instantly captivated by this depiction of it.

What Gu Youyou drew was not just a frame; there were faint hints of flowers and plants from all seasons, making her drawing much more realistic and three-dimensional compared to the skeleton on the card, and much more pleasing to the eyes.

Chapter 1646: Set Up

Gu Youyou picked up the cup and whispered behind Zhang Shiyu: "Go to the windowsill and take a look, the sunlight is good, you can see better."

Gu Youyou made a gesture as if she was about to drink, and Zhang Shiyu nodded to encourage her to drink it as soon as possible and walked to the window.

As Zhang Shiyu turned around, Gu Youyou quietly swapped the two cups and swiftly picked up another cup, taking a small sip in front of Zhang Shiyu.

Zhang Shiyu furrowed her brow. Just a light touch on the lips couldn’t bring out the drug’s effect; it wouldn’t work. She thought she needed to make her drink more.

As she was pondering how to make Gu Youyou drink more, Gu Youyou smiled and picked up the other cup, walking toward her.

Leaning elegantly against the window, Gu Youyou handed her the cup and said, "Satisfied? If so, let’s drink it as a toast to a happy collaboration?"

Worried about not being able to make Gu Youyou drink more, Zhang Shiyu was overjoyed and quickly took the cup, saying, "Alright, let’s toast with tea. Didn’t Boss Gu say her skills weren’t good? This is great, I’m very satisfied."

Gu Youyou gave her a toast and drank all of it in one gulp.

Seeing Gu Youyou drink it all, Zhang Shiyu felt relieved and also drank her water in one gulp.

But not long after, she began to feel something was off.

Her whole body was hot, and it felt like thousands of ants were crawling inside her, making her unbearably itchy.

"How could this happen?"

She looked at Gu Youyou, and all she could see was a blur.

Gu Youyou's eyes turned cold; in this situation, she already knew what drug was in the cup.

An unmarried girl in this era daring to use such low methods is indeed rare.

Everyone said that the Zhang Chancellor's daughter was not to be married. Previously, it seemed Zhang Shiyu was wronged by her mother and sister. Now it seems not unjustified at all.

That Zhang Chancellor prides himself on being a scholar, a literati? Yet within Zhang Residence is filth hidden, daring to feign nobility even with such things?

But since such poison was used, applause alone won't make a sound, just where is the other hand she arranged?

Gu Youyou quietly left the room, unexpectedly spotting a familiar face downstairs, Gu Shuisheng?

"Excuse me, have you seen the second Miss of the Zhang Family come to Xiguang Residence?" Gu Shuisheng asked a shopkeeper at the counter, looking somewhat anxious.

The shopkeeper smiled and asked, "May I ask what your relation is to Miss Zhang?"

"I..." Gu Shuisheng replied politely, "I am a protégé of Chancellor Zhang, sent by him to bring Miss Zhang back to the residence."

"Room Number Two in Heaven Character." said the shopkeeper.

Hmm, no one would dare to claim Chancellor Zhang's name to find the second Miss Zhang.

Gu Youyou on the upper floor heard the conversation below clearly.

Seeing Gu Shuisheng coming up, she quickly slipped into a nearby room.

Gu Shuisheng found Room Number Two in Heaven Character and knocked lightly, but there was no response from inside.

Puzzled, he knocked again.

This time, he faintly heard the sound of a cup breaking inside.

He quickly pressed his ear to the door, listening carefully.

This time it wasn't just the sound of a cup breaking, but also some strange sounds from a woman.

He was taken aback.

Could it be that the second Miss Zhang was in trouble?

Today, the butler by Chancellor Zhang's side hurriedly came to him, saying that the master sent him to find the second Miss Zhang at Xiguang Residence urgently.

Chapter 1647: Scared Stiff

But he said he didn’t know what he ate today, his stomach was really upset, and he kept running to the toilet, afraid he couldn’t make it to Xiguang Residence.

So Zhang the butler asked him to do him a favor and go there for him.

This butler was generally good to him, so he agreed to help.

But now...what if Miss Zhang had an accident?

Gu Shuisheng couldn’t care less; hearing that increasingly strange noise, he suddenly pushed open the door.

Before he could see clearly, a disheveled and ragged woman suddenly rushed towards him, pressing him against the door.

He was startled, and when he focused his eyes, he realized that this haggard-looking woman was indeed Miss Zhang, Zhang Shiyu.

But how did she end up in such a state?

"Miss Zhang?" Gu Shuisheng called out to her in panic.

Zhang Shiyu had already lost her mind, as if she couldn’t hear Gu Shuisheng’s voice, just incessantly tearing at his clothes, clinging to him, biting randomly on his exposed skin.

The skin she touched was alarmingly hot.

Gu Shuisheng was an upright man, even as a beggar, he had his principles.

How could he allow such a thing to happen to himself?

Now, he had already guessed seven or eight out of ten what had happened to Miss Zhang.

But he distinctly remembered the butler telling him that Miss Zhang had come to Xiguang Residence to make a Sunshine Flower Room, but who drugged her?

"Miss Zhang, wake up!"

This couldn’t go on, there were boundaries between men and women, and he was someone who understood those limits.

Gu Shuisheng forcefully pushed Zhang Shiyu away.

Zhang Shiyu collapsed to the ground, tearing apart her already tattered clothes, mumbling incoherently.

"Help...I, I need... give me, uncomfortable..."

She had never been so embarrassed in her life.

Gu Shuisheng wanted to turn around and leave.

But immediately, he thought, if he left, what would happen to Miss Zhang?

Could he just leave her here like this?

Just as he was hesitating, there came a series of urgent knocks on the door from outside.

"Knock knock knock..."

"Open the door, open the door, Shuisheng, Gu Shuisheng..."

It was the voice of Zhang the butler, calling for Gu Shuisheng?

Gu Shuisheng listened to the noise outside and then looked at Miss Zhang in the room, his mind buzzing.

In an instant, he seemed to understand something?

But why would they do this? The woman in the room was the second Miss of the Zhang Family!

Yet at this moment, Zhang the butler from outside had already started getting people to smash the door.

He brought quite a number of people, and the guards of Xiguang Residence couldn’t stop them at all.

Just then, Gu Youyou came out from the neighboring room, she yawned and shouted loudly, "Who is it, dares to mess with my place, tired of living?"

"You..." Seeing Gu Youyou emerging from the adjacent room, Zhang the butler was stunned.

Why was she next door? Shouldn’t she be... in Room T2?

Zhang the butler quickly lifted his head to look at the number plate on the door.

He hadn’t gone to the wrong room; it was indeed Room T2.

Could it be that the message was delivered incorrectly?

Zhang the butler hastily gave his men a knowing look, and the man, being perceptive, instantly understood and rushed into the room Gu Youyou had just come out of.

Gu Youyou sneered coldly, wanting to catch adultery, right?

Fine, she’s going to let them catch all they want.

She leaned against the door, her smile carrying a hint of allure.

She said, "You’re the butler of the Zhang Residence, right? May I ask if you are looking for Miss Zhang or the newly appointed Top Scholar Gu Shuisheng?"

Zhang the butler froze for a moment and began to panic.

Chapter 1648:

Gu Youyou remained so calm, with an expression as if watching a joke. Could it be that something had changed, or had things already gone south?

He forced himself to stay composed and said, "This morning, I heard our Second Miss say she wanted to come to Xiguang Residence for a set at the Sunshine Flower Room. May I ask, Boss Gu, do you know where our Second Miss is?"

Gu Youyou lightly pointed a finger and said, "In this room!"

Gu Youyou’s people caught up to her, and she gave them a glance. With a strong push, the two attendants immediately opened the door.

At that moment, everyone was stunned.

A man and a woman were on the ground, holding onto each other. The man’s clothes were pulled askew by the woman, and the woman was already half-naked.

Those who came to kick the door were all men. Seeing this was something else; they were so scared that their eyes were wide open.

Actually, the truth was like this: Ms. Zhang got up and rushed towards Gu Shuisheng, who was stood by the door. However, just at that moment, the door was forcefully pushed open from the outside, causing the two behind the door to fall to the ground. Visually, it appeared as if the two were tangled up on the floor.

Seeing this scene, Gu Youyou quickly shouted, "What are you all looking at? Aren't you afraid of getting a stye?"

This shout drew the surrounding guests over, and upon seeing the shocking scene inside the room, they could hardly believe their eyes.

In broad daylight, here in Beijing, how could people be so shameless? Have the young ones these days become this bold?

Butler Zhang, infuriated and quick to respond, hurriedly drove everyone out, leaving only Gu Youyou, Gu Shuisheng, Ms. Zhang, and Butler Zhang in the room, along with the butler who had been guiding Gu Shuisheng downstairs earlier.

However, the people from Xiguang Residence blocked the door, not letting them close it, so the audience could still see the scene inside from outside.

Butler Zhang couldn't even say a word now, feeling as if half of his life had been taken away.

They were scheming against Gu Youyou; they intended to have Gu Youyou caught in broad daylight, in front of everyone, having an illicit affair with a man.

But why was it their own Miss instead?

Facing the dumbfounded Butler Zhang, Gu Youyou just whispered, "Such petty tricks, I've long since played them out in my past life!"

She snorted coldly and walked towards Zhang Shiyu, shoving a pill into her mouth.

Gu Shuisheng was a decent person, and although Zhang Shiyu deserved it, she did not want to implicate innocent people.

"You, you..." Butler Zhang suddenly realized, "It was you; you schemed against our Second Miss, did you drug her?"

Gu Youyou looked at him as if he were an idiot and said, "Anyone could see that I just gave her the antidote."

Butler Zhang sneered and said, "Why would you have an antidote? So you're the one who drugged her with the aphrodisiac?"

Aphrodisiac? Only then did everyone realize that the reason the Zhang Family's Second Miss was like that was because someone had drugged her with an aphrodisiac.

But why would Boss Gu drug the Zhang Family's Second Miss with an aphrodisiac?

Some time ago, rumors were everywhere that Ms. Zhang had taken a fancy to Prince Ning and eagerly wanted to be a concubine at the Ningwang Residence. However, Princess Ning, the owner of Xiguang Residence, would not agree, which led to Zhang Chancellor and Ms. Zhang's resentment, resulting in the appearance of Gu Wu, causing Boss Gu to have no peace for over a month.

So if Boss Gu poisoned Ms. Zhang this time, could it be just for revenge?

This drama was worth watching.

Everyone crowded at the door, watching intently.

"How do you know it was an aphrodisiac?" Gu Youyou suddenly asked.

And it was this question that left Butler Zhang speechless.

Chapter 1649: Gu Shuisheng’s Most Miserable Moment

He was stunned for a moment, then said, "Then... what kind of antidote did you give her?"

Gu Youyou held a medicine bottle and smiled faintly, "A calming and tranquilizing fire-lowering medicine. I saw Second Miss Zhang’s cheeks were flushed, and she looked delirious. Based on my years of clinical experience, giving her a calming and tranquilizing fire-lowering pill first can’t be wrong.

Of course, if Butler Zhang doesn’t trust me, he can take her to see another doctor to find out how she came back and why her behavior is abnormal."

"Still speaking?" Butler Zhang snorted coldly, "It must be you who harmed our Second Miss. Princess Ning, even a prince must face the same justice as commoners when committing a crime. I will definitely tell our master, and he will go before the emperor to file a complaint to seek justice for our Miss."

"Sure, go ahead!" Gu Youyou stood up and made a gesture of invitation.

But this butler was only intimidating; when Gu Youyou asked him to go, he dared not actually go.

With things like this, it’s uncertain if he can even survive.

At this moment, Gu Shuisheng, who had been sitting silently nearby, raised his head and looked at Butler Zhang, asking, "Didn’t you tell me your stomach wasn’t feeling well today and you couldn’t go out? Why did you ask me to help find the Second Miss, only for you to appear right after?"

Being one of the premier figures of today, Gu Shuisheng’s inexplicable question was not understood by others, though Gu Youyou got the hint.

Could it be that this butler had an arrangement with Zhang Shiyu?

Gu Youyou glanced at the semi-conscious Zhang Shiyu and couldn’t help but feel a bit sympathetic.

It’s one thing to be as dumb as a pig oneself, but to find an equally dumb partner...

Did they really think they could scheme against me, with such low-level tricks? Did they forget their brains?

Gu Youyou snorted coldly, "Honest people don’t talk about outdated things; I don’t want to waste my time on you. Zhang Shiyu brought this upon herself and even implicated the new Top Scholar."

To the clueless public, Gu Youyou’s words were still a bit puzzling.

"Everyone!" Gu Youyou suddenly turned around, cupped her hands towards the onlookers outside the door, and said, "You’re all probably confused right now, not knowing what’s going on, right?"

Yes, yes!

The onlookers hurriedly nodded.

"Here’s the situation: Second Miss Zhang from the Chancellor Residence came to Xiguang Residence today, saying she wanted to commission a set of Sunshine Flower Room designs, specifically requesting me to draft them. So, we treated her as a VIP and invited her to Room No. 2.

After finishing the first draft, Miss Zhang was not satisfied, so I began the second one. Of course, our drafts aren’t drawn for free; they cost silver. Miss Zhang took the opportunity, while I was out, to drug the tea in the room.

Coincidentally, I caught her in the act, so I went along with her plan. While she wasn’t paying attention, I swapped our teacups. Then, I went next door to take a nap, and that’s when this astonishing scene occurred in Room No.2!"

After Gu Youyou’s explanation, the Shopkeeper downstairs added, "This... Top Scholar was entrusted to come find Miss Zhang. As soon as his foot went upstairs, Zhang family’s butler brought a group of people, barging in. With my many years of experience, this is a conspiracy!"

With such clarity, everyone now understood everything, combining Gu Youyou's and Gu Shuisheng's previously puzzling remarks.

Second Miss Zhang intended to set up Princess Ning, yet was instead outmaneuvered by her.

Not only did she fail to harm Princess Ning, but she also ended up trapping herself.

Chapter 1650: What Should We Do About This?

And the most innocent person in all this is the newly appointed Top Scholar, Gu Shuisheng. What did he do to deserve this? He was merely being kind by helping the butler of the Zhang Family, yet he got manipulated by the butler and the second Miss Zhang.

If second Miss Zhang's plan hadn't failed, what everyone would have seen was the Princess of Ning unable to bear loneliness and having a secret rendezvous with a young man in the VIP room of Xiguang Residence.

But the plan was disrupted, and the young man ended up belonging to second Miss Zhang.

Indeed, the young man is truly unlucky. No matter who was poisoned, he is always the scapegoat adulterer!

Second Miss Zhang gradually woke up, and Gu Youyou gave her a Calming Pill.

The situation has developed to a point beyond the control of a mere butler, and soon Prime Minister Zhang got the news and rushed over.

At the same time, Jin Zijin also got the news and hurried over.

Seeing Gu Youyou leisurely sitting on a chair, he felt relieved.

"What's happened again? Who's responsible?"

Gu Youyou gestured toward the Zhang Family members and said, "Who else? It’s them! But fortunately, I wasn’t taken advantage of. However, second Miss Zhang’s reputation is completely ruined now. Prime Minister Zhang will need to prepare for retirement with his daughter!"

These words drilled into Prime Minister Zhang’s ears like poison, but he dared not lose his temper at Gu Youyou. Looking at the still not fully awake Zhang Shiyu, he had no choice but to turn and glare at Gu Shuisheng.

"What happened? How did you... end up together?" Prime Minister Zhang felt the urge to snap.

Gu Shuisheng is not a pushover, and he recounted the story of what happened.

Prime Minister Zhang’s face turned various shades, realizing that the original victims should have been Gu Shuisheng and Gu Youyou.

He looked helplessly at Zhang Shiyu, indeed feeling very helpless.

The idea was fine, and Prime Minister Zhang knew his daughter had never liked Gu Wu and Gu Shuisheng, using this opportunity to kill two birds with one stone—what a good plan?

But her skills were too shallow, and she was no match for Gu Youyou. Now it’s backfired; instead of tricking Gu Youyou, she’s trapped herself.

With so many witnesses, wasn’t all of this Gu Youyou’s doing?

Now it’s confirmed, the crime of plotting against the Princess of Ning and the Top Scholar must be established.

No, this is a capital offense. Prime Minister Zhang cannot let this happen.

He had already lost his eldest daughter and couldn’t afford to lose this daughter.

In an instant, Prime Minister Zhang seemed to feel old, wondering why things were so worrying.

He pushed everyone aside and pulled Gu Shuisheng up, taking him to the room next door. Under the surprised gazes of everyone, he slammed the door shut with a bang.

...

Zhang Shiyu, still in a daze, found it not at all amusing. How could she miss such an unforgettable moment? Gu Youyou had long sent someone to fetch Searcy, who was an expert in poison and also quite skilled at antidotes.

After assessing Zhang Shiyu's condition, Searcy quickly prepared an antidote for her. After taking the real antidote, Zhang Shiyu finally began to regain consciousness.

Her own clothes were in a disheveled state, and the clothes draped over her now were those of a maid, arranged by Gu Youyou.

Seeing the scene before her and realizing what had occurred just moments ago, she was so frightened that she wished she could faint again.

But turning her head, seeing the look of disgust in Jin Zijin's eyes as he stood next to Gu Youyou, her heart ached anew.

It's all for this man that she ended up in this situation. Having made this decision and lost everything, shouldn't he be responsible?

"Prince Ning, Your Highness Prince Ning!" Zhang Shiyu struggled to her feet and rushed toward Jin Zijin.