Farmhouse 1731

Chapter 1731: I Want to Go Too

"It doesn’t matter!" Jin Luoyin hurriedly interrupted him, sniffing as she said, "It doesn’t matter if he’s alive or not, only by earnestly doing this can I find peace. My parents also said that my brother was taken by enemies and might already be gone, but they have persisted in searching for so many years. Sometimes, not giving up is not necessarily about finding my brother but for our own peace of mind. If my brother is really gone, then his spirit in heaven, seeing that everyone is looking for him and hasn’t given up, would surely be happy!"

Whether or not she could find him, she had to try; only then could she be at ease. This was exactly what Jin Luoyin felt at the moment.

Zhu Yiping sighed helplessly, but after a moment, he suddenly thought of something. With a bit of excitement, he earnestly told Jin Luoyin, holding her shoulders, "Wait for me here, don’t rush off yet, wait for me to come back."

"Huh? Brother Zhu, where are you going?" Jin Luoyin asked anxiously.

After giving the instructions, Zhu Yiping had already run out quickly.

With trepidation and a hint of excitement, he soon arrived at the main courtyard of the owner’s residence.

"Father, Father, are you there? Father, where are you?"

Zhu Haisheng returned the hidden compartment and rushed out of his bedroom.

Yawning, he said, "Yiping, what’s so urgent?"

Seeing Zhu Haisheng in his robe coming out of the room, Zhu Yiping was taken aback and only then remembered that it was naptime, and his father had a habit of taking afternoon naps.

He quickly said, "Father, did I disturb your nap?"

Zhu Haisheng replied, "It’s no big deal, no matter, what’s the rush, just say it. A little less or more sleep doesn’t matter to your father."

Zhu Yiping looked somewhat troubled, but he had no choice but to speak.

He took a deep breath and, full of apprehension, said, "Father, I... I want to go out!"

"Go out? Where to?" Zhu Haisheng’s expression darkened.

Zhu Yiping said, "The Commandery Princess wants to go north to find her brother. She’s traveling alone, and I am really not at ease. I’ve stayed in the manor all these years, and I want to take this chance to go out for a walk. I wonder if Father would permit it?"

"You want to go?" Zhu Haisheng looked at him in surprise.

"Yes!" Zhu Yiping said earnestly, "I am not at ease with her going alone to the Barbarian Lands in the north."

Zhu Haisheng smiled and said, "What is there to be uneasy about? With the Commandery Princess’s status, King Ning would arrange countless Hidden Guards for her. Her safety is not for you to worry about."

Zhu Yiping looked conflicted and very disappointed. He knew his father wouldn’t agree. Never mind such a faraway place, even going to Yangguan City was like facing a formidable enemy!

He said no more but didn’t leave either, just stood there with his head down in front of Zhu Haisheng.

Zhu Haisheng raised his arm and opened his mouth, helplessly saying, "Do you really want to go?"

Zhu Yiping nodded slightly, saying, "I don’t want to be a useless person trapped in a cage. I must go!"

"You... fine, go ahead!"

Zhu Yiping was incredibly surprised, suddenly raising his head.

But Zhu Haisheng said, "You’re not young anymore; it’s time to talk about marriage. I was thinking of waiting for warmer weather to get a matchmaker to visit families with daughters in Yangguan City, to find a suitable one for you. I didn’t expect you’d already chosen someone. You’ve fallen for the Commandery Princess, haven’t you?"

Chapter 1732: Agreed

Zhu Yiping looked surprised and quite embarrassed, just as he was about to explain something, Zhu Haisheng quickly said, "I understand, I get it all. With the Commandery Princess’s status, someone like us without a powerful background would find it difficult to marry her. Fortunately, the Prince and Princess act differently from ordinary people; they might not care about the difference in status. This is also an opportunity for you. Accompany the Commandery Princess to the north, and if you’re lucky enough to find the Young Prince, it will be much easier for you to propose to the Commandery Princess! Go on, this time your father supports you in going!"

After his surprise, Zhu Yiping was completely shocked, and after the shock, his expression turned peculiar.

He wanted to explain something, but in the end, he didn’t say anything.

The main point was that he could leave now, could accompany the Commandery Princess to find her brother, and didn’t have to be locked up in this cage worrying pointlessly.

As for how his father was, what did it matter?

The result was satisfying, and that’s what mattered.

Zhu Yiping joyfully said, "Thank you, Father, I will definitely return soon!"

"Mm, off you go!"

"Alright, I'm off then, Father!"

"Go on!"

Even after returning to his own courtyard, Zhu Yiping still couldn't believe it as he patted his own face incredulously.

Father actually agreed, he actually agreed?

Even though the reason was... um, anyway, he agreed.

Having lived in this villa for so many years, he wanted to see what the outside looked like. Perhaps Father agreed because he thought it would be very safe following the Commandery Princess since he said the Prince prepared many powerful Hidden Guards for the Commandery Princess.

Whatever the reason, he could go out.

"Commandery Princess!" Seeing Jin Luoyin waiting outside the bamboo grove, he was as happy as a child, exclaiming excitedly, "Commandery Princess, my father agreed to let me leave the villa, I can go with you to the north to find your brother!"

Jin Luoyin was somewhat confused, and at the same time extremely surprised, "Your father agreed to let you leave? And even agreed to let you go with me to find my brother?"

"Yes, my father agreed, I can go with you to the north to find your brother!"

"Why?" Jin Luoyin felt that Zhu Haisheng wasn't that kind of person; he worried so much about Zhu Yiping. Beiping was so far away, and they had to leave Zhuzhao Country, it was so dangerous, how could he agree? Just the thought of Zhu Yiping telling him he wanted to leave would probably scare him half to death, right?

Zhu Yiping, however, blushed and said, somewhat embarrassed, "He might think that with many Hidden Guards around the Commandery Princess, it would be very safe!"

Uh...

Jin Luoyin said, "I don’t have any Hidden Guards with me!"

"I know!" Zhu Yiping said, "I didn’t find any Hidden Guards with you!"

"And the villa owner still agreed?"

"Shh!" Zhu Yiping said to Jin Luoyin, "He doesn’t know, he thinks there are, don’t tell him!"

Jin Luoyin felt that deceiving the villa owner like this might not be good, but seeing how happy Zhu Yiping was, she didn’t think there was anything wrong.

Zhu Yiping was the only son of Tianhai Mountain Villa, and he inevitably grew up; the kind of confined protection from the villa owner was indeed not good for him.

He’s grown up now; he can’t be confined for a lifetime?

Jin Luoyin laughed and said, "Alright then, come with me, it’s a good chance for you to go out and see the world. Just know that being away won’t be like home, travels can be quite arduous, so be mentally prepared."

Zhu Yiping patted his chest and said, "If you can do it, I definitely can too. Alright, I won’t talk to you now, I need to get Shi Shu to prepare some things for me, oh right, when do we leave?"

Jin Luoyin laughed and said, "There’s no time like the present. Since you’re going too, why not now? Pack up your things and let’s go."

Chapter 1733: Everyone Goes

"Now?" Thinking about being able to leave immediately, Zhu Yiping was over the moon with excitement and quickly said, "Alright, alright, let’s leave now. I’ll go find Shi Shu, and you gather your things too!"

"Alright, just bring some clothes when you go out, and take more silver notes just in case." After speaking, Jin Luoyin hurriedly shouted from behind, "You don’t need to bring many silver notes. I’ve brought plenty, and I can retrieve more from the bank. Just bring a change of clothes..."

Both were extremely excited. Shi Shu was very quick in packing because, in their eyes, their Young Master accompanying the Commandery Princess on an outing was a significant event for the entire Tianhai Mountain Villa!

Not long after, they set off. To match Jin Luoyin, Zhu Yiping requested a white horse to be prepared!

...

Soon, Jian Shiqing found out about their departure and was beside himself with anger, shouting loudly, "Xia He, quickly prepare a horse for me, the Young Master!"

"The Young Master wants to go out?"

"Why so much nonsense? Hurry up!"

Jian Shiqing shouted loudly while packing his things.

Xia He was cleaning Jian Shiqing’s study. Preparing a horse was usually the servant’s job, not something she was accustomed to doing.

But since Jian Shiqing called on her, she had to carry it out.

Seeing that Jian Shiqing didn’t look good, Xia He dared not ask more. She quickly wiped her hands and ran to the courtyard to tell the servant at the stables, "Prepare the horse Master Jian usually rides. He’s heading out."

On another side, Zhu Haisheng was also having people prepare things as he was planning to go out too.

It was rare to see all three masters from Tianhai Mountain Villa wanting to leave at the same time.

Just as Jin Luoyin left the villa, unexpectedly, the owner of Tianhai Mountain Villa, Zhu Haisheng, was already heading to the Ningwang Residence in Plum Blossom Valley with gifts and a carriage.

Of course, not long after Zhu Haisheng left, Jian Shiqing went out as well.

The unique geography of Plum Blossom Valley is a natural barrier. Apart from the man-made road leading to the back mountain, there’s a bridge over the upstream Qingshui River in front of the valley, with no other routes into Plum Blossom Valley.

Today, Zhu Haisheng was in exceptionally high spirits. After crossing the bridge and arriving in front of Plum Blossom Valley, he had his servant stop the carriage and handed over a visiting card.

"You must be the owner of Tianhai Mountain Villa! Master Zhu, you’re quite lucky. Our Prince just returned not long ago; otherwise, it’d be very difficult for you to meet him. Please wait here for a moment while I go and report to the Prince and Princess!"

Zhu Haisheng raised his hand and said, "Thank you, young man, for passing the message."

The card was delivered to Jin Zijin and Gu Youyou, and they were puzzled.

To be honest, Gu Youyou did have some business dealings with Tianhai Mountain Villa, but she usually did not handle them personally. It was almost always her subordinates managing the matters with him.

As a woman, even though she didn’t mind, others did. Unless absolutely necessary, she wouldn’t personally appear.

So, while she wasn’t a stranger to the owner of Tianhai Mountain Villa, they weren’t particularly close either.

Gu Youyou’s heart skipped a beat. She said, "Could it be that little Luoyin has gone to Tianhai Mountain Villa again?"

Jin Zijin: "...She said she was going to look for her brother?"

"...Didn’t you have someone follow her?"

"I was planning to have a few people follow her, but didn’t you say we shouldn’t control the child like that? She’s grown up, has her own ideas, and should be allowed to fly free!"

Gu Youyou: "..."

"So now...?"

Chapter 1734: Marriage Proposal

Jin Zijin pondered for a moment, then said to the guard who came to report: "Let the owner of Tianhai Mountain Villa come in now, let’s see what he’s here for."

Zhu Haisheng thanked the guard who conveyed the message, happily heading to the flower hall of Ningwang Residence.

Gu Youyou was holding the list of gifts sent by Zhu Haisheng and was quite puzzled after seeing Zhu Haisheng’s abilities.

Such heavy gifts, what’s his intention?

"Owner Zhu, what is your meaning in this?" Jin Zijin asked lightly.

Zhu Haisheng quickly stood up and bowed again, saying: "I came somewhat abruptly, and I hope the Prince and Princess won't mind."

The suspense was too much, Gu Youyou couldn't help but laugh, though her words weren't polite.

"No reward without merit, Owner Zhu, you might as well speak directly. We all like straightforward people."

Zhu Haisheng was taken aback for a moment, then laughed heartily: "I made the Prince and Princess laugh; since that's the case, should I speak directly?"

Jin Zijin gestured for him to speak.

Zhu Haisheng said: "I came today mainly for the matter of my son and the Commandery Princess!"

Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin exchanged a glance, already understanding.

It seems Jin Luoyin really went to Tianhai Mountain Villa.

As for the Young Master from Jin Luoyin's lips, they were quite curious about what kind of person he was.

"Is my daughter currently at Owner Zhu's home?"

Zhu Haisheng said: "She's not here now, they left yesterday."

"Left?" Jin Zijin and Gu Youyou were both surprised. Was it them?

Zhu Haisheng said: "Yes, the Commandery Princess said she was going to find the Young Prince, Yiping has been timid since childhood, rarely going out, yet he still decided to accompany the Commandery Princess. Seeing him so intent, I agreed."

Gu Youyou was stunned for a while, not knowing what to say.

She was quite open-minded, didn't mind her daughter's free love, and thought it's a good thing for a boy to have such intentions, but this was ancient times after all, and Owner Zhu didn't have a problem with this?

"Then Owner Zhu thinks..."

Zhu Haisheng solemnly bowed again, saying: "In my life, I have never married a proper wife, only had a son arranged by the father at home to continue the family line, not understanding what happens with young men and women. But as I see it, the Commandery Princess is deeply affectionate towards my son, and my son is fond of the Commandery Princess as well. Their age has reached the age of marriage, and for the sake of the children, I boldly propose this marriage to the Prince and Princess!"

Marriage proposal?

Even though Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin had guessed, they still found it a bit incredible.

Especially Gu Youyou, in her view, it was absolutely impossible for her to marry her daughter off at fifteen or sixteen; she would rather wait until eighteen or nineteen, preferably after twenty, or even if she never marries, it would be fine.

But getting married at fifteen or sixteen, isn't that unthinkable?

In her view, fifteen or sixteen is still an immature age, physically and mentally, making a lifelong decision too early isn't beneficial.

So without waiting for Jin Zijin to say anything, she quickly said: "My Luoyin is still young; no plans to consider marriage for her so early."

Zhu Haisheng was taken aback; wasn’t the Commandery Princess already fifteen? How could she still be considered young?

Jin Zijin coughed and explained: "The child’s mother is reluctant, wanting to keep her a few more years, so for now, we are not considering her marriage."

This was a gentle refusal.

But how could Zhu Haisheng let this matter just end like this? Obviously, he couldn’t.

Chapter 1735: The Revenge Begins

He said urgently, "Prince, Princess, I know my son is aiming too high for the Commandery Princess. But their feelings for each other run deep, and I only hope Yiping can be happy and marry the woman he loves. I believe the Prince and Princess also wish for the Commandery Princess to be happy, and that focusing solely on status is not necessary. I plead with the Prince and Princess to consider giving them a chance! If possible, as parents, we can first set the matter, and they can marry upon their return."

Upon hearing about the marriage, Gu Youyou was taken aback, explaining awkwardly, "No, no, it’s not about status. We feel that marriage is a lifelong matter. Luoyin is still young and doesn’t know what she wants yet. In a few years, she’ll have a clearer understanding."

"In a few years?" Zhu Haisheng asked incredulously, "But the Commandery Princess is not that young."

Gu Youyou understood what he meant and hurriedly added, "It’s not about age either. Mainly, we haven’t consulted her on such matters; it’s not appropriate for us to make decisions. After all, the future is for Luoyin to live, whether it’s good or not, only she knows. We wish for her to grow up a bit, have accurate judgment, and be willing to marry without being forced, making her own decisions."

She thought she had made it clear enough, but unexpectedly, the opposite side seemed even more confused.

"Make her own decisions?" Zhu Haisheng managed to squeeze out these words after a long pause.

In his belief, a child's marriage is decided by the parents, and he knew the Princess was open-minded, but he didn't know it was to such an extent.

Gu Youyou smiled softly, nodded and said, "Marriage is like wearing shoes; only they know if it fits. My daughter chooses her own husband, and I hope Owner Zhu can understand."

Zhu Haisheng understood. He came with gifts to probe, and if it could be settled immediately, that would be even better.

The current result satisfied him greatly.

The Prince and Princess's intention is for the Commandery Princess to choose her own husband. Luckily, Zhu Yiping went along, which is wonderful.

He believes that their family bonds could lead them to have affection for each other.

In the hazy days of youth, they can't distinguish between kinship and love, but when they become essential to each other, inseparable, that's when the two families should join in marriage.

Haha...

Jin Zijin and Gu Youyou's daughter and son became husband and wife; this room of *** will surely become a unique legend in Zhuzhao Country's history.

He always believed that revenge isn't necessarily about killing the other person; making the enemy suffer a lifetime can achieve the true purpose of revenge.

Of course, to ensure this matter proceeds smoothly, he decided to add fuel to the fire.

...

Jin Luoyin and Zhu Yiping met Jian Shiqing the day after leaving the manor.

Jin Luoyin was about to sleep; even though the door was shut tightly, someone forcefully pushed it open, breaking the door bolt.

Jin Luoyin looked at Jian Shiqing, whose face was somewhat flushed, and at the arm-thick broken door bolt, rendered speechless.

"Why are you here?" Jin Luoyin asked with a sullen face, quite displeased.

"Did Zhu Yiping come too?"

Jin Luoyin let out a cold laugh, pointed to the next room and said, "Yes, staying next door? Do you want me to call him over loudly?"

"You..." Jian Shiqing's face turned all shades of blue and white, looking extremely colorful, and he exclaimed angrily, "Why did you bring him along? Did the owner agree?"

Chapter 1736: Tagging Along for Business

"Agreed?" Jin Luoyin chuckled lightly, the smile carrying a slightly teasing tone.

Jian Shiqing opened his mouth but didn't know how to respond, only saying, "The two of you cannot be together."

Jin Luoyin naturally didn't grasp what he meant by being together, only assuming subconsciously that Zhu Yiping shouldn't accompany her to the north. She replied calmly, "What does it have to do with you? The owner has already agreed."

Jin Luoyin brought Zhu Yiping along, partly for companionship on the journey, and also genuinely hoping that Zhu Yiping, who was confined like a bird in a cage, could have a chance to experience the world.

Even if he would return to Tianhai Mountain Villa and spend his life there, at least he would have had such experiences, differing from a frog at the bottom of a well.

Jian Shiqing sneered coldly, saying, "He’s naturally eager for it. Whether or not you believe me is up to you. I’ve said my piece; farewell!"

After saying that, he really did leave.

Did he chase after them just to say this inexplicable thing?

Jin Luoyin shrugged and closed the door, seeing the broken door bolt in two pieces, she picked it up and threw it out.

Then she called loudly downstairs, "Waiter, bring up a good door bolt."

Jin Luoyin watched as the waiter cast bizarre, even fearful glances at the strange broken door bolt, then at her.

She calmly sat on the chair, waiting for the waiter to replace the new door bolt.

"Sir, be careful when using this."

"Alright, off you go!" Jin Luoyin waved her hand.

For convenience during the trip, Jin Luoyin dressed in men’s clothes, though this time she didn’t wear a disguise, opting to travel with her real appearance.

Because Zhu Yiping, traveling with her, was easygoing in everything but insisted she must not wear a disguise.

He was very skilled at making disguises, yet for some reason strongly disliked those around him wearing them.

If it were someone else, Jin Luoyin might not comply, yet for reasons unknown, when Zhu Yiping mentioned he didn’t like it, she decided not to wear one.

Jin Luoyin’s appearance combined with men’s clothing exhibited a very effeminate look, in truth very feminine, attracting attention whenever they entered an inn.

In no time they had left Tianhai Mountain Villa for half a month and reached the north.

And that Jian Shiqing, who had said his piece, hadn’t returned but continued following them, now traveling along with them.

His reason was needing to conduct business in the north, conveniently having someone to accompany him.

Initially, Jin Luoyin disagreed, and Zhu Yiping also objected.

But since they were heading north, with only one official road, and being acquaintances, he repeatedly engaged them in conversation and couldn’t be driven away publicly in the inn, gradually they accepted his presence.

Seeing they had reached the north, Jin Luoyin couldn’t help but ask, "Master Jian, where do you plan to conduct business?"

Jian Shiqing gazed ahead and sighed, "Still a distance away, let’s keep going!"

Jin Luoyin: "..."

Zhu Yiping said curiously, "Why do I feel you’re doing this on purpose, just wanting to travel with us?"

Jian Shiqing’s skin grew thicker, patting a bag he carried, and lowered his voice with a laugh, "Young Master, there’s a bunch of silver notes here. I’m not afraid of anything on this trip, but traveling with you is much safer, isn’t it?"

Jin Luoyin snorted coldly, thinking this guy really is shameless.

Clearly, his skills are formidable, yet he acts like a timid bunny waiting for them to protect him.

Whenever encountering bandits on the road, he would clutch his bag and hide, or run faster than a rabbit.

Chapter 1737: Opportunity

Although Zhu Yiping's martial arts were quite good, he was miserably deceived by this two-faced and cunning person, failing to notice anything amiss.

Jin Luoyin and Zhu Yiping were heading north to Beiping, and since they had already left the territory of Zhuzhao Country, he followed along.

The local barbarians here were tall and robust, with even some differences in eye and hair color. Their features, tinged with a touch of Jiangnan's gentle charm, seemed very incongruous in comparison.

Suspecting that her brother might be in the barbarian kingdom to the north, Jin Luoyin had learned their language from a young age.

While Jin Luoyin was conversing with the barbarians, Jian Shiqing, standing nearby, seemed to understand as well, much to her surprise.

Jian Shiqing explained, "I learned their language naturally, to facilitate smooth business transactions with them."

As the Young Master of Tianhai Mountain Villa, Zhu Yiping was embarrassed that he did not know it.

"What are they saying?" he asked.

Jin Luoyin explained, "He said their king is marrying off his daughter. To make the country appear more favorable, they expelled those not native from the capital. We arrived just in time, as those who look

different, from foreign countries, have recently been driven to the border near Zhuzhao Country. Many were forcibly expelled and became vagabonds. We should not go further, or we will be driven out as well."

Zhu Yiping was startled and said, "Are there many people from Zhuzhao Country coming to Beiyi?"

Jian Shiqing took over the conversation and explained, "Being neighboring countries, there is frequent trade, so naturally, quite a few."

The weather here was cold, even when summer was approaching; it was still much colder than in Zhuzhao Country.

The three of them wore thick cloaks, covering their heads, leaving only their eyes exposed.

The three of them were not expelled. Actually, Beiyi Country's expulsion of foreigners did not mean expelling everyone; they mainly expelled itinerant merchants and those who were vagabonds or beggars.

People like Jin Luoyin and Jian Shiqing, who had extensive business in Beiyi Country, were only asked to temporarily close their shops and not go out during the king's daughter's wedding period.

Their first stop was a shop at Xiguang Residence, very famous in Beiyi Country.

After hearing Jin Luoyin's intentions, the shopkeeper told them, "Commandery Princess, the Prince has come many times. Among the shopkeepers we know, none resembles the Young Prince. However, you've come at a good time. With the Princess of Beiyi getting married, the vagabonds of Beiyi are all gathered together, you might as well check the vagabond camp in the south of the city; if the Young Prince is there, you might indeed find him."

The shopkeeper implied that this type of person usually moves around frequently, making it hard to find someone among them. It could be worth taking this chance to try!

Jin Luoyin's eyes showed some excitement as she looked at Zhu Yiping.

"Brother Zhu, I want to go right now!"

The thought that her brother, with such a noble status, might become a member of the vagabonds made Jin Luoyin appear somewhat impatient.

Zhu Yiping nodded firmly, saying, "Alright, let’s change into more ordinary clothes and go!"

The shopkeeper also said, "Indeed, to find someone among them, it’s best to go disguised as a vagabond. However, as a woman, Commandery Princess, you might endure hardships. Why don’t I accompany these two young gentlemen to take a look? You can wait here, and when night falls, send someone to pick us up at the southern city."

Chapter 1738: The Watchers

Jin Luoyin shook her head and said, "No, I’d better go myself. Shopkeeper, you’ve been here for many years and have a closer relationship with them. If we are mistaken for vagrants and expelled, you can help maneuver and get us out. If it were me, in a place so unfamiliar, that wouldn’t work."

The shopkeeper thought this made sense and didn’t insist further.

Only after the three of them arrived did they realize that these vagrants weren’t just people temporarily expelled from Zhuzhao Country; there were native beggars from Beiyi as well.

Even though all three of them had changed into ordinary clothes, they still stood out like cranes among chickens in this crowd.

Once the soldiers pushed them into this chaotic courtyard, the young and strong rushed at them.

"The newcomers must have food, quick, hand over the food."

"I want their clothes..."

Jin Luoyin turned pale with fright, facing these towering figures who were shouting to strip them as they came at them.

Jian Shiqing quickly grabbed Jin Luoyin and shielded her behind him, while Zhu Yiping started fighting with the vagrants.

These people didn’t know martial arts, but they relied on their much larger physiques than Zhuzhao Country people and charged at Zhu Yiping with reckless strength.

At first, Zhu Yiping wasn’t at a disadvantage.

But he couldn’t withstand their numbers, and as they were like hungry wolves, he gradually began losing strength.

Jin Luoyin pushed aside the useless Jian Shiqing, and ran to help Zhu Yiping, loudly explaining to the others, "We don’t have food, and we can’t possibly give you these clothes. This place lacks clothes and medicine. Without these clothes, we can’t survive.

So for these clothes, we will fight to the death, and if anyone gets hurt, without medicine to save lives, everyone will end up dead."

Having said that, she used a short knife she carried to stab one of them, targeting a fatal major artery, and that person immediately bled profusely.

Jin Luoyin intended to kill one as a warning to others, delivering a fatal strike.

Of course, this one was particularly stubborn and was the most aggressive one.

"Ah... ah, kill them..." He clutched his neck, blood gushing out, frightening everyone into silence.

Just three more new vagrants, they didn’t have any food worth risking their lives for, obviously not worth dying for.

Jin Luoyin’s tactic was very effective. Seeing the man bleed to death in front of everyone was far more terrifying than seeing someone die of illness or starvation, and no one dared to rush at the three newcomers anymore.

Jian Shiqing approached Jin Luoyin from behind and chuckled, "I didn’t expect you to actually do it, so ruthless, killing with one strike!"

Jin Luoyin coldly replied, "I don’t know why you came along with us, but if I find out you’re up to no good, you’ll end up the same way!"

Nobody would doubt that if Jin Luoyin wanted someone dead, that person would live.

Even if Jin Luoyin couldn’t kill, would Ning Wang fail to?

It’s rumored that Yu Jizi, the once all-powerful State Preceptor, died at the hands of a person like Ning Wang.

Jian Shiqing’s pupils contracted, but he smiled and said, "Didn’t we already say clearly, with you traveling alone with a man, the owner is worried something might happen, so he sent me to watch over you."

What he said made it sound as if he were there to catch someone cheating, making Jin Luoyin furious.

"Who asked you to watch? The road is wide enough for everyone to go their own way. After today, you can leave. You’re of no help anyway."

Chapter 1739: Looking for Someone

Zhu Yiping rubbed his forehead and said, “Stop with the nonsense, hurry up and search, start by age.”

Seeing Jin Luoyin’s face flush, Jian Shiqing quickly raised his hand and said, “I’ll go look for people, I came here to help find someone.”

There are significant physical differences between Zhuzhao Country people and Beiyi people. Even among the homeless, they prefer to separate by race, squatting in different areas.

The three of them, being homeless from Zhuzhao Country, naturally stayed in the Zhuzhao Country area.

In fact, the number isn't too large compared to native homeless people, since most Zhuzhao Country people come here for business.

Most of the people here become homeless because their businesses fail and they lack the means to return to Zhuzhao Country.

Seeing a young man who didn't look too bad, but whose face was covered with dirt hiding his true appearance, Jin Luoyin approached him with a hopeful attitude to ask.

"Hey, young man, you look like you're from Zhuzhao Country?"

The man had no reaction and did not look at Jin Luoyin.

Jin Luoyin's expression darkened, and she looked at Zhu Yiping.

Zhu Yiping squatted down and closely stared at the homeless man, saying, "Hey, young man, are you from Zhuzhao Country?"

The man started using his hands to gesture towards their opening and closing mouths, Jian Shiqing sighed and said, "He's deaf, also mute."

This means he can't hear them speak and won't converse with them.

Jin Luoyin examined the man closely, confirmed his congenital deafness led to not speaking, and felt relieved.

She feared the psychopath Fu Jian, who took away Jin Xuyao, had done something extremely cruel to him.

“It’s not him, let’s keep looking!”

She knew very well that her brother was not congenitally deaf.

There aren’t many young men around the age of twenty with a decent appearance. They finished searching in one day, but regrettably did not find Jin Xuyao.

They all understandably knew their origins, perhaps being together with parents or siblings, but Jin Xuyao would be alone or still with Fu Jian.

Jin Luoyin was very disappointed, waiting for the shopkeeper of Xiguang Residence to send someone to fetch them.

Zhu Yiping said softly, “This is only the first day; we’ll continue searching tomorrow. I heard not only here but several other places have homeless people imprisoned.”

Jin Luoyin gently nodded, saying, “But tomorrow it’ll be difficult to use this identity to get in.”

Zhu Yiping said, “This place lacks clothing and food. Actually, we can set up a charity hall to distribute porridge. At that time, have a smart worker watch, and single out those whose ages match.”

Jian Shiqing chuckled and said, “Zhuzhao Country people are restricted in freedom; even people from Xiguang Residence can’t openly set up a charity hall.”

Zhu Yiping gave him a cold glance and said, “Who said we have to go? With money, anyone can be hired to manage this!”

Jin Luoyin found it reasonable and joined with a cold stare at Jian Shiqing.

The shopkeeper of Xiguang Residence quickly sent people to fetch them. Back at Xiguang Residence, Zhu Yiping shared the idea with the shopkeeper, who found it feasible.

The next day, the shopkeeper made arrangements with local friends to carry out the plan, while Xiguang Residence provided Silver.

They made food and distributed it to the homeless, who were expelled to the border towns.

Jin Luoyin wanted to follow along to observe, but feared accidents. The shopkeeper did not approve of the three Zhuzhao Country people going out again.

Because getting them out once wasn't difficult, but if they repeatedly go to campgrounds to fetch people, there could be trouble.

Chapter 1740: Inquiries

"Commandery Princess, please rest assured and wait here. We've already arranged everything. All young people of similar age, whether they are the Young Prince or not, will be detained separately. When it gets dark, I will take you to identify them."

Anxiously waiting a whole day, the charity event for the homeless concluded, and those of similar age to Jin Xuyao were gathered in one place.

Jin Luoyin and Zhu Yiping quickly changed their clothes, wrapping themselves tightly, and followed the shopkeeper along with a few local business friends to a residence where those people were held, awaiting Jin Luoyin's inspection.

They still employed the initial questioning method; those whose backgrounds were clear could be excluded first.

The shopkeeper began with a lecture: "All of you are citizens of Zhuzhao Country. Whether your small businesses failed, or for other reasons became homeless, you all remain here because you lack enough Silver to return home.

In a moment, we will question you, and you must answer truthfully. If you respond well and do not lie, you will receive gifts from the Dexiguang Restaurant.

Sufficient Silver Tael and food for your return to Zhuzhao Country, along with a letter of introduction from Dexiguang Restaurant. Not only can you return home, but you can also secure work for your future livelihood."

The crowd stirred with excitement, eagerly agreeing, vying to answer their questions.

"Boss, ask me, I will answer everything I know without reservation!"

"Boss, ask me, I will definitely tell the truth!"

These homeless, starving for days, with such a tempting offer, even if they only received enough food to fill their bellies, they would be extremely cooperative.

It was apparent that most people here were not originally homeless.

The shopkeeper nodded at Jin Luoyin, indicating she could begin.

Jin Luoyin stepped forward and started asking them one by one.

"Young man, where are you from?"

The person hesitated for a moment as a woman's voice unexpectedly emerged from the thick robe, then said, "I am from the Jiangnan region of Zhuzhao Country. In my early years, I followed my parents to Beiyi to do silk business, but my parents couldn't adapt to the environment here. Shortly after coming, they fell ill one after another. We spent all the Silver from selling our silk, and they still passed away, leaving only me."

Jin Luoyin felt somewhat disappointed but still inquired, "Do you have any other family members?"

The young man replied, “There’s no one else, but there was a marriage arranged early on, which used to match our family status. But now… I’ve become like this, and after so many years, I’m sure she has already married someone else.”

Jin Luoyin paused in silence, shaking her head at the shopkeeper.

The young man nervously watched Jin Luoyin, seeing her shake her head, thinking his answer displeased her, hurriedly said, “Miss, this young Miss, every word I’ve said is true, not a single lie…”

Jin Luoyin said, “You’ll receive Silver and food later. They will give you an introduction letter from Jiangnan Dexiguang Restaurant, and you can get a well-paying job.”

Hearing Jin Luoyin’s words, he finally felt at ease.

After profusely thanking her, he followed the servant away.

With the first person gone, the others relaxed significantly.

The questions Jin Luoyin asked were mostly the same: where are you from, and why did you end up like this?

They answered honestly, and all received food, Silver, and introduction letters from various locations.