Farmhouse 421

Chapter 421: Typhoid Fever in the Military

Gu Youyou covered her face and said, "You don’t like it? I won’t play with it anymore then."

Jin Zijin said, "I’m not angry because you played with it, but because I didn’t bring any silver today."

"Ah...?" Gu Youyou exclaimed, lifting her head in surprise.

"Without silver to pay the boatman, I had to pawn my jade pendant to him."

Gu Youyou: "..."

She felt her own purse and said, "I brought some, I’ll go exchange it back for you."

"Ah, never mind." He pulled her back, saying, "This is also fate, my connection with that jade has come to an end."

Gu Youyou thought to herself with disdain, bullshit fate.

Hmm, losing something, this is not a good way to comfort oneself.

Speaking of the jade pendant, she suddenly startled, "You... it wasn’t that piece of green jade, was it?"

Gu Youyou had only seen one jade pendant on Jin Zijin’s person, an extremely fine piece of Qingluan Jade Pendant which he treasured greatly, to the point he wouldn’t even let her look at it.

"Yes, that’s the one," Jin Zijin said calmly.

Gu Youyou’s expression darkened, and she turned to leave. Glancing at the boatman on the opposite side, she jumped into the water and swam towards him.

But Jin Zijin held her back, his tone cold, "What's important has never been the jade pendant, but the human heart. Once the human heart changes, it becomes worthless."

"Human?" Gu Youyou felt a sudden pain in her chest as she leaned on his arm, looking at him.

What person? No wonder his singing just now had been so...

He said, "Don't overthink it, it was left by my mother."

Huh...? She had thought it was given by some girl.

If it was a relic left by his mother, why would he talk like that?

...

In April, just over a month, the border guards of Nanzhao Country clashed with the border guards of Zhuzhao Country in Lingnan again. Jin Zijin said this was not deliberate; both sides' troops were too close to each other, and being on the border, friction was frequent.

While these frictions were minor, this particular incident led to an outbreak of a highly contagious typhoid fever.

Logically speaking, the high season for typhoid is in winter and spring. By April, the weather is already quite warm, yet unexpectedly, such a disease spread, and within the military at that.

The treatment cycle for typhoid is long and contagious, particularly fast-spreading due to the lack of awareness about infection prevention in ancient times.

In military camps, where large groups of soldiers live and eat together, the spread of typhoid is even more severe than among the common people.

Moreover, the death rate of this disease is extremely high. It is said that after the Battle of Red Cliffs, a major epidemic broke out in Cao Cao's army, leading to heavy casualties, and that epidemic was precisely typhoid fever.

There were not enough military doctors, and the Marquess personally ordered that all medical halls in Lingnan City conscript doctors.

Each medical hall was to provide half of its doctors. In Gu Youyou's Jisheng Hall, there were only her and Banxia, so one of them had to go. Banxia had only learned from her for a few months; she could handle small illnesses but typhoid fever was out of the question, which meant Gu Youyou had to go.

Upon hearing that she was going to the military camp to treat typhoid, Banxia was anxious, and Jin Zijin was not at ease.

But she was already packing her things.

Banxia pressed down on her bundle and suddenly knelt down, pleading desperately, "Sister Youyou, let me go. Please let me go. I beg you."

She thought that treating such a disease would most likely cost her own life. Sister Youyou had been as kind as a mountain to her, and this was the perfect opportunity to repay her kindness with her life.

But how could Gu Youyou let her go to her death?

Gu Youyou looked at her coolly, "Do you know how to treat typhoid?"

This was a difficult disease to cure, and it was heard that several military doctors had already perished. How could she know?

She could only continue to cry and plead, "Going to the military camp to treat typhoid is a near certain death. Banxia has received Gu Youyou's care and her direct teachings in medical skills, and with nothing

to repay her, the only thing I can do is to take this risk for you. If not, I'll never rest in peace even in death."

Chapter 422: To the Military Camp

Gu Youyou understood her meaning—in the eyes of the people of ancient times, typhoid fever was akin to the King of Hell, and escaping from the clutches of the King of Hell, survival was anything but certain.

But Gu Youyou was different; she had a very clear treatment plan for typhoid. Although the medical conditions here were extremely poor, as long as prevention and treatment were appropriate, she was confident she could keep the mortality rate below ten percent.

She looked at Jin Zijin, whose face showed anxiety, and patted Banxia on the back, saying, "Although typhoid is formidable, I have a way to treat it. If I don't go, many people will die from typhoid. This disease should be fatal, but if I shrink back for fear of infection, then it will become a widespread epidemic, you tell me, should I go or not?"

Banxia was stunned, her tear-stained face gazing blankly at Gu Youyou.

Did she say it could be treated, that typhoid could be treated?

"Don't you believe me?" Gu Youyou said, "Go take a look at the gourds hanging at the door."

Look at the gourds? What did gourds have to do with whether it could be treated?

Banxia, hesitating between belief and doubt, got up and went to the entrance.

However, Jin Zijin said, "Whether it can be treated or not, you're still going, aren't you?"

Gu Youyou smiled and said, "I'm not the Virgin Mary, of course I'll go if it truly can be treated, if not, I'll run faster than anyone."

"You..." Jin Zijin, with a helpless smile, said, "Alright, I believe you, I'll go with you."

Gu Youyou nodded and picked up her package to head outside.

Banxia was still stunned at the entrance, looking at that gourd.

"Dedicated to saving lives!" she muttered to herself.

Suddenly understanding something, as if a realization had struck her, she turned around abruptly.

"Sister Youyou, I understand!" she said, crying and laughing, "I understand now, as healers, even when facing the most formidable diseases, we cannot shrink back. Because if we step back, what we lose is the chance for patients to survive."

Gu Youyou did not deny it, simply smiling and saying, "Then guard the shop well before I return, and check on the equipment I ordered when you have time, see if it's ready at the blacksmith's."

"Mhm, rest assured, I will guard it well."

She was as earnest as if taking an oath for her beliefs. Gu Youyou shook her head, not knowing what to do with her.

Although the Marquess had given orders that each medical hall must send out half of their doctors, everyone was afraid of death. Thus, those sent to fulfill the obligation were mostly those with mediocre medical skills, along with unqualified apprentices.

One by one, they were apprehensive, as if ducks being forced onto a perch.

In the hall, there were about twenty or thirty doctors, including some military physicians.

The Marquess came out from behind the house and stood at the forefront. Seeing Gu Youyou, he was slightly startled.

He thought that Jisheng Hall would send another doctor, and did not expect her to come personally.

Of course, he was not the only one surprised; others in the room felt the same.

"Greetings, Marquess!"

All the doctors bowed to the Marquess in unison.

"Doctors, please rise!" After everyone stood up, the Marquess took his seat.

"Everyone must have heard about the epidemic by now, typhoid, a great scourge. Not only are our soldiers suffering heavy deaths and injuries, but the enemy Nanzhao is hit just the same. If we do not control it soon, I fear it may spread to the common folk. Doctors, what are your thoughts on this epidemic?"

Almost everyone here had been reluctantly drafted and came with resignation, expecting a slim chance of survival. What opinions could they have?

After the Marquess asked the question, everyone lowered their heads.

Only Gu Youyou stepped forward, bowed slightly, and her clear voice rang out in the deadly silent hall, as if it were a divinely inspired anthem.

"Marquess, I have a solution. I have developed a comprehensive prevention and treatment plan. As long as everyone cooperates fully, I can keep the epidemic contained within the barracks and ensure the death toll stays below ten percent of the infected."

Chapter 423: I Have a Way to Treat

If it weren't for the many critically ill patients here, she could keep the mortality rate below one percent.

Cure? And control the spread of the epidemic, even keep the death rate among the sick below ten percent? It's the patients she's talking about, not the total population. What does she plan to do?

As Gu Youyou finished speaking, all eyes in the room turned to the only female doctor in the group.

The expressions in the room were complex, a mix of surprise, mockery, skepticism, pity, and more, yet no one believed.

"Doctor Gu!" Marquess Yue, seated high above, suddenly spoke, "I know of your exceptional talent and your medical skills are not bad, but this is a serious epidemic. I do not expect a cure - just control over the spread of the disease and to prevent excessive innocent casualties."

Gu Youyou's expression remained unchanged. She bowed again and said, "If the Marquess doesn't trust me, I can issue a military decree."

The crowd was taken aback, and then their eyes widened in surprise as they looked at her.

What was she thinking? Issue a military decree?

At such a young age, did she even know what a military decree was?

Once a military decree was issued, it meant that failing to comply would result in execution. Military orders were like mountains; they were not to be trifled with.

Had this lightly-involved young girl gone mad?

"Doctor Gu?" Marquess Yue was equally astonished. What did this young woman intend to do?

Had it not been for Jin Zijin's sake, he might have scorned her on the spot.

The only female doctor, the youngest in the hall, others dared not speak, yet how could she, how dared she boast so greatly?

"This is no small matter. A military decree is not to be issued lightly. You must not overreach and thus..."

"Marquess Yue!" Gu Youyou interrupted him directly.

The hall erupted in commotion. This girl was truly audacious, not only boasting ridiculously but also daring to interrupt Marquess Yue.

Of course, no one expected Marquess Yue to be such a patient person, so easy to speak with.

Had it been someone else, they might have ordered her to be dragged away by now.

Gu Youyou continued, composed and respectful, "Marquess Yue, you are doubting me without even hearing my plan. Do you not believe in me?"

What? Everyone’s eyes bulged.

Challenging Marquess Yue.

And throughout, she never used the term ’commoner,’ but referred to herself as ’I.’

Was she either naïve or so skilled she was fearless?

Just as Marquess Yue was about to speak, the door was opened from outside.

Marquess Yue’s brow furrowed slightly, and everyone turned their curious gaze toward the large door.

A man in a moon-white robe entered against the light, his voice reaching them before his face became clear.

"Father, I trust her."

The Princely Heir?

Yue Rujing?

Marquess Yue asked with some displeasure, "Ajing, why have you come?"

Yue Rujing walked to Gu Youyou's side, bowed to Marquess Yue, and said, "Father, I too am a doctor. After studying for so many years, I cannot let it go to waste."

"You?" Marquess Yue's face turned inexplicably grim. How could he not know that Yue Rujing was skilled in medicine, but as every father is selfish, this was an epidemic that killed people - how could he come?

He, along with Jin Yan, had already given orders forbidding them from entering the military camp.

Yue Rujing, seeing that unsightly look on Marquess Yue's face, yet smiled and looked at Gu Youyou, saying, "I heard from my senior brother that you have a way to control the epidemic. I trust you. Speak, whatever you propose, I will fully cooperate."

Gu Youyou smiled and said, "Alright, with your word, I can rest assured."

In the quiet hall, only Gu Youyou's clear voice could be heard.

Chapter 424: Talking about Typhoid Fever

"First of all," Gu Youyou began, "separate the soldiers who are ill from those who are not. This is basic common sense, and I believe the Marquess has already done so."

Marquess Yue nodded in agreement.

Gu Youyou's gaze swept across the dozens of doctors in the hall before she continued, "Most of you have probably never seen typhoid, only heard of its severity, so let me first tell you what typhoid is."

The doctors looked at each other with complex expressions.

Hearing her say this, they wondered, could it be that she had actually seen typhoid? If that were the case, then her words might carry some truth.

"Please proceed, Doctor Gu," they urged.

Gu Youyou nodded and said, "The symptoms of typhoid fever are divided into four stages, with the onset being mostly gradual. The initial symptom is fever, which intensifies over time. Please ask Marquess Yue to issue an order that any soldier who starts to develop a fever should immediately report and voluntarily seek treatment from a doctor. If diagnosed with typhoid, they should be placed in the patient area."

Marquess Yue nodded and said, "The initial symptom is indeed fever."

Since Gu Youyou had accurately described it, he trusted her a bit more.

"The first stage lasts about five to seven days. In the second stage, the patient will continue to have a high fever, a noticeable lack of appetite, a thick and greasy tongue coating, and abdominal discomfort. It is marked by slow and heavy pulse rates. In terms of mental state..."

She tapped her head, addressing the other doctors, "The patient will experience lethargy and confusion... and light red rashes may appear on the skin of the chest and abdomen. This stage is the most dangerous, and such severely ill patients must be isolated and under a doctor’s supervision at all times, around the clock."

The others exchanged glances, sweating profusely just from listening.

They all thought to themselves how formidable this epidemic must be.

"If the patient makes it through the second stage, they will enter the third stage. In this stage, the fever gradually subsides, and symptoms begin to lessen. However, be aware that some patients may experience intestinal bleeding."

Someone scoffed, noting how easy she made it sound, but wondering how many could actually survive the second stage.

"The fourth stage is the recovery period. The patient’s temperature returns to normal, and the discomfort fades away. However, they are not yet cured and must continue to be separated from those who are not infected for another month."

The crowd was silent, finding it astonishing that even after recovery, one must wait an entire month to be considered cured.

Gu Youyou spoke calmly, "What I’ve described is the normal course of treatment for those who are cured. If not treated, or treated improperly, the patient could die during the second stage."

She ignored the complex looks from everyone and pulled out a large stack of papers, handing them directly to Young Master Yue Rujing, saying, "I have written down the prescriptions for each stage. Please, Young Master, have someone make several copies, so that each doctor has one to follow. However, treatment cannot be standardized for all, as each patient’s condition differs. If you encounter any special cases, the doctors should adjust accordingly. If in doubt, please call for me."

She had already written prescriptions?

The room erupted in surprise, their eyes wide with shock.

Only Yue Rujing, who had been startled by Gu Youyou on several occasions, remained somewhat composed as he took the prescriptions from her.

No sooner had he received them than Gu Youyou took out another.

She said, "This list includes the necessary supplies, as well as how to achieve prevention and disinfection."

After speaking, she produced several face masks, something Yue Rujing recognized.

She continued, "Everyone who comes into contact with the patients must wear one of these masks. If possible, please have every soldier in the army wear one, Marquess Yue. Those who have never worn one might find it uncomfortable at first, but your life is at stake. It can help reduce the chances of infection."

Chapter 425: Studying Medicine is Profitable

"And those medicinal materials need to be procured as quickly as possible, if Lingnan doesn't have them or doesn't have enough, go to other provinces. Marquess, the disease is already spreading, we must act quickly, the medicine must not be stopped."

After Gu Youyou finished speaking, everyone still thought she was quite presumptuous, but they no longer felt that she was joking or being overly confident like before.

The way she spoke seemed so systematic and earnest, it would be quite a serious lie if it weren't true. So what she said was very likely the truth.

Typhoid could indeed be controlled and cured by her!

Orders were quickly passed down. With Yue Rujing's guarantee and the Marquess's trust, everything proceeded smoothly.

Looking at Jin Zijin who was also helping, Gu Youyou said to him, "Thank you. If it weren't for you bringing Yue Rujing around, they would still treat me like a fool."

Jin Zijin laughed and said, "Once you cure the epidemic, they'll consider you a Divine Doctor."

"I am a Divine Doctor already."

Yue Rujing's anxious voice came from the entrance, "Yes, yes, you are indeed a Divine Doctor. Divine Doctor, please quickly see what's wrong with that patient."

Jin Zijin and Gu Youyou exchanged a look and quickly followed Yue Rujing to the tent next door.

The patient was already delirious and could faint at any moment. Gu Youyou touched his forehead; it was frighteningly hot.

She said, "The cooling must not stop, wet the cloth and place it on his forehead."

Upon hearing this, someone promptly wrung out a towel and brought it over.

She continued, "Prepare a tub of warm water, and remember the antipyretic prescription I issued last time? Give him a medicinal bath to reduce the fever."

Someone quickly acted on her instructions.

Gu Youyou carefully observed the patient, noting his yellow complexion, indicating jaundice symptoms.

She hurried to unbutton his clothes, and Jin Zijin, frowning, pulled her aside and deftly undressed the soldier himself.

The man was very thin, obviously not in the best of health even normally; surviving life in the military camp was indeed no easy task.

She spotted faint red rashes on his body and a slight swelling in the liver and spleen area. As soon as she pressed on it, he winced in pain.

Gu Youyou, having understood the symptoms, withdrew her hand and said, "That will do, I'll prescribe another medication in a moment, administer the drugs according to the new prescription."

She left the tent and washed her hands with a medicinal solution.

Jin Zijin, following behind her, felt more at ease.

He said, "As a woman, you really shouldn’t be learning medical skills. Why did you choose to learn this of all things?"

Gu Youyou was taken aback, letting the water droplets fall.

She gave a bitter smile but then retorted, "For the sake of making a living, medical skills fetch good money. The richer people are, the more they fear death, they are willing to spend money to buy life."

Jin Zijin disagreed, saying lightly, "With your intelligence and wit, you could make money doing anything."

"Hmm." Gu Youyou grunted in agreement, saying no more.

Back in her tent, she handed him a bowl of medicine and said, "Drink this, to prevent infection."

Jin Zijin said, "Didn’t you say that those with weaker constitutions are more likely to get infected? Do I look like someone with a weak constitution to you?"

Gu Youyou replied, "But if you were to get a fever, it would be harder to treat than for others, as the heat toxin in your body would also be triggered, and I don’t want to see Yue Rujing bleed you again."

It seemed that Ajing bleeding for her had really affected her deeply.

Jin Zijin paused, then sighed resignedly, "Fine, I’ll drink it!"

He picked up the bowl and drained it in one gulp.

Speaking of blood, Gu Youyou was reminded of something else.

She asked, "Did you also make me drink your blood?"

Chapter 426: You Have the Demeanor of a Ruler

He held the bowl in a daze, then setting it down, he asked, "Why this sudden question?"

"Well, is there or isn’t there?" Gu Youyou asked directly.

He answered, "Yes, the day you first arrived, your condition was serious. You fainted without saying a word. Fearing you wouldn’t make it till dawn, I gave you my blood to drink."

"Ah...?"

Thinking back to that night, she felt like she had been resigned to death.

It was the most humiliating night of her life.

With his confirmation, Gu Youyou felt both embarrassed and angry, balling up her fists and swinging at him.

"You jerk, why didn’t you tell me sooner?"

She had misunderstood for so long.

Jin Zijin had no idea why she was suddenly like this, and simply said, "Don’t be too touched. You didn’t drink much, and I’ve long since taken it back."

"..."

"Shut up!"

Hmm? Just now, she scolded him for not telling her sooner, and now she’s telling him to shut up. Ajing was right; women really are strange creatures.

When Yue Rujing came in, what he saw was the odd scene of them fighting.

He had important matters to discuss, so he didn't bother asking what they were up to.

"Gu Youyou, could you please stop hitting my elder apprentice brother and listen to what I have to say?"

Gu Youyou's already flushed face turned even redder. Pushing Jin Zijin away, she asked seriously, "What's the matter?"

Yue Rujing handed her a piece of paper and said, "These few herbs listed here are in short supply. See if you can replace them with others that have similar properties."

Gu Youyou glanced at it, frowned, and said, "Except for the first and the fifth herbs, the others can't be substituted. You should take more silver and buy them from nearby pharmacies. Those fellows are afraid of catching the disease and having no cure, so they often hoard quite a lot. You are the Princely Heir; you should know how to make them cough up the goods without me teaching you, right? As for the two herbs that can be replaced, you're a doctor yourself, can't you find ones with similar properties?"

Yue Rujing felt like he was being scolded by Gu Youyou. Not even his father had spoken to him in that tone before.

Her rhetorical questions were sarcastic, almost like a general talking to his soldiers.

If his elder apprentice brother had not been there, he would have argued with her.

Well, never mind, what she said did make sense after all.

He snatched the prescription from her hand and, without saying another word, stormed off, clearly frustrated.

Jin Zijin commented with a smile, "You have the air of someone in command."

Gu Youyou raised an eyebrow, realizing that her tone just now wasn't very pleasant.

But she couldn't help it, she'd long been used to it. That was how she had been during her years as the CEO.

The temperament her grandfather tried to cultivate in her ever since she was a child was also like this, and she had yet to spend two years here.

A person can change many things; she even unexpectedly changed her own body, but temperament is the hardest to alter. Just like the old saying goes, "A state can be altered, but nature is hard to change." The ancients indeed did not deceive me.

...

Under Gu Youyou's effective control, a month later, the dreaded typhoid epidemic was ultimately contained, and the death toll was far less than what she had initially promised, barring those few who had already been in the grips of death by the time she began treatment; all the others survived.

The Marquess was very pleased and decided to hold a banquet in the military camp three days later to see the doctors off.

Gu Youyou didn't want to attend this farewell banquet. She was well aware of the role she had played during the epidemic and knew she would be the center of attention at the banquet.

But ever since she was plotted against at her own lavish birthday party, she had no desire to attend another event where she was the main focus.

Chapter 427: Return to the City

Only those who have faced death know how vividly they remember the events of the day they almost died.

Gu Youyou was packing up, preparing to leave the military camp. As the patients were in the recovery phase, there was no need for many doctors to stay on; they had military physicians.

"Hey, why are you packing now? Isn't it planned for after the farewell banquet three days from now?"

Gu Youyou turned her head to see Yue Rujing standing at the door.

It seemed that after this epidemic, Yue Rujing was completely awed by her, even the way he looked at her had changed dramatically. There was no hostility, no feigned flattery, only a clear and honest gaze with a hint of admiration.

Gu Youyou had always known that he had been scheming between her and Jin Zijin, advising Jin Zijin more than once that if he no longer needed her, Youyou should be done away with. Hopefully, he would set aside his prejudices against her because of her dedicated efforts this time.

After all, his affection for Jin Zijin was genuine, and so was hers.

Gu Youyou finished fastening her last strap and said, "Why would I, a lady, stay among a bunch of men? When it's time for the banquet, you'll all be drinking and jostling. Wouldn't the mix of alcohol and sweat be enough to smother me?"

Gu Youyou expressed her disgust for the 'stench' unique to men with such righteous indignation that Yue Rujing was taken aback for a moment, speechless.

It was probably only Gu Youyou who could say such a thing nonchalantly without blushing or skipping a beat.

Well, maybe this is what is called pride in one's talents.

No help for it, Gu Youyou did have that ability.

"Does your senior brother know?"

Gu Youyou replied, "Of course he knows, and he strongly agrees with my thoughts."

If that was the case, Yue Rujing chuckled dryly and stepped aside, saying, "Well, to avoid smothering you to death, please go ahead and leave."

Gu Youyou stood in the bustling street, looking from a distance at the sign of Jisheng Hall.

A few sparse patients were coming in and out, which already exceeded her expectations.

She had thought that without her presence and with only the half-competent Banxia in charge, and no highly skilled doctors from other medical institutions at the military camp, Jisheng Hall would be gathering dust. But, to her surprise, there were still people coming in.

As Gu Youyou stepped into Jisheng Hall, she saw several women collecting medicines. When they turned around and saw her, they immediately greeted her warmly, "Doctor Gu, you're back. How is the typhoid situation in the military camp?"

The situation in the camp had always been kept confidential. When typhoid was first discovered in the military camp, Marquess Yue had also ordered secrecy, but the news could not be contained and had leaked. Hence, they all knew Gu Youyou had gone to the military camp.

Not only doctors from Jisheng Hall had gone, but those from other medical institutions as well.

Seeing Gu Youyou, Banxia hurried out from behind the counter and excitedly looked her over before suddenly bursting into tears, "Sister Youyou, I'm so glad you're back. I was afraid for you...so scared."

Gu Youyou patted the back of Banxia's hand and said with a smile, "Silly girl, what's there to be afraid of? Haven't I said that I could cure typhoid? Don't you trust me yet?"

Banxia wept tears of joy, wiping them away as she said hastily, "I trust you, I trust you. Sister Youyou has excellent medical skills, from now on I'll believe whatever you say."

Hearing that Gu Youyou could cure typhoid, the women immediately exclaimed in admiration, "Wow, Doctor Gu is truly amazing to have cured typhoid. Has the typhoid in the military camp really been taken care of?"

"There's not much of a problem anymore, the patients are all in their recovery phase, but Youyou dares not take the credit for herself; it's everyone's achievement!" Gu Youyou said with a laugh.

Chapter 428: Presenting the Plaque

"Oh, thank heavens, my father is in the military, and as my mother told me, he hasn't returned home for a long time. We've been worried about him. Hearing Doctor Gu say this has finally put my mind at ease. I must go back to my mother's house right away and tell her the good news."

"Exactly, it's a joyful occasion, it needs to be spread quickly."

Several patients who had come to get medicine left, and only then did Banxia smile with reddened eyes.

Gu Youyou teased her, "Pretty impressive, you're already able to see patients on your own."

Banxia's face turned red, and she said, "Lately, I've been looking at the prescriptions Sister Youyou used to make; I've learned a bit. But Banxia is not as clever as Sister Youyou. After all this time, I still only dare to prescribe simple remedies."

Gu Youyou was already very satisfied with her and said, "That's alright, you can take your time."

"Oh, that's right." Banxia suddenly remembered something and said, "There's something from Jisheng Hall in Qingshui Town that was sent over. Since you and Brother Jin were not around, I took the liberty of accepting it. Just wait a moment, Sister Youyou, I'll get it for you."

Gu Youyou's eyes were smiling as she said the word "good".

Qin Changlin hadn't sent anything for a while, and she wondered what he had brought this time.

"Dong dong dong..." Just as she was thinking this, the sound of gongs could be heard outside.

The sound was quite loud, and Gu Youyou looked up and outside.

Banxia came out with a box. Hearing this sound, she said, "It’s the Governor’s Office gong!"

"Please come out to meet us, Doctor Gu!" A male voice called out after a while.

Gu Youyou and Banxia looked at each other, set down their things, and went out together.

Gu Youyou, accompanied by Banxia, went out and saw a procession of people right at the entrance of her Jisheng Hall.

Ordinary folks filled the outside area, eager to see the excitement. They surrounded a group from the Governor’s Office, with two men playing gongs at the front who stepped aside when they saw Gu Youyou emerging.

Another man stood next to a sedan chair and bowed to Gu Youyou as he approached.

Gu Youyou recognized this man; he was Zhang Quansheng, the governor of Lingnan City. As a civil official in a city under the rule of the Marquess, he was actually an idle figure with no real power, a puppet whose authority had been undermined.

But Jin Zijin had told her that though this man seemed a powerless puppet, he was actually the eyes of the Emperor in Lingnan City.

Seeing this, Gu Youyou hurriedly gave a respectful greeting, "Governor, your gesture overwhelms this commoner."

Zhang Quansheng insisted, "Doctor Gu, it’s what you deserve. Without you, we couldn’t have treated the typhoid epidemic, and it would have eventually spread to Lingnan City. You saved all the soldiers and civilians of Lingnan, and this bow is deserved by you."

Although Zhang Quansheng was known to be a puppet, the fact that he was the governor meant that his words shocked everyone as they turned their gaze towards Gu Youyou.

The doctors from other medical halls had not returned, but Gu Youyou had. She had just come back, and the governor himself had come to her door... to present a plaque?

Zhang Quansheng gave a signal to two men carrying a plaque behind him, who immediately understood and brought the plaque over.

Gu Youyou was surprised to see the plaque that was covered in red cloth, and estimated it to be not much smaller than the Jisheng Hall's own sign.

Goodness, was he about to bestow her with an official plaque? She felt she had been doing a good job and didn't want a replacement.

"Governor, what is this about?" Gu Youyou asked in surprise.

Meanwhile, the crowd began to whisper among themselves.

"Was Doctor Gu the main force in treating the typhoid epidemic?"

"It seems so, look, the governor himself is delivering a plaque. We just don't know what's written on it."

"Doctor Gu, only you deserve to receive this plaque."

Before Gu Youyou could say anything more, Zhang Quansheng had already personally removed the red cloth from the plaque.

Chapter 429: The Imperially Bestowed Plaque

As the red cloth fell, a gilded plaque glittering with gold appeared before Gu Youyou's eyes, inscribed with the words "Divine Doctor" at the top.

Oh my, Gu Youyou had thought that a simple banner would be enough as a token of appreciation; where on earth was she supposed to hang such a large object?

But since the lord of the city had already presented it, she had no reason to refuse it.

The crowd was shocked and there was also a stir of commotion.

A Divine Doctor, and... that type of bright yellow plaque seems like an imperial gift, right?

Someone whispered, "Did you see the Imperial Jade Seal on it? This plaque wasn't given by the city lord. It really is an imperial award."

"An imperial plaque for Doctor Gu?"

Everyone's jaws dropped, and they craned their necks, rubbing their eyes as they looked at the plaque.

Gu Youyou listened to all these comments with a slight frown.

Given that it takes seven days to reach Beijing from here by fast horse, even if riding overnight and the weather is good, how did he manage to get an imperial gift plaque?

And the fact that he came to her door just after she had returned, his information was extremely timely.

After pausing for a moment, Gu Youyou decided to play dumb and, with a forced grin, said, "Lord Mayor, the treatment of the typhoid wasn't only my doing. The other doctors haven't returned yet. By giving this to me alone, you make the others feel saddened. After all, everyone went with the mindset that they might not return."

If it had been anyone else, they would have felt awkward after listening to Gu Youyou's words, but Zhang Quansheng just calmly shook his head and said, "How to prepare and administer the medicine,

and understanding all the symptoms of the patients during the disease outbreak - all of this was known only by you. Did any of the other doctors have that knowledge?"

Gu Youyou's expression grew increasingly serious; his words were essentially giving her a bad reputation. By elevating her and belittling others, Lord Mayor, I don't recall offending you?

The crowd grew restless, and their voices louder.

"Doctor Gu cured it? Doctor Gu is so young, could it all be an exaggeration?"

"Get out of here, do you think an imperial plaque is like a head of cabbage, that you could get one just by bragging? If it's that easy, try blowing your own horn and see if you can get one."

This person spoke a bit loudly, so Gu Youyou had no choice but to stiffen up and, with a look of surprise, turn to Zhang Quansheng, saying, "Lord Mayor, this... this plaque..."

Zhang Quansheng smiled and replied, "Indeed, this is an imperial plaque. The Emperor heard that you were confident in curing the typhoid and, it is said, spontaneously praised you with the words 'Divine Doctor,' ordering that this plaque be made expeditiously and sent to Lingnan with the greatest speed.

Ideally, it should have been delivered by the Marquess himself, but the Marquess has been so occupied with the typhoid outbreak recently that his office delegated the honor to me."

Looking at the plaque, Gu Youyou found it hard to feel happy.

Because she hadn't heard a whisper about any imperial plaque before this moment, and, even if she was unfamiliar with the protocols, she knew that imperial awards were supposed to come along with a eunuch bearing the imperial edict, not with the city mayor and a procession of drums. What was going on here?

Well, regardless of whether the plaque was truly bestowed by the Emperor, it was indeed delivered in person by the city mayor, so in the end, Gu Youyou accepted it.

After Zhang Quansheng’s visit, Jisheng Hall became thoroughly famous.

While the other doctors hadn’t yet returned, the citizens of Lingnan City were already spreading word everywhere about how Gu Youyou single-handedly quelled the military’s typhoid outbreak.

In just a half day’s time, someone had already composed a complete tale about the birth of a Divine Doctor. By the next day, storytellers in teahouses were recounting the tale with such flair. She was hardly a human in their eyes, but rather an Ultraman who had defeated the little monsters of typhoid.

Chapter 430: The Person Behind the City Lord

"Sister Youyou, Sister Youyou, did you hear what Master Storyteller said about you?"

Banxia had gone out for a walk and returned with her eyes shining with excitement.

In the past few days, Gu Youyou had not dared to open for business, claiming to the public that she had not returned for several days, that many medicinal ingredients in the clinic needed to be properly stored, and that after many days of toil, she needed rest.

One of the main reasons was that she feared the threshold would be worn out by too many visitors, and secondly, she wanted to wait until everyone was back before discussing it.

Previously, when she was in the military camp, Jin Zijin had also been stationed there. Now that she had returned, Jin Zijin had come back as well, and he was currently staring at that golden signboard, obviously troubled about how to deal with it.

Actually, Gu Youyou would also like to stare at that golden signboard in a daze, she was troubled as well. The city lord had said that it was an imperial gift and it had to be displayed to show respect for imperial authority.

And it could not be hung beneath the three characters of ‘Jisheng Hall’, it had to be positioned above, and it had to be conspicuous.

When the renovation was done, they didn’t consider the need to hang two, only a place for one signboard was prepared, so if this one was to be hung, the other had to be taken down.

To hang just the two characters ’Divine Doctor’ over the main entrance would be too odd.

Thinking about it made Gu Youyou worry, so much that it could turn her hair white.

"Have you figured out how to handle it?" Gu Youyou was opening a box sent by Qin Changlin when she suddenly heard Jin Zijin speak.

She put down the box, walked over to Jin Zijin’s side, and said in a listless voice, "If only it were a smaller signboard, I haven’t figured it out, have you?"

Jin Zijin’s eyes flickered as he looked at her.

Clearly, they were troubled about different things.

Gu Youyou then said, "It’s an imperial gift, so it definitely has to be hung. Ah! If there’s really no other way, I’ll just have to make the signboard smaller and hang it beside the door. Ah, no, that won’t do, it would look terrible. Hey, what if... this thing has to be hung higher than my signboard, right? Why don’t we hang it below the second floor window, high enough and conspicuous enough, right?"

Jin Zijin scoffed and said, "Do as you please."

Seeing his unfriendly expression, Gu Youyou sighed again.

"The problem really isn’t the signboard itself, I feel like we’ve been schemed against. But this city lord... we haven’t offended him, have we? Why would he want to make me a target for all?"

Jin Zijin said gravely, "Because he is just a pawn, the person we’ve offended is the one behind him."

"The person behind him, didn’t you say Zhang Quansheng is the emperor’s man? Could it be..." Gu Youyou looked at him in surprise.

Jin Zijin said, "Yes, it seems he's only ostensibly the emperor's eyes in Lingnan, watching over the Marquess, but in reality, he serves another master."

Many things connected in her mind, and the truth slowly emerged, making Gu Youyou scoff coldly like Jin Zijin did before, and say, "So it turns out that this epidemic was no accident but manmade, with me as the target."

Jin Zijin nodded in approval and said, "The conscription at the end of February, someone with typhoid must have been sent in by him. His original intention was to use typhoid to weaken the Lingnan garrison, then incite conflict between the Lingnan garrison and Nanzhao soldiers. The recently suffered garrison, having just gone through an epidemic with severe casualties, would certainly not be a match.

But the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry. He miscalculated on two counts: first, he did not anticipate that, just as the epidemic began, there would be another conflict between the two countries' border troops. During that small-scale war, the typhoid also infected the soldiers of Nanzhao Country. Both sides contracted typhoid, nullifying his plan to weaken the Lingnan garrison and pick them off later.

Second, he did not expect that you would actually solve the epidemic, leaving the Lingnan garrison virtually unscathed, while we intentionally delayed providing a prescription to Nanzhao by half a month, resulting in heavy casualties among their soldiers. That signboard was a backup, not expected to be needed, but it turned out to be useful after all, hence there is a signboard but no imperial edict."