Farmhouse 1741

Chapter 1741: He Called Me Little Beast!

In the blink of an eye, it was afternoon. Besides Jian Shiqing who was watching coldly, everyone else was eagerly engaging in conversation with the homeless people.

No one had eaten lunch yet, but they still hadn't found the person they were looking for.

Jian Shiqing stood in the corner, his eyes growing increasingly deep.

"Little brother, where are you from?" A ragged man sat across from Zhu Yiping, his gaze somewhat dazed.

He did not share the same eager hope of returning home like the others, waiting for someone to ask him, but instead sat there indifferently, with a hint of fear.

Upon seeing the young man in front of him questioning him, he slowly lifted his head and said, "I'm from Zhuzhao Country!"

After answering, he immediately lowered his head again, not daring to meet his eyes.

Because everyone here could account for their place of origin clearly, which was how they got food and Silver Taels. He didn't know if someone unclear like him could receive any.

Zhu Yiping was stunned for a moment, then asked, "Where in Zhuzhao Country are you from?"

"I..." Following his memory, he softly said, "The Jiangnan area!"

Zhu Yiping furrowed his brows and said, "Lying will get you no food or Silver Taels. Just tell the truth, and you will have what others have!"

The young man lifted his head to look at Zhu Yiping, with some trepidation, and asked again, "Can I really get it?"

"Of course, as long as you tell the truth!" Zhu Yiping replied.

He parted his lips and said, "I, I don’t know where I’m from."

Zhu Yiping was slightly startled, and became serious.

After all the questions asked, everyone could name their origin. It really was rare to find someone who didn’t know where they were from.

Even Jin Luoyin, who was asking someone else nearby, stopped and looked at this homeless young man.

Jian Shiqing, standing coldly watching from a corner not far away, also lowered the arms he was holding and looked at the homeless man.

"When did you come to Beiyi?" Zhu Yiping asked with some excitement.

"I..." He shook his head and said, "I don’t know, maybe when I was very young!"

"Who brought you here?" Jin Luoyin suddenly asked excitedly from the side.

The homeless man looked at them in surprise, his face dirty and obscuring his features, but his eyes shone bright like stars.

Yet his gaze was timorous and fearful, evasive, showing that Jin Luoyin’s urgent question scared him.

Zhu Yiping said to Jin Luoyin, "Calm down for now, it’s not certain yet, let me ask!"

Jin Luoyin took a breath, suppressing the wild beating of his heart, and sat aside.

"Who brought you here?" Zhu Yiping repeated the question.

The homeless man looked at them timidly, and in a low voice said, "I don’t know, he died many years ago. After his death, I’ve been begging for a livelihood ever since!"

"Died?" Zhu Yiping was momentarily stunned, glanced at Jin Luoyin, and continued to ask, "Was he a middle-aged man?"

"Yes!" the homeless man said.

"Do you know what your name is?" Zhu Yiping asked again.

Upon hearing this question, the homeless man lowered his head even further, not daring to meet their eyes again. After a long while, they finally heard his low voice.

"He called me Little Beast!"

The words "Little Beast" echoed explosively in everyone’s ears.

What kind of person would call a child that? Unless the child had a grudge with him.

Everyone knew that Jin Xuyao was taken away at the age of four, very likely brought to the northernmost country, but nobody knew exactly where.

Upon hearing this man’s answer, although it couldn’t be confirmed that he was Jin Xuyao, the possibility was greater compared to others they had found before.

Chapter 1742: Is It Him?

Jin Luoyin instantly burst into tears. If this person is truly her brother, yet he has suffered so much...

Zhu Yiping hurriedly said, "Commandery Princess, don’t be anxious yet. Let’s take him back and question him slowly; we haven’t confirmed it yet."

She was no longer in the mood to question others, only instructed the shopkeeper to take this person away, leaving the rest to the other clerks in the shop to inquire.

Jian Shiqing widened his eyes, watching the excited Jin Luoyin. After a moment, he returned to calm and could only shake his head with a helpless smile.

At night, the vagrant, now cleaned and wearing decent clothes, was brought out. Jin Luoyin stood up excitedly, scrutinizing him.

The vagrant, after being cleaned up, had fair skin and a delicate appearance.

On closer inspection, there was indeed a bit of resemblance in those avoiding, fearful eyes to her father’s.

Upon careful observation, even the features had some similarity, except that prolonged vagrancy and hunger made him look extremely thin.

Jin Luoyin remembered her mother once said that the Jin Imperial Clan’s men had particularly unique eyes, typically starry eyes.

Actually, not only the Jin Imperial Clan’s men had starry eyes, for instance, Zhu Yiping also seemed to have such starry eyes.

But this vagrant, his experiences, his eyes, his appearance, all so coincidentally made her suspect this person might really be her brother.

"Do you have any other names?" Jin Luoyin, not knowing what else to say, cautiously tried several times before asking this question.

The vagrant glanced at Jin Luoyin, lowered his head, and softly said, "Little Beggar!"

Since childhood, he had been called Little Beggar; the vagrants in Zhuzhao Country all called him that.

Jin Luoyin covered her mouth, unable to utter another word.

Such a person, one wonders how he survived.

At this moment, the shopkeeper brought over a half piece of dirty jade and whispered to Jin Luoyin, "Commandery Princess, this was found in his clothes. Although the jade is only half, its quality is excellent, take a look..."

Jin Luoyin, looking at that half piece of jade pendant, widened her eyes in excitement and grabbed it at once.

She remembered her mother said that her imperial grandfather, back then, was very fond of her brother and named him Xuyao, intending for him to inherit the throne in the future, but her father always disagreed.

And this dragon-engraved jade pendant was personally given by her imperial grandfather.

If there was any slight doubt about the person, then the dragon-engraved jade pendant could not be a fake.

In this world, who, except for the Emperor, would dare to give such an item to someone?

This person is very likely the brother she has been searching for!

"Is this yours?" She asked the vagrant excitedly.

The vagrant looked up at the jade pendant, wanting to take it back, but, seeing the room full of people, he dared not.

He timidly shrank his neck, saying, "It’s just a broken piece of jade, don’t take it away."

Jin Luoyin was overwhelmed with sorrow and asked, "How did it get broken?"

The vagrant said, "It was very beautiful before. People would try to snatch it, so to keep it safe, I could only break it, make it dirty!"

His voice was as thin as a mosquito’s buzz, wanting to take the jade pendant back but fearing all the people present.

Jin Luoyin, holding the jade pendant, pulled out a priceless handkerchief to clean it and handed it back to him.

She parted her lips, afraid of scaring him, and softly said, "Perhaps we can help you find your parents, your family. Will you come with me, are you willing to believe me?"

"Family?" The vagrant widened his eyes, looking at Jin Luoyin.

Chapter 1743: Have You Found Him?

Jin Luoyin nodded heavily and said, "Yes, family. Everyone has parents and relatives, you do too."

She couldn’t directly tell him that he might be the brother she had struggled so hard to find. Jin Luoyin planned to bring him back first and let their parents decide whether he was or not.

"Do I also have parents and relatives?" The vagabond murmured softly to himself, his voice very low, as if he were whispering to himself.

Jin Luoyin nodded and said, "Yes, you have relatives too. No one wants to end up like this, but fate played a cruel joke. They had no choice, don’t blame them, they’ve been looking for you all along!"

The vagabond couldn’t accept it for the moment, not knowing how to accept it.

He wanted to say something but didn’t know where to start.

Jin Luoyin chuckled bitterly and said, "It’s already very late, you should go back with them to rest first, rest for a couple of days, we’re not in a hurry. In a few days, we’ll return to Zhuzhao Country together; I’ll take you to meet our parents!"

Jin Luoyin was already convinced that this person was indeed her brother, not knowing whether it was because they hadn’t met for so long or for some other reason.

Though she felt distressed and heartbroken inside, wanting to draw closer to her brother, she still felt there was something between them that kept them from getting close.

She told herself, maybe it’s because this was their first meeting, they were still strangers to each other.

When she brought her brother back, when their parents told her in person that this was indeed her brother, only then would she truly accept him.

The vagabond was taken back to rest by people from Xiguang Residence, leaving the three others in the room. Zhu Yiping had a smile on his face, offering congratulations, "Commandery Princess, congratulations on finding the Young Prince."

Jin Luoyin, amidst her sadness, felt a bit flustered. Hearing Zhu Yiping’s words, she raised her head in confusion and asked, "Do you really think he is my brother?"

Zhu Yiping said, "Judging from his experiences, and from what the shopkeeper and other vagabonds said, he is very likely the Young Prince. And as for his Jade Pendant, Commandery Princess, you should know only males from the Jin Royal Family can possess a Dragon-patterned Jade Pendant."

Jin Luoyin nodded gently. Even though she was an esteemed Commandery Princess, she was not eligible to have a pendant engraved with a dragon pattern.

Still feeling uneasy, Jin Luoyin asked, "Isn’t it a bit too easy how we found him, when our father hadn’t found him after searching for so many years? Yet we’ve been here only a few days?"

Although Jin Zijin primarily searched within Zhuzhao Country, he also came to Beiyi Country many times under the guise of business, but never found him.

Zhu Yiping explained, "The territory of Beiyi Country is even larger than Zhuzhao Country. The Prince did come to search, but as someone from Zhuzhao Country in Beiyi Country, his abilities were limited, and the areas he could search were very restricted. Moreover, the Young Prince had become a vagabond, drifting from place to place, making such a person very difficult to find."

We were lucky too. The Princess of Beiyi Country got married, and the King gathered everyone into this border city, giving us the opportunity. Commandery Princess, it seems the Young Prince was destined to be found by the Commandery Princess!"

Jin Luoyin found some reason in it, nodded slightly, and felt much more at ease.

Yet Jian Shiqing untimely sneered, saying, "Just a vagabond, how could he be the Young Prince? Commandery Princess, I think you’d better not take it too seriously!"

He glanced playfully at Zhu Yiping but quickly shifted his gaze away.

The good atmosphere was ruined by him. This Jian Shiqing had followed them all along, seemingly with nothing good in mind.

Chapter 1744: Take Him Back

Jin Luoyin’s face darkened, and Zhu Yiping’s face also darkened as he sneered, "You say you’re here to help, but throughout the journey, other than not holding us back, what help have you provided? Hmph, I think you’re just here to stir up trouble. Is it because your last wound healed too quickly, and you think I won’t dare to hit you again?"

Jian Shiqing hurriedly smiled and said, "No, no, Young Master, you naturally dare to hit me. My abilities are limited, but what I said just now was heartfelt. Think about it, with the capabilities of the Prince and Princess, over so many years, countless businesses have penetrated Beiyi Country, yet they still haven’t found the Young Prince. We’ve only been here for a few days and found him. Isn’t that too easy?"

"That’s because the Princess of Beiyi Country got married!" Zhu Yiping gritted his teeth and said.

"Okay then, let’s say it was indeed good luck, but..."

"You don’t need to say anymore."

Before Jian Shiqing could finish speaking, Jin Luoyin interrupted him and said, "Better mistaken than missed. We’ve been searching for so many years, and he’s the most similar. Whether or not he is, I must take him back for Father and Mother to confirm."

Zhu Yiping suppressed his anger and said, "The Commandery Princess is right. Even if there’s only a slight chance this person is the Young Prince, he should be taken back for the Prince and Princess to identify."

Jian Shiqing raised his hand, nodded helplessly, and said, "Yes, yes, you’re both correct! Alright, take him back!"

But at the moment he turned away, the mocking smile at the corner of his lips was so glaring!

...

In early summer, Jin Luoyin brought the vagabond back.

The carriage passed by the lotus pond in Lotus Village, where the sunlit lotus flowers were exceptionally red.

As the familiar home deep in the valley drew nearer, for some reason, Jin Luoyin felt increasingly uneasy.

"Whoa..." The carriage driver stopped the carriage and said, "Commandery Princess, we’ve arrived!"

Jin Luoyin was momentarily dazed, took a deep breath, and got off the carriage.

She sat in a separate carriage and walked ahead of the group.

The vagabond, along with Zhu Yiping and Jian Shiqing, sat at the back.

Throughout the journey, Jian Shiqing mocked the brother they found, yet shamelessly tagged along.

Jin Luoyin got off the carriage, finding her parents already waiting outside the valley.

Having sent a secret message earlier, they already knew she had found someone who might be her brother.

"Father, Mother!"

"Luoyin!" Today’s rain had just stopped, and the weather was a bit chilly. Gu Youyou came out wearing a light scarf, her eyes constantly scanning around.

"Where is he?" she asked eagerly.

Jin Luoyin took a breath, smiled, and said, "He’s at the back. Brother Zhu, bring him out!"

Jian Shiqing jumped off the carriage first, respectfully saluting King Jin and the Princess.

However, King Jin and the Princess were focused on seeing their son, naturally ignoring him.

He could only stand awkwardly to the side.

The first to come down was Zhu Yiping.

Gu Youyou's first glance at him, his pair of unique Jin Imperial Family eyes, instantly captivated her.

It's him; such eyes couldn't be mistaken.

No one could understand those starry eyes better than her; Jin Zijin, the late Emperor, the Emperor, King Jin, and even Jin Ziyuan all had them.

But then, he saluted respectfully, just like Jian Shiqing.

"Commoner Zhu Yiping from Tianhai Mountain Villa greets King Jin and the Princess!"

Gu Youyou was hit with a cold realization, only then noticing his face.

A face closely resembling the owner of Tianhai Mountain Villa, Zhu Haisheng, by seven or eight parts.

So he was Zhu Yiping, not the son she had yearned for.

Chapter 1745: No

Zhu Yiping is the kind of person whose identity wouldn't be doubted once you see his face, and you wouldn't pay any more attention to his eyes.

This face is about seventy to eighty percent similar to Zhu Haisheng's. When people see him, they think of Zhu Haisheng, how could they notice the difference in his eyes.

Jin Zijin's pupils shrank, inexplicably stunned in heart.

He didn't immediately notice his eyes like Gu Youyou did at first glance, only felt that this young man had some connection to his daughter, and he didn't seem unpleasant at all.

He nodded gently, which could be considered as an acknowledgment.

The last to get off the carriage was the vagabond.

He had already changed into clean clothes, his hair meticulously combed, his complexion fair.

Yet the expression on his face remained that of fear and timidity, his gaze avoiding theirs, not daring to look at them.

After he got off, he stood awkwardly in front of Gu Youyou and Jin Zijin, briefly glancing before bowing his head low.

His appearance bore some resemblance to Jin Zijin, his eyes also had the starry gaze typical of men from the Jin Imperial Family.

Only Gu Youyou wasn't as shocked by him as she was just now by Zhu Yiping.

Could this timid and hesitant person really be her son?

Strangely enough, Gu Youyou shook her head and said to Jin Zijin, "No, it's not!"

Her son wouldn't be like this.

Zhu Yiping was stunned, and Jian Shiqing was taken aback too, suddenly feeling at a loss.

The vagabond was also stunned, the timid look in his eyes suddenly vanished, replaced by surprise.

Jin Zijin looked at him, his eyes gradually darkening.

For some reason, when Jin Luoyin heard Gu Youyou's words, she suddenly felt relieved, though she didn't think much of it, instead handed the half piece of Jade Pendant to Gu Youyou, saying, "Mother, he's carrying this!"

The half Dragon-patterned Jade Pendant made Gu Youyou widen her eyes.

Beside her, Jin Zijin snatched the Jade Pendant, his gaze intense.

He said excitedly, "This is my father's Jade Pendant!"

He looked incredulously at the vagabond in front of him, his voice tinged with sharpness, asking, "Where did you get this Jade Pendant?"

The vagabond's face turned pale, he lowered his head again, and said, "It's mine!"

"Where did you get it?" Gu Youyou asked even more urgently than Jin Zijin.

The vagabond shook his head, saying, "I don't know, it seemed to have always been with me since I can remember."

"Why is it broken? Where's the other half?"

Faced with Gu Youyou's pressing questions, the vagabond shook his head in haste, growing more and more afraid.

"I don't know, it's gone, broken!" He said as he stepped back.

Seeing Gu Youyou scare him, Jin Luoyin quickly came up to hold her mother's arm, saying, "Mother, he has lived in inhumane conditions for years, you would frighten him like this. Just see if it's really him!"

In the letters Jin Luoyin sent back, she had already explained the vagabond's situation clearly.

A person, likely Fu Jian, took him north all the way to Beiyi. He had no name; the one who took him called him Little Beast. After that person died, he started wandering on his own.

As for the things that happened before following that person, he can't remember, only vaguely recalls his family was wealthy, having no need to go hungry.

From his few words and this half piece of Jade Pendant, it's clear he is undoubtedly the long-lost Jin Xuyao.

Only Gu Youyou feels like something's missing.

The same starry gaze, similar features, such experiences, and an undeniably real Dragon-patterned Jade Pendant.

Chapter 1746: He Wasn't Lying

All the evidence indicates that this person is Jin Xuyao, their long-lost son they've been searching for years, but why does she always feel like something is missing?

Could it be because she hasn't seen him for so long, or perhaps her excellent son has grown into a beggar, leaving her so disappointed?

Gu Youyou's eyebrow twitched; she couldn't tell whether she was upset or delighted, only that there was a heavy stone in her heart, blocking her badly.

She is a doctor, aware that such emotions are very unhealthy for her and could easily lead to a myocardial infarction.

She is no longer young, and has been anxious for many years, truly fearing that before finding her son, she might collapse first.

"Let's go inside and talk!" Jin Zijin pursed his lips, concealing himself.

He supported Gu Youyou as they entered the valley.

Faced with the person very likely to be their son, they both found themselves at a loss.

This left Jian Shiqing and Zhu Yiping, who had followed them, feeling extremely awkward.

Jian Shiqing maintained the attitude of enjoying a show, while Zhu Yiping pulled Jin Luoyin aside and softly asked, "Could it be a mistake?"

Jin Luoyin shook her head and said, "I don't know either. It does look like brother, but..." She couldn't articulate that feeling in her heart. After a moment, she said, "Honestly, upon seeing him, I'm not as happy as I thought I'd be. I'm somewhat... somewhat disappointed, perhaps the parents feel the same way."

Zhu Yiping understood and nodded gently, saying, "That's understandable. When the Young Prince went missing, the Prince and Princess had very deep feelings for him, which remained since he was little. There's an old saying about hoping your son becomes a dragon — the Young Prince's situation made him grow in a way that could not satisfy the Prince and Princess, and after years apart, naturally, something feels lacking, making it hard to accept!"

Jin Luoyin felt this made some sense and sighed, "Hopefully, with more time spent together, those lost familial bonds will return. Regardless, the person has been found."

Jin Zijin had them all escorted down to rest; inside the room, looking at the distraught Gu Youyou, he sighed helplessly, "I know you think he might not be Xuyao, and I also feel the same way."

Gu Youyou's inexplicable emotions found no outlet, but hearing Jin Zijin speak like that, she abruptly lifted her head and said, "You also feel something's off?"

Jin Zijin nodded gently.

Gu Youyou exclaimed excitedly, "But his experiences, and the Jade Pendant..." She suddenly recalled the story of the Plum Blossom Brand and smiled bitterly, "I should have left a mark on him to facilitate future recognition."

"Who would have known the child would go missing then?"

Both sighed helplessly.

Clearly, they had found someone highly likely to be their son, yet both felt it wasn't him.

"Why do you think he's not?" Gu Youyou asked.

"What about you?" Jin Zijin asked her.

Gu Youyou thought for a moment and said, "I don't know either, perhaps intuition. That year, I was taken by Yu Jizi, and when I returned, Xuyao was already that old. He looked different from his infant times, but upon seeing Xuyao, it was like seeing a strange little child, completely different from my impression. Yet, I instantly recognized him and couldn't help but want to get closer, but this person... I don't have that feeling inside, just intuition, intuition tells me it might be wrong."

Jin Zijin lowered his head and said, "But Luoyin has already investigated. This person truly has wandered Beiyi for years, without a name, and a middle-aged man used to call him Little Beast early on. He wasn't lying."

Chapter 1747: Declaring to the World

Gu Youyou said, "Just because he didn't lie doesn't mean he's Xuyao."

Jin Zijin was silent for a moment, then nodded gently and said, "That's right. Since he wanted to take revenge on us long ago, it's very likely that he had already arranged the pieces of this game!"

Gu Youyou was suddenly shocked and said, "You mean...this person was possibly arranged by Fu Jian on purpose?"

Jin Zijin pressed his lips together, nodding gently.

He said, "All these years, he disappeared after taking Xuyao away. But this time... no matter what, he acted, and as long as he acted, there's a possibility he will reveal his flaw. I'm not afraid of him moving, I'm afraid of him not moving." Jin Zijin's eyes gradually darkened, with a rare fierceness in them.

He only shows this expression when he's very angry.

Jin Zijin's voice remained low and soft, "He acted. This time, I will definitely catch him!"

Gu Youyou was silent for a moment and also said in a low voice, "You mean we can first acknowledge this fake person and play along!"

Jin Zijin nodded and said, "That's right. The fact that he painstakingly arranged this person shows he's been paying attention to our search for the child. We shouldn't just acknowledge this person; we should announce it to the world and do so with great fanfare. We have to make him think we've been fooled, and when he lets his guard down, we can follow the clues to find him."

Jin Zijin felt that the person might be nearby all along, or else they wouldn't have arranged for this person to be found by Jin Luoyin so readily.

Such a person is indeed frightening and remarkably patient.

For fifteen years, he made no move.

Without any action, there are no flaws, and naturally, they couldn't find him.

...

The news that Ningwang Residence found the Young Prince quickly spread throughout Zhuzhao Country.

They decided to hold a grand recognition ceremony, during which they would tell everyone that this person is the Young Master of Ningwang Residence, the future master of Ningwang Residence.

The sudden fortune and the complete turnaround in the attitudes of the Prince Ning and Princess Ning the day after they met him were all unbelievable events for him.

For a homeless person, his greatest wish was to fill his stomach. Before coming to Ningwang Residence, he vaguely guessed that he was an important person, someone the people of Ningwang Residence had been searching for.

Until this day, he only then knew that the person they were looking for was Ningwang Residence's Young Prince, their son.

"Xuyao, everything is in the past. From now on, life will be better. Don't be afraid. You're the Young Prince of Ningwang Residence, hold your head up high, understand?" Gu Youyou rambled on with a smile, though the smile didn't quite reach her eyes.

Life is like a play, relying on acting skills!

She did want to see who would reveal themselves at this family recognition banquet.

"Mother?" Even until the day of the recognition banquet, the homeless man was dazed, filled with disbelief.

The gap between a homeless man and the esteemed Young Prince of Ningwang Residence was just one night.

The gap between starving and being in luxury was just one identity.

They told him that this beautiful woman was his mother, a remarkable woman known across the world for searching for her son, and many wanted to be her son, but unexpectedly, it turned out to be him?

Such a feeling, even more unbelievable than the heavens dropping a pie on him.

"Mother, am I really the person you said I am?"

Maybe everything came too shockingly, as he was about to walk out of this door, he still couldn't believe it.

Chapter 1748: A Scheme Within a Scheme

Gu Youyou looked at him, nervous and helpless, yet a feeling of compassion stirred within her.

This young man, although not the son she was looking for, seemed to be kept in the dark during this period of day and night surveillance. It wasn't intentional deceit on his part.

In his memories, he had a pretty good upbringing as a child. Perhaps he was arranged by Fu Jian, stolen from some affluent family.

But in this era, child theft was rampant, there was illegal underground human trafficking everywhere, and because technology wasn't developed, the chances of lost children being found were nearly zero.

With a gentle look in her eyes, Gu Youyou said, "Think carefully, can you remember how you were taken away?"

Since Fu Jian had planned this long ago, this child might have been younger than Xuyao when taken from his family.

The young man bowed his head, and after a while, he said, "I remember when I was taken away, a woman was chasing us, and later that woman was killed by them."

A living person's grotesque death before his eyes was an image he could never forget for the rest of his life.

Gu Youyou was shocked, excitedly saying, "You were snatched away?"

The young man shook his head, then nodded, saying, “I guess so!”

Jin Xuyao was taken away on Jin Luoyin’s full moon day. The servant said that he went to the mountain to pick plum blossoms for his mother and sister, but was silently taken away.

When he was taken, there was no bloody violent scene unforgettable for a lifetime.

So he really isn’t Xuyao.

When it was confirmed he really wasn’t, Gu Youyou was still very disappointed.

This feeling was different from her suspicion that this wasn’t the real Jin Xuyao.

She looked a bit saddened at the young man, sighed softly, “Forget about the past; stay here well, you are Jin Xuyao.”

This child was also pitiful; if they really couldn’t find her son, treating him as an adoptive son seemed acceptable.

“Okay!” The young man responded softly, his face reddened, awkwardly standing by the wall, not knowing what to do.

Living in a world without a sense of security for so long made him cautious in everything he did.

Gu Youyou sighed and said softly, “The name Xuyao is not auspicious. How about I give you a new one?”

Xuyao was an imperial title, intended by the late emperor for Jin Zijin to inherit the great enterprise. His legitimate eldest son, of course, would be of royal blood, hence the name Xuyao.

Now that Jin Zijin no longer had any connection to the throne, they also did not want their son to be an emperor, so there was no need for this name.

On the other hand, he really couldn't use this name, because he wasn't the real Jin Xuyao.

The young man turned pale and said, "It's all up to Mother."

Gu Youyou gently patted his shoulder, "Then rest a little longer, be brave, don't be afraid. I'll discuss it with your father."

Gu Youyou shared her suspicions with Jin Zijin, and Jin Zijin said, "A few days ago, I sent someone to investigate the origins of this child. I believe there will be results soon."

This was the first breakthrough he found, the origins of this child, to follow the clues!

"He said someone carried him away, a woman chased after them, and that woman was killed by them."

"Yes, check back a dozen years ago, see whose family lost a child and had a woman who died. That woman might be his mother. If their family was well-off, she might have been his nanny!"

Chapter 1749: Changing Name, Changing Fate

Gu Youyou was silent for a moment and sighed, "In that case, Fu Jian is really scheming!"

"Oh right, he is not Xuyao, so he can't use Xuyao's name. I plan to give him another name and declare to the public that the name Xuyao is not suitable for him."

Back then, the late emperor named him Xuyao with great expectations, but looking at the current situation, it indeed doesn't suit him, and no one will say much about it.

Jin Zijin nodded and said, "Alright, it's all up to you. I'll go change my clothes, as the guests have all arrived."

"Then let’s call him Jin Xiang, hoping it brings him peace and a good omen!"

Jin Zijin pressed his lips together and said softly, "Alright, you always have good ideas!"

The Prince, with the newly dressed young man, holding a wine cup, walked towards the seating area. Jin Zijin announced to everyone, "This is the son we’ve been searching for many years, Jin Xuyao. The last time we were all gathered here was fifteen years ago, at my daughter’s full moon feast. Since Xuyao was lost, the Ningwang Residence hasn’t held any large banquets. After many years, today we’ve invited everyone again because Jin Xuyao has returned, and the Ningwang Residence has an heir now!"

The audience burst into applause, and someone raised a wine cup and said, "Congratulations to the Prince and Princess on finding the Young Prince, and congratulations on his return home!"

Jin Zijin raised his hand to signal for silence and said, "Besides announcing that the Ningwang Residence has found Jin Xuyao, I also have to tell everyone something. Everyone knows the name Xuyao was given by my late father, and generally, his bestowed names cannot be easily changed. However, a few days ago, I personally divined for Xuyao, and the oracle showed that he lacks the aura of an emperor. The name Xuyao is too much for him to bear and would diminish his fortune, which is why there has been a fifteen-year calamity.

Now that he’s back, I am going to give him a new name. I don’t seek greatness for him in the future; I only wish for his peace and auspiciousness, so we’ve renamed him Xiang, Jin Xiang!"

Choosing a name is one’s own business, and moreover, Jin Zijin has a special status. Since he re-named Jin Xuyao as Jin Xiang, they naturally had no objections, one by one showering with grandiose words and eagerly congratulating the Prince, the Princess, and the recently returned Young Prince.

However, after the round of drinking and compliments ended, a person, with his son carrying a wine cup, walked up to the stage.

Zhu Haisheng had a smile on his face, and beside him was Zhu Yiping, who bore a seven or eight point resemblance to him, clearly his son.

He said, "Prince and Princess, congratulations, you finally found the Young Prince. On this joyous occasion, I dare to ask about the matter previously mentioned, what do you think..."

Zhu Yiping didn't know what he was referring to; he was simply happy for Jin Luoyin and for the Prince and Princess who had been searching for their son for years, still standing there smiling.

As for Zhu Yiping? How to put it, whether it was Gu Youyou or Jin Zijin, they both were very fond of this young man.

His innocence evoked sympathy, and it was quite surprising that Zhu Haisheng managed to raise his son to be so pure.

They also secretly observed that Zhu Yiping's relationship with Jin Luoyin was indeed good, at least better than with Jian Shiqing.

However, in their view, the feelings between the two might not be love, which might disappoint Zhu Haisheng.

Jin Zijin pressed his lips, and slowly said, "Whether the shoes fit can only be known by the wearer. As always, we respect the children's opinions, don't we, owner Zhu?"

Chapter 1750: Forcing a Marriage?

Zhu Haisheng was momentarily stunned, then laughed heartily, "Yes, yes, Prince Ning and Princess Ning are famous for doting on their child. I didn't understand it before, but now that I've seen the two of them find their beloved son, I get it. How wonderful! Just like I, Zhu, am also known for spoiling my child. I won't decide on his marriage; it all depends on his own preferences."

Zhu Yiping then sensed something was amiss and asked in surprise, "Dad, what are you talking about? What marriage?"

Zhu Haisheng's expression didn't change as he smiled, "Naturally, it's your marriage to the Commandery Princess. As early as when you both went to Beiyi, I had discussed it with the Prince and Princess. As long as you both like each other, then..."

"Hey, wait a minute!" Zhu Yiping's face looked odd as he said, "What nonsense are you spouting? The Commandery Princess and I are—!"

"Yiping, oh, come on, don't be shy. Dad can see it. You like the Commandery Princess, and she likes you too. Otherwise, why would the Commandery Princess run to your courtyard... uh uh..."

Zhu Yiping's face turned red, and he quickly went forward to cover Zhu Haisheng's mouth.

Jin Zijin looked somewhat displeased. Jin Luoyin went recklessly to Tianhai Mountain Villa and even stayed in Zhu Yiping's courtyard. This is indeed inappropriate and damages her reputation. But even if a child doesn't understand, do you also not understand as an adult?

How could such a thing be said in public?

The guests all stopped, craning their necks to listen to the gossip.

Everyone speculated about who in the world could be worthy of the Commandery Princess, gaining such immense glory.

The most speculated was the Princely Heir from Lingnan, but unexpectedly, today everyone received such a big surprise.

A young master from Tianhai Mountain Villa suddenly appeared, seeming to have a close relationship with the Commandery Princess.

Jin Zijin coldly huffed, "Zhu Villa Master, for things as vague as this, I think it's better to be cautious with words."

Hearing this, Zhu Haisheng was filled with fear and trepidation, bowed down deeply, and apologized.

"The Prince is right, as a commoner I have overstepped and sullied the Commandery Princess's reputation!"

Everyone was surprised beyond measure, and Jin Zijin stepped back, avoiding his deep bow.

Initially, there was nothing amiss, but with that bow and those few pointed explanations, it turned nothing into something.

Gu Youyou’s face was unsightly, and she brushed her sleeves to return to the inner courtyard.

After instructing Yue Rujing to help look after the guests, Jin Zijin also returned to the inner courtyard.

After an awkward moment, Zhu Haisheng picked up his wine cup and went to continue drinking with others.

"Zhu Villa Master, what exactly is going on between your son and the Commandery Princess? How did it end up ruining the Commandery Princess’s reputation?"

"Yes, could it be that your Tianhai Mountain Villa and the Ningwang Residence are nearing a good alliance?"

Zhu Haisheng shook his head and said, "Hard to say, hard to say, after all, the Ningwang Residence isn’t someone anyone can easily climb up to."

And under the scrutinizing gazes of everyone, Zhu Yiping was at a loss for what to do. After pondering for a moment, he felt he should explain things to the Ningwang family. Otherwise, how would they interact in the future?

Yue Rujing coughed and loudly declared, "Ladies and gentlemen, today’s banquet is to celebrate the Young Prince’s homecoming. Other matters, aside from the Young Prince, let’s not discuss further!"

Yue Rujing’s words were quite effective. After his warning proclamation, even though the guests were curious, they at least dared not discuss these things at the banquet.

...

Gu Youyou was extremely upset and vented to Searcy, "I've heard that the owner of Tianhai Mountain Villa is supposed to be a decent person, but meeting him in person, how could he be so unreliable?"

"Why? You left the banquet halfway through and rushed back. Did that villa owner offend you?"