

Little Girl 321

Chapter 321: The Emperor Without a Daughter

The Royal Spiritual Weapon Vault suddenly caught fire in the middle of the night, with flames raging fiercely. When the fire was extinguished, the first level of the vault suffered severe damage, and even though the remaining levels were slightly better, many ancient books were damaged.

The cause of the fire was quickly determined.

"The old eunuch in charge of guarding the vault took bribes and secretly hoarded quite a few silver notes. While counting the silver notes at midnight, a fire broke out accidentally. By the time it was discovered, the person was already charred, and some silver notes were found."

Captain Yang, along with a group of the Imperial Guard, extinguished the fire, and after finding out the reason, he hurried to report.

"Damn servant! Have the origins of those silver notes been investigated?"

Emperor Longteng was furiously outraged.

Such an incident happened within the Imperial Palace, and he was completely unaware.

"Reporting to Your Majesty, it appears they were given by royal relatives and court officials who stored their belongings here... the silver notes have all been destroyed."

Captain Yang dared not say more.

At the scene of the Spiritual Weapon Vault, there were still some silver notes scattered about with the Empress's phoenix seal on them, but who would dare to defy Empress Feng.

To be honest, in his many years serving in the palace, Captain Yang had never encountered such a strange fire.

A few silver notes could hardly cause such a massive blaze.

This inevitably reminded Captain Yang of Miss Xin, who had just visited the Spiritual Weapon Vault during the day.

The old eunuch's attitude towards her seemed not very good; at the time, he even stood up for Miss Xin, only to encounter such an incident.

However, this matter should just be a coincidence.

After all, Miss Xin had left in the evening, and the fire had nothing to do with her.

"Check the books, those on the third and fourth levels have not been damaged, right?"

Emperor Longteng pondered for a moment and knew that this matter should not be pursued too deeply. In any case, the books on the first level are just Yellow-grade Cultivation Techniques and those of Eighth Rank Spirit Arts or lower. Their destruction would not be a great loss.

Only that one book on the third floor... The Royal Spiritual Weapon Vault had four levels, containing Cultivation Techniques and Spirit Arts of Heaven and Earth Xuanhuang grades and Third, Sixth, Ninth Rank.

The most books were stored on the first and second levels. Above the third level, the number of books decreased. By the third and fourth levels, there were only a few dozen books, which are the most important Martial Arts and Spirit Arts of Longteng. Only the country's most distinguished heroes and those at the level of the Crown Prince could enter to borrow them.

"Your Majesty, rest assured, the books above the third and fourth levels are protected by summoning spells, and have not been damaged."

Captain Yang reported.

"By the way, today you accompanied the girl from Bei Qing to borrow Cultivation Techniques and Spirit Arts, which ones did she pick?"

Emperor Longteng asked casually, as if the question was of no particular consequence.

"Reporting to Your Majesty, Miss Xin chose a book on... Royal Garden Cultivation Techniques."

Captain Yang hesitated for a moment before reporting truthfully.

Upon hearing this, a flicker of intrigue flashed in Emperor Longteng's eyes, but it quickly disappeared as he concealed his expression.

"This girl from Bei Qing is indeed somewhat unique."

Emperor Longteng said thoughtfully, while Empress Feng, standing beside him and hearing about the fire in the Spiritual Weapon Vault, had a slightly solemn face.

She had a premonition that this matter was definitely related to Xin Lin.

"Your Majesty, as I have said before, that Xin Lin is ignorant and incompetent. Given such a great opportunity, if it were anyone else, they would surely cherish it. Unlike her, she squanders her prospects. If the people from other countries knew that our Longteng Country's top scorer in this year's Imperial Examination had such character, they would laugh their heads off."

Empress Feng said with ill-intent.

"Girls are, after all, good at planting flowers and grass, gentle and obedient. In the future, finding her a good household will do. I somewhat envy Bei Qing, having a daughter. Unlike me, the harem is filled, yet I don't have a single daughter."

Emperor Longteng replied nonchalantly.

Emperor Longteng held a high position, and now with Longteng Country in peace and the people secure, Emperor Longteng could be said to have everything go his way.

However, there was one thing that made Emperor Longteng very unhappy; although his harem was filled with three thousand beauties, he had very few children, all of whom were Princes, and he did not have a single Princess.

Chapter 322: Emperor's Last Letter

Comparing with others can certainly be infuriating!

Seeing how adorable and clever Xin Lin is now, and then thinking about how Long Qingchen only knows how to cause trouble every day, Emperor Longteng couldn't help feeling sorrowful.

Empress Feng stiffened her face. So, it's her fault, is it? A growing resentment towards Xin Lin simmered in her heart.

"Angering Empress Feng, Heaven-defying Value +1..."

While Xin Lin was staring at the Dan Wood Furnace awaiting the rebirth of the "Cultivation Skill," she suddenly noticed a change in the Heaven-defying Book.

Another line of golden text appeared.

Hmm?

Xin Lin's eyelids twitched.

She looked at the Heaven-defying Book again, "Angering Empress Feng, Heaven-defying Value +1," and the small text appeared once more.

"What's going on here?"

Xin Lin was puzzled.

Every so often, the Heaven-defying Value would jump.

"Has Empress Feng, this seductive wretch, gone mad?"

Xin Lin laughed.

Watching the Heaven-defying Book, in just half an hour, the Heaven-defying Value increased by 3.

As time went on, the rate of increase in the Heaven-defying Value from angering Empress Feng slowed, but it was still increasing.

While Xin Lin was captivated by the Heaven-defying Book, changes were also happening in the Dan Wood Furnace.

In the Dan Wood Furnace, the pages of a tattered book were being burned to ashes.

But strangely, the characters on the pages did not disappear.

The words peeled off from the pages one by one, each emitting a glow like fireflies.

Inside the Dan Wood Furnace, the characters danced and recombined.

The original "Royal Garden Cultivation Techniques" was reassembled, the same characters but in a different order, altered to something completely new.

Xin Lin was completely unaware of what was happening inside the Dan Wood Furnace.

Just then, as Xin Lin wondered about the reasons for Empress Feng's anger, the Dan Wood Furnace emitted a "ding," a clear and pleasant sound.

Knowing the Dan Wood Furnace, Xin Lin recognized this as a sign that the refinement was complete, and she shifted her gaze away from the Heaven-defying Book.

Lifting the lid of the Dan Wood Furnace, a page of paper was expelled.

Xin Lin glanced at the page.

"Spirit Taming Technique"

Xin Lin was taken aback. Looking at the few lines of small text on the leaf, the writing seemed more and more familiar.

"I am Long Chan, Longteng Taizong, who lived for ninety-nine years, spent my days with flowers, plants, and trees, despised by the Imperial Family..."

Xin Lin had a sudden realization—weren't these the writings of Longteng Taizong, considered the most useless Emperor in Longteng history?

Xin Lin had a good memory. With a fleeting glance earlier, she had memorized the handwriting.

Captain Yang had mentioned that this Taizong was unlearned and devoted his life only to planting and gardening, a famously mediocre Emperor in Longteng Country, barely mentioned in history books.

However, Gui Hu said that this book possessed the Emperor's Fortune.

Those who can gather auspicious energy must be either a great sage of the age or a strong cultivator; an average Human Emperor obviously could not gather such energy. Unless... he had always played the fool, a wolf in sheep's clothing, in truth a formidable Human Emperor!

A thought crossed Xin Lin's mind.

She quickly reviewed it again.

"The founder said, the sovereign is adept at controlling people. I have no desire to be a sovereign, yet I was born into the royal family. I detest the company of monarchs and ministers, the deceit and trickery of the harem. I would rather spend my life making friends with grass, trees, insects, and fish. I leave behind for posterity the Spirit Taming Technique, which is divided into Beginner, Master, and Ultimate levels. The Beginner can control the insects and animals of the world, the Master the Five Spirits of nature, and the Ultimate, Heaven and Earth and the intangible."

The three parts of the Spirit Taming Technique leaped upon the page.

Xin Lin read it all in one breath, her heart surging with excitement, yet the single page in her hand felt as heavy as a thousand pounds.

Chapter 323: Throwing Money Around

Throughout his life, the Dragon Ascending Emperor had achieved little in his youth and middle age, fatigued by the court's strife.

In his later years, he built a thatched hut within the Imperial Palace and withdrew from court affairs. No one knew that he had actually comprehended such a Spirit Taming Technique.

Unfortunately, the Emperor Taizhong realized it too late. Until his death, he had only mastered the basics.

Before he died, to prevent this technique from falling into the wrong hands, he disguised it as the Royal Garden Cultivation Technique and ordered the Crown Prince to seal it in the Royal Spiritual Weapon Vault.

The Emperor Taizhong meticulously hoped that in the years to come, a prince of the Longteng lineage would cast aside the pursuit of fame and profit, seeking out this Spirit Taming Technique.

Alas, from that moment on, the cultivation technique was left forgotten, sealed away on the first level, with no one paying it any attention.

If it hadn't been for Gui Hu specifically instructing Xin Lin to retrieve the book this time, it likely would have remained sealed in obscurity.

"What a Spirit Taming Technique, just don't know if it's truly that exceptional."

Xin Lin was filled with emotion after reading and firmly memorized the Spirit Taming Technique.

After Xin Lin had learned the Spirit Taming Technique, she took another look at the Heaven-defying Book.

"Life Master: Xin Lin.

Identity: Daughter of the former imperial physician, Chu Beiqing.

Cultivation:

Dark Power: Advanced martial master.

Spiritual Power: Intermediate Spirit Warrior.

Job: Beginner medical disciple, One-star Spirit Cuisine Master, rookie Summoning Master.

Heaven-defying Value: 62."

Her Heaven-defying Value had increased by 1 point during the process of learning.

Xin Lin felt like she had discovered a new continent, secretly thinking, if she had the chance to encounter Empress Feng again and infuriate her, it would also be a good method to game the Heaven-defying Value.

Suddenly, a growling noise came from her stomach.

Xin Lin looked up and realized that dawn was breaking.

Despite having eaten quite a bit at last night's celebration banquet, her exhaustion was great.

Seeing that it was still early, with some time before the Water Wraith Gang's breakfast, Xin Lin couldn't help but think of the Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly she made for Murong Ziyue last time.

As a One-star Spiritual Delicacy Master and a provider of spiritual food, why should she settle for less when it comes to her own stomach, especially now that she had a substantial amount of Heaven-defying Value at her disposal.

Xin Lin weighed her options, made her way to the pantry, gathered some ingredients, and took out the Dan Wood Furnace.

"Two portions of Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly."

Xin Lin acted like someone with deep pockets.

Originally a Xuanwu Fifth Realm, Murong Ziyue not only got rid of the poison in her body after eating a piece of Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly but also increased her cultivation by one level. Xin Lin figured that if she ate a piece, even if she didn't breakthrough, at least it would strengthen her body and recover some energy to confront Chu Tianyi throughout the day.

"Life Book tip: Crafting two servings of One-star Spiritual Delicacy will cost 20 Heaven-defying Value."

Soon, a fragrant aroma wafted from the Dan Wood Furnace.

Xin Lin couldn't wait and opened the furnace.

Inside, there lay two small, square pieces of braised pork belly, each no larger than a chunk of fermented bean curd.

Marbled with fat and lean, the meat shone a lustrous red—translucent fat like rock sugar, tender lean meat, and the entire piece emanated an indescribable fragrance as the juices dribbled.

After a moment's thought, Xin Lin carefully picked up one piece, planning to first eat one and save the other for Silly Chu.

Before the meat reached her mouth, she found herself eagerly salivating, about to taste the legendary Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly.

But before the meat could touch her lips, in the next moment, Xin Lin saw a gray blur falling from the sky.

The intruder moved with astonishing speed, and with a howl, swallowed the piece of Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly that Xin Lin had just prepared.

"!!!"

Xin Lin's eye twitched fiercely.

Chapter 324: Both of Them Bully Her!

"Spit it out!"

A thunderous roar echoed in the room.

Xin Lin's forehead veins popped like little earthworms.

Before Xin Lin could explode, a blur of gray whooshed in front of her

(Good, good, in this world only Mommy is the best~)

Pools of saliva suddenly appeared on the floor. Looking down, Xin Lin saw the Overlord Egg hugging her leg, rubbing against it while drooling continuously.

"You, you, you!"

Xin Lin, seeing the Overlord Egg, was livid and wished she could crush it into a pulp.

But upon closer inspection of its appearance, Xin Lin couldn't help but be caught between laughter and tears.

How had the Overlord Egg ended up like this overnight?

The Overlord Egg's bald egghead was dusty and covered in dirt, and its body still had chunks of ice stuck to it as it drooled, occasionally sniffing.

Last night was the most miserable one since the Overlord Egg had come into being.

It was imprisoned by the detestable Daddy in a ghastly place of ice and snow.

The cold wind howled, nearly freezing it to death.

Just when the Overlord Egg thought it would never see its adorable Mommy again, that detestable Daddy finally appeared and took it back home.

Mommy must have known it was hungry and tired, so she prepared delicious food for it.

The Overlord Egg was moved and hungry...

(Mommy, want more, want more)

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin immediately raised the Dan Wood Stove high.

Give me a break, one piece isn't enough? That's a Michelin-grade Spiritual Food with a Heaven-defying Value of 10, costing ten thousand taels per serving!

With a sudden void in her hand, Xin Lin was startled.

She saw a slender and attractive hand reaching over, the remaining piece of Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly eagerly falling into Gui Hu's ghostly claw.

Gui Hu leisurely consumed the piece... ate it!

The moment that tiny piece of meat entered his mouth, it was salivation-generating; the fat wasn't greasy at all, the lean meat had no toughness, and the juiciness was satisfying. Gui Hu felt like all the taste buds on his tongue had awakened.

A warm sensation swept over his body from the pit of his stomach.

Gui Hu raised an eyebrow and gave a terse compliment that wasn't quite praise.

"Barely palatable."

Who would have thought, this little hen had something redeemable besides Fu Xi's Energy?

It was certainly more delicious than the burnt chicken of Ma Jingtian from the night before.

After eating that, Gui Hu felt his Ghost Energy go haywire, but this piece of Wind Breath Braised Pork Belly calmed it right down.

Hmm, Gui Hu made a decision, he would eat the Spiritual Food cooked by the little hen from now on.

"!!!!"

Xin Lin stared at the now-empty Dan Wood Furnace, her body stiffening.

"Pride Corpse! Overlord Egg! Spit it out this instant!"

Xin Lin was furious, but by the time she turned around, both the corpse and the egg had vanished, leaving behind only two Sealing Spirit Talismans annoyingly fluttering in front of her.

All morning, Xin Lin was as black-faced as the bottom of a pot, her whole body radiating a "don't mess with me" vibe.

"Little Boss, although we're off to have a showdown, you don't have to look like you've lost your Daddy."

Ma Jingtian dared not offend Gui Hu or Xin Lin.

Splitting the difference, he started calling Xin Lin Little Boss, as Gui Hu was his official boss.

Ma Jingtian escorted Xin Lin and Chu Beiqing to the Chu Mansion for negotiations, glancing at the Little Boss and murmuring in his heart.

"Do you think it's better to go with a Taoist or a Monk for exorcising demons and driving away ghosts?"

Xin Lin suddenly blurted out.

She had changed her mind; she was going to kill that damned Pride Corpse.

A crooked beam leads to a skewed column; if this continued, sooner or later the Overlord Egg would be spoiled rotten.

Chapter 325: As Soon as We Enter the Chu Mansion, the Quarreling Begins

Ma Jingtian shivered, feeling an overwhelming killing aura emanating from Little Boss.

In contrast, beside Xin Lin was Silly Chu, who was oblivious to the impending quarrel at the Chu Mansion. Along the way, he gleefully pulled along his beloved daughter, eliciting blushing giggles from the young women and ladies they passed.

"Little Boss, have you encountered evil spirits? Taoists and monks are of no help; if you have some connections, you could try inviting a Holy Monk from Taichang Temple. It is said that a Holy Monk is formidable, capable of exorcising demons with just a few chants."

Ma Jingtian spoke with feigned profundity.

No, that's not right, Xin Lin thought. Having learned Ghost Power from the Pride Corpse, she worried that the so-called Holy Monk from Taichang Temple might exorcise her too.

Xin Lin snorted, and the trio had already reached the front gate of the Chu Mansion.

After last night's commotion, Xin Lin's reputation was well known both inside and outside the Chu Mansion.

From a distance, several guards hastened to hide themselves.

After all, Silly Chu didn't hold back last night, and several Protectors who were guards were still lying down moaning.

After a while, Chu Zhaonan came out.

"My little niece, think it through. Do you really want to split from the family? Chu Tianyi has invited your great-uncle, three of your great-uncle grandfathers, and a clan uncle. These people are almost of your grandfather's generation. The great-uncle is the current Sect Master of the Chu Family and a military general. One of your great-uncle grandfathers is a Hospital Director at the Imperial Hospital, and the clan uncle is an Assistant Minister. Be careful with your words later. Also, your friend here, I'm afraid it's inconvenient for him to enter."

Chu Zhaonan glanced at Ma Jingtian as he reminded him.

No wonder his little niece dared to challenge Chu Tianyi for a family split, she had sought external help. But, thinking a washed-up member of the Water Wraith Gang could shake Chu Tianyi is utterly overly optimistic.

"Third Uncle, Ma Gang Leader is a friend of my dad, and my dad also has a share in Chu Mansion. Couldn't he invite a friend into the mansion?"

Xin Lin eyed Chu Zhaonan.

Chu Zhaonan was a thankless wretch; she knew he wouldn't really support her in the upcoming family dispute.

"Friend... Drumstick friend..."

Silly Chu, while pulling Ma Jingtian, had accepted him as a friend for the sake of those drumsticks.

Ma Jingtian felt a warmth in his heart.

Given his humble background and ruffian status, if not for some virtuous connections, he wouldn't be associated at all with a distinguished family like Chu Mansion.

Little Boss openly acknowledged their friendship.

Chu Zhaonan was speechless, smiling bitterly as he shook his head and led the three of them into the mansion.

As Xin Lin stepped through the gate, a scene flashed quickly through her mind.

"You country bumpkin!"

Chu Miaoyun's fierce face appeared before her, her hand waving a handkerchief towards Xin Lin's face, scattering a faint green mist...

The scene flashed by.

Xin Lin came back to her senses, raising her eyebrows slightly, and slowed her steps. She casually asked.

"Third Uncle, why don't I see Sister Miaoyun?"

Miaoyun was about the same age as Xin Lin, just a few months older.

Ever since the Zixiao Palace Exam, Xin Lin had not seen Chu Miaoyun.

"Do you know Miaoyun?"

Chu Zhaonan asked curiously.

"We met at the Imperial Examination, it was as if we were...instantly familiar."

Xin Lin spoke nonchalantly.

"Indeed, you are of similar age and will both be students of the Qingtian Academy in the future. Miaoyun was ill a few days ago, but fortunately, she had a stroke of luck and found herself a famous master after recovering. She is prideful; when you meet her, try not to provoke her."

Chu Zhaonan spoke of Chu Miaoyun, his expression slightly nuanced.

Chapter 326: Poison?

Seeing Chu Zhaonan's expression, Chu Miaoyun seemed to have another stroke of luck.

The scene that had just flashed through Xin Lin's mind was not to be taken lightly.

After entering the Chu Mansion, and passing through a winding path deep with flowers, and a seven-holed rockery, a few people emerged.

Chu Miaoyun, accompanied by a handful of Maids, came walking towards her.

"How come you're here?"

Chu Miaoyun's complexion was rosy, and she seemed to be in a good mood. Upon seeing Xin Lin, her eyes widened.

Chu Miaoyun looked exactly the same as what Xin Lin had seen with her superpower, dressed in a pale green gauze dress and wearing a light onion-hued cape. Her features were delicately drawn, pride brimming in her eyes, exuding a domineering air as if she was looking down on everyone through her nostrils.

Xin Lin's nostrils twitched slightly as she smelled a fragrance emanating from Chu Miaoyun.

That scent was not the common fragrance of powder or rouge used by young ladies; Xin Lin couldn't help but become more vigilant.

"Miaoyun, you should recognize Xin Lin. She's your elder uncle's daughter who fell on hard times outside, and has just returned. You've been recuperating these past few days, and your father probably hasn't had the chance to tell you yet."

Chu Zhaonan chuckled twice.

"Pah! She's clearly an imposter, reeking of rusticity from head to toe. I certainly don't acknowledge such a relative."

Chu Miaoyun held her head high, full of pride.

She had heard about the concerns of the Zixiao Palace Exam.

Could she have become the top scorer of the Imperial Examination without the favoritism of Murong Ziyue and the Emperor?

Chu Miaoyun glanced at Xin Lin's pale face and found it incredibly irritating.

"Not at all, I also don't have relatives who are the dregs of society."

Xin Lin laughed mockingly twice.

"You country bumpkin!"

Upon hearing this, Chu Miaoyun became enraged.

She intended to teach Xin Lin a lesson, but then she remembered that Xin Lin was an Advanced Spirit Master with Superior Talent; it was said that even Jin Chen had been badly beaten by her. In hand-to-hand combat, she was clearly no match.

Chu Miaoyun clenched her teeth and, glancing again at Xin Lin's exquisite appearance, became even more jealous and envious.

Thinking of the poison her master had just taught her, she sneered and suddenly flung a pale green handkerchief from within her sleeve towards Xin Lin's face.

Xin Lin's eyes darkened.

Chu Miaoyun felt the figure in front of her vanish in an instant, and someone kicked her hard from behind.

"Ouch!"

Chu Miaoyun fell flat on her face to the ground.

That pale green scarf, with uncanny accuracy, landed right on her own face.

As soon as the handkerchief touched Chu Miaoyun's face, she screamed in agony.

"My face, my face."

On her face, tiny rashes emerged at a visible rate on her fair skin - red and itchy. As soon as Chu Miaoyun scratched, they broke open.

Her two Maids hurried to help her, but as soon as they touched Chu Miaoyun, they felt unbearable itchiness and dared not get any closer.

"What are you two doing!"

Chu Miaoyun's cries of pain filled the air, and in a moment, her face was scratched bloody.

At this moment, Chu Tianyi arrived from the other end of the flower path.

Upon seeing Chu Miaoyun fallen on the ground.

Chu Tianyi, hurt for her, helped his precious daughter up.

Seeing Chu Miaoyun's state, Chu Tianyi was both shocked and furious.

"Xin Lin, how dare you! You actually had the audacity to poison Miaoyun!"

"Poison? Absurd, since when did our Chu Family produce such unworthy descendants to use such despicable means?"

Behind him stood an elder with all white hair and two middle-aged men.

The elder at the front fixed his piercing gaze on Xin Lin.

He huffed coldly, and with his palm shaped like a claw, aimed to grab Xin Lin and accuse her.

Chapter 327: Interrogation

The elder was precisely the granduncle mentioned by Chu Zhaonan, also the Left Supervisory General in the imperial court, a fierce general under Zuo Zong, second only to Longteng.

His claw-like hand had the force of a thousand pounds, fast and accurate; Xin Lin, caught off guard, found herself with nowhere to retreat.

But just at this moment, Silly Chu suddenly started wailing loudly, brushing away the elder's hand like an old hen protecting her chick, pulling her daughter behind him.

"Picking on... picking on... my daughter..."

Chu Beiqing spoke incoherently, glaring at the elder.

"Bei Qing! What is this..."

Once the elder saw Chu Beiqing's behavior, he sighed and withdrew his hand.

Before coming here, he had heard about Xin Lin from Chu Tianyi.

A wild girl of unknown origin demanding a division of the family property upon arrival, the elder had no liking for Xin Lin and didn't plan to acknowledge her as a junior of the family at all.

Yet Chu Beiqing's actions had shocked the several elders present.

They had never seen the Chu Beiqing they knew protect someone to such an extent.

He spread his arms wide, shielding the young girl behind him, his face filled with hostility, glaring at them.

His stance was no different from a fierce beast defending its cubs.

The other uncles of the family looked at each other in disbelief.

"Granduncle, you must seek justice for Miao Yun; this child has suffered. She was recently framed and lost her True Qi, and now she's been poisoned."

At the sight of his daughter's disfigured face, Chu Tianyi nearly fainted from anger.

His face full of resentment and malice, he pointed at Xin Lin and cursed loudly.

"Xin Lin, you are so wicked and malicious; if you are jealous of Miao Yun, you don't need to go to such extremes. At such a young age, harming others with poison, won't you be affronting Heaven and Earth in the future?"

"Chu Tianyi, open your eyes and see, where has it been seen that I am jealous of your daughter. Jealous of her coming last in the Written Examination, being disqualified from the Martial Arts Examination? Besides, the poison is hers, she attempted to poison but ended up harming herself, and you blame me, huh?"

Xin Lin spread her hands.

Chu Tianyi's face turned the color of a liver.

Behind him, Chu Miaoyun, feeling guilty, lowered her head and dared not speak out.

"You are talking nonsense. Miao Yun has a kind heart; since childhood, she has never even dared to step on an ant, how could she possibly poison you!"

Chu Tianyi said with a cold laugh.

"Don't spout nonsense, Xin Lin, Miao Yun is Tianyi's daughter, a medic since childhood, how could she have touched poison."

The third uncle of the Chu Family, Chu Yuanpan, scolded.

In the eyes of these clan uncles, Chu Miaoyun's conduct and manner were impeccable, and she was clever as ice and snow, a typical Chu Mansion young miss.

Unlike Xin Lin, brought up by an unknown mother, making friends with all sorts of riffraff, causing trouble upon arriving at the Chu Mansion, simply unreasonable.

"Indeed, she was the one who used the poison. My maid and third uncle can bear witness."

With the support of several elders, Chu Miaoyun became even more audacious.

Her two maids also echoed in agreement.

"Zhaonan, you tell us. Who was it that used the poison?"

An uncle from the clan asked.

"It's just the children making a fuss, I didn't see clearly what exactly happened."

Chu Zhaonan said, looking helpless.

She's well-mannered and as smart as snow and ice, huh.

Upon hearing this, Xin Lin let out a cold laugh, stepped forward, picked up a tree branch, and lifted a water-green handkerchief with it.

"What are you going to do!"

Chu Miaoyun spoke nervously.

"I just want the uncles to see clearly who was responsible for the poisoning. This handkerchief, finely made with a shiny and smooth color, is obviously something only the young lady could use. A country bumpkin like me couldn't afford such an expensive handkerchief. And this handkerchief, it's been poisoned."

Xin Lin spoke in a measured and unhurried manner.

Chapter 328: How's That for a Slap in the Face

Xin Lin's face changed, but soon returned to normal.

The master had said that her poison was exceptionally rare, something this country bumpkin would definitely not recognize.

"The poison above is called Cangqian Flower Pollen. It is made by drying and grinding the pistils of the Cangqian Flower. This powder is highly toxic; once in contact, it initially causes ulceration and swelling, but if not treated within three hours, it will result in the skin and flesh rotting away."

Xin Lin spoke slowly and methodically, reciting verbatim what she had read from the Mystical Medicine Book.

"Look, look, it was indeed she who poisoned. How could we allow such a vicious girl to acknowledge her ancestry and return to the family."

Chu Tianyi pointed at Xin Lin, his face filled with anger.

"And these Cangqian Flowers are right behind you, planted in abundance."

Xin Lin turned the conversation, her gaze shifting towards the bright pink flowers planted densely along the flower path.

The expressions of several uncles from the Chu Family changed drastically, their eyes unanimously focusing on Chu Miaoyun.

Not far behind Chu Miaoyun, there was a basket with freshly picked pistils.

"You... you are talking nonsense. I..."

Chu Miaoyun was both shocked and bewildered, taking a few steps back, as several pieces of the same green-colored silk handkerchiefs fell from her sleeves to the ground.

How could this country bumpkin recognize the Cangqian Flower, the master clearly stated this was a rare poison imported from the Southern Border.

"Miao Yun, you are being too frivolous, where did you learn such lowly tricks."

Uncle Chu was so angry his face changed color, he snorted coldly, and looking back at Chu Tianyi, appeared very displeased.

"Why don't you help the young lady back to her room and dig up all these flowers."

Chu Tianyi's face was a mixture of green and red, looking extremely unsightly.

How ridiculous, how could this little ghost know about these things.

"This is all a misunderstanding, uncles, she is just a child being foolish."

Chu Zhaonan hurriedly came forward, trying to smooth things over.

The uncles also appeared uneasy, sheepishly following Chu Zhaonan to the main hall.

Inside the main hall, Uncle Chu sat at the top.

Two uncles sat to his left and right, with Chu Tianyi and Chu Zhaonan each at one side.

Xin Lin and Ma Jingtian stood next to Silly Chu.

"My dear girl... sit... sit down."

Perhaps due to the crowd, Silly Chu was visibly anxious, he pulled Xin Lin, insisting she sit while he remained standing.

"Bei Qing, your illness has worsened, now you even start talking about dividing the estate, if your father knew, he would be terribly upset."

Uncle Chu looked displeased seeing Xin Lin, pulling a long face as he rebuked Chu Beiqing.

"You are the... silly one..."

Silly Chu's temper also flared up, he stood up suddenly, pulling Xin Lin and started heading outside.

He might be silly, but he still felt that these people were continuously bullying his precious daughter.

"Dad, don't rush. You forgot, today we came to divide the estate, after dividing, we will leave."

Xin Lin said lightly, pressing her silly father back into his seat.

"I don't care whether you're actually Bei Qing's daughter or not, you can't meddle in this family matter. Since the incident with Bei Qing, the three Chu brothers have maintained brotherly respect and harmony, the Chu Mansion cannot afford to lose face by dividing."

Uncle Chu was even more dissatisfied being confronted by Chu Beiqing, convinced that Chu Beiqing had been instigated by Xin Lin.

"What a show of brotherly respect and harmony."

Xin Lin scoffed, and suddenly yanked open her silly father's clothes.

"See clearly now, this is your so-called good brotherhood."

Silly Chu's clothes were shabby, and with a tear, they ripped open a large hole, revealing his chest.

Chapter 329: Settling Old Scores

After glancing at Chu Beiqing, Chu Tianyi let out a cold sneer.

In front of Chu Beiqing, the skin was intact, save for his ragged clothes. What of that? Chu Beiqing was a fool—dressing him in fine clothes would be a waste.

"What does that prove? If Beiqing's daily necessities aren't sufficient, he need only speak up—it's all within the family, why quibble over such trivial matters?"

The great-uncle expressed dissatisfaction, and the other two uncles echoed his sentiments, all with a tone that encouraged reconciliation rather than division.

In the Imperial Study Room of the Longteng Palace, Emperor Longteng was reviewing memorials.

"Your Majesty, news from the Chu Mansion. The little miss of the Chu Family has just brought Chu Beiqing back home, stating she wants to divide the family."

The eunuch by his side spoke.

Emperor Longteng paused briefly with the memorial in hand, then continued his review.

"That young one does have some ability."

"Your Majesty, aren't you going to intervene?"

The eunuch probed tentatively.

"The rain falls upon Earth, a mother takes a husband. I too, would like to see, what stance Beiqing takes towards this family division."

Emperor Longteng's gaze was distant. It had been years—Beiqing's foolishness should have shown some improvement by now. It was time to see if the medicine Xin Lin provided was potent enough.

Inside the Chu Mansion, Silly Chu wore a confused look, glancing left, then right. His chest was smooth and seemed unharmed.

"Some wounds are hidden and can't be seen with the naked eye. Some people take advantage of this, striking in secret."

Having said this, Xin Lin suddenly pressed down on a spot in the lower right abdomen of Silly Chu.

Silly Chu cried out in pain with a sharp "Ouch," and grimaced, clearly hurting.

Soon, a long, thin bruise appeared beneath Silly Chu's abdomen.

As Xin Lin pressed on his left chest, Silly Chu turned pale with pain, and a fist mark also appeared alongside bruises on his back and arms as Xin Lin touched different areas, revealing various hidden injuries.

The scars included those from fists and whips.

For every new wound that appeared, Chu Tianyi's face grew uglier.

Before long, a multitude of wounds had surfaced on Chu Beiqing's body.

Witnessing her dear fool of a father sweating in pain, Xin Lin felt a twinge of heartache and wiped the sweat from his brow for him.

In her previous life, Xin Lin was the Female Soldier King; she was well-versed in all sorts of visible and hidden injuries.

While checking Chu Beiqing's body, she had already discovered he was riddled with hidden injuries.

These injuries had accumulated over the years and recent months and would have been invisible without special means.

So many scars would be distressing not just to the Chu Family elders but even to a local ruffian like Ma Jingtian.

"Who knows when these injuries were incurred. As an able-bodied man, I can't very well keep him locked up,"

Chu Tianyi continued his evasive arguments.

Xin Lin had intentionally left these wounds for this very day.

"Daddy, I know you have a good memory. I'll ask, and you'll answer. If you answer well, I'll take you to have roast chicken tonight."

Looking at the wounds on Silly Chu, Xin Lin's eyes moistened. She gently stroked her silly father's fluffy head and cooed comforting words.

Seeing his daughter's tearful eyes, Silly Chu smiled with a grin.

"Not painful... daughter... don't cry..."

Xin Lin nodded and asked softly.

"Who left this whip mark?"

"Chu... Yuan..."

"And this fist wound?"

"Zhao... Cheng..."

"What about this one?"

"Bai... Wei..."

Chu Beiqing sought to cheer his daughter up, answering each question Xin Lin asked with seriousness.

One by one, he recounted the names of his assailants—all were people from within the Chu Mansion, amounting to no fewer than ten!

Chapter 330: Abuse of Vigilante Justice

Chu Beiqing might be foolish, but he is no idiot.

These wounds, these people, each matter is set in stone.

After counting the last injury, the faces of the Chu Family's elders could no longer hide their dismay.

"What excellent brotherly respect and filial piety from the uncles, there should be no issues with me speaking of splitting the family now, right? If you have any objections, we might as well take this matter to the Emperor to seek judgment, and talk about the injuries my father has endured these past years at the Chu Mansion."

Grand Uncle scolded.

"Chu Tianyi, what exactly is going on here?"

Chu Tianyi wiped the cold sweat from his forehead.

"Uncles, please do not believe her nonsense; my elder brother is not in his right mind, he must have been bewitched by someone to spout such words."

"Whether it's true or false, we will know once we speak before the Emperor. My father is pitiable, he has toiled selflessly for Longteng Country, and yet he suffers bullying. The Emperor will certainly stand up for us."

Xin Lin dabbed the corner of her eye, squeezing out a tear.

Silly Chu, at her side, also wiped his eye, imitating her quite convincingly.

"No, no, no, we are all family after all. Anything can be settled at home; there's no need to take it to the Emperor."

Grand Uncle urged repeatedly.

The other two uncles also joined in persuading.

Emperor Longteng's favoritism toward Chu Beiqing is well known.

He always instructed the members of the Chu Family to take good care of Chu Beiqing.

However, the members of the Chu Family harbored their self-interest, and who truly cared about the life or death of a fool?

If Xin Lin were truly to report to Emperor Longteng, it's possible that everyone might be implicated.

"Do we just let my father be bullied like this? No, I must seek justice from the Emperor."

Xin Lin was persistent and started to leave, dragging her foolish father with her.

"No, no, no, let's split the estate. In fact, the old master mentioned it to me before as well, but back then, the three brothers were not yet married, so the matter was put on hold. Now that the three brothers are all married and have started their own families, the division of the family estate is indeed possible."

Grand Uncle pulled at Xin Lin, while the two uncles blocked Chu Beiqing.

Xin Lin continued to clamor, intending to report to Emperor Longteng.

"Stop right there! What exactly do you want in order to not take this to the Emperor!"

Grand Uncle trembled with anger, his white beard quivering.

"One, split the family; two, punish the wrongdoers harshly."

Xin Lin said bluntly, digging in her heels.

"Show mercy, Grandson!"

"Grandson..."

Inside the Chu Mansion, a cacophony of cries for fathers and mothers rang out.

Those wrongdoers mentioned by Chu Beiqing, from house servants to guards, to stewards, each one was tied up.

"Father, do you see clearly, were these the people who bullied you?"

Xin Lin sat in the Grandmaster's chair in the main hall, exuding an air of leisure and contentment.

Chu Tianyi stood to the side, filled with repressed anger, his eyes fixated on Xin Lin; if glares could kill, Xin Lin would have been riddled with holes.

The foolish father obediently sat to the side, repeatedly nodding his head.

"Ma Gang Leader, would you mind lending a hand? For anyone who has bullied my father once, disable an arm; for anyone who hit him twice, break both legs; for three times... disable their limbs and expel them from the Chu Mansion."

Xin Lin spoke calmly.

"Alright."

Ma Jingtian rolled up his sleeves, his face twisted into a sinister smile.

"Xin Lin, you dare! This is an abuse of private punishment!"

Chu Tianyi was incensed. These people, who dared to strike Chu Beiqing in secret, were naturally Chu Tianyi's trusted henchmen.

"Not resorting to private punishment is also fine; I will go tell the Emperor right now, let him see the injuries on the body of his life-saving benefactor."

Xin Lin jumped up.

"Beat them! Beat them hard!"

The few elders at the side hesitated not a moment, unanimously encouraging.