

Little Girl 871

Chapter 871: The Farce at the Birthday Banquet (Part 2)

"Summon the Third Prince, I want to see what kind of Xuan Spirit Beast this is, so remarkable. Is it possible that no one in my entire Imperial Palace of Longteng recognizes it?"

Emperor Longteng was also provoked into a smoldering fury.

General Nalan's mockery, the strange looks from foreign guests, were all endless sarcasm in the eyes of Emperor Longteng.

Foreign tribute, such a significant matter, and yet the Third Prince Long Qingchen did not report it.

This time, Emperor Longteng intended to use the birthday banquet to display Longteng's national strength to the world, but unexpectedly, it backfired.

"Your Majesty, please calm your anger. Chen'er must have his reasons for doing so. Perhaps he wants to present a surprise to you, and that Spiritual Food might have long been prepared."

Empress Feng hurriedly tried to soothe Emperor Longteng.

"Then let us see when the Third Prince will present this surprise."

General Nalan sneered.

"Help... help..."

A cry for help came from outside.

Chu Beiqing, disheveled and barefoot, ran inside.

His face was in a panic as he rushed into the Qingque Platform.

Behind him followed a bizarrely shaped monster.

The soldiers guarding outside Qingque Platform had already surrounded it.

However, before they could approach, the creature without a nose or eyes suddenly spewed out ice pillars.

Those ice pillars, once they touched people, froze the soldiers instantly, immobilizing them on the spot.

"Bei Qing? What happened?"

Emperor Longteng was also moved when he saw the state of Chu Beiqing.

He quickly stepped forward to shield Chu Beiqing.

The monster, seeing Emperor Longteng, charged forward, ready to attack.

"Protect the Emperor!"

General Zuo, Grandmaster Jin, and others, upon seeing the monster, rushed forward to defend Emperor Longteng.

In an instant, blades flashed and countless weapons fell upon the monster.

Curiously, the Dark monster's entire body seemed soft as if boneless, with only a shell on its back.

But when swords and knives approached, it remained unscathed, without any sign of injury.

"What is this monster?"

The soldiers and generals were all stunned.

"What a creature, Your Majesty, do not panic, I shall take it down."

General Zuo gathered a breath of True Qi, then his arms vibrated, and a storm-like True Qi gathered around him.

"Bold creature, dare to cause a disturbance at my Qingque Platform, I will shatter it into pieces."

Grandmaster Jin also shouted, spiritual energy swirling around him, ready to burst at any moment.

"Gentlemen, that is a gift from my Hai Zhang Country to the Emperor. Any harm done would be disrespectful to Hai Zhang."

Before General Zuo and Grandmaster Jin could exhibit their divine skills, General Nalan's cold shout was heard.

General Zuo and Grandmaster Jin were both taken aback and looked towards Emperor Longteng together.

"Monster... mon... scared... scared"

Beside Emperor Longteng, Chu Beiqing, with a pale face, clutched the Emperor's Dragon Robe, mumbling timidly.

The monster also seemed intimidated by so many people, stopped its attack but watched Emperor Longteng and Chu Beiqing intently.

Emperor Longteng's expression was complex, glancing at Chu Beiqing and then the monster continuously spitting Ice Arrows.

Beside them, the expressions of Young Prince Tu and Empress Feng varied, as they all looked towards Chu Beiqing.

This fool is actually unharmed?

"Everyone, halt."

Emperor Longteng pondered for a moment, waved his hand, and Grandmaster Jin and General Zuo had no choice but to retreat to the side.

In the vast Qingque Platform, all eyes instantly focused on the monster at the center.

Chapter 872: Presenting a Gift on Behalf of My Father

"General Nalan, is this your gift?"

Emperor Longteng consoled Chu Beiqing a few words, his gaze again falling on the bizarre-looking creature.

"Indeed. My Sea King Hai Zhang specially selected this exquisite Spiritual Food, named Tai Sui Clam; its taste is delicious and unimaginably precious. Consuming its meat can prolong life. I sent it a thousand miles to Longteng in hopes of gifting it to Emperor Longteng. Alas, it appears that Longteng has no one who can appreciate it, how laughable and regrettable. I heard that your country's Third Prince has punished several Imperial Chefs lately, yet none could recognize the Tai Sui Clam."

General Nalan's face was full of mockery.

The veins on Emperor Longteng's forehead subtly throbbed.

"Summon the people from the Imperial Kitchen."

Soon after, the eunuch came hurriedly to report.

"Your Majesty, all the people from the Imperial Kitchen have been locked up."

Emperor Longteng's complexion worsened.

"What about Master Chen from De Yue Building and President Mu? I refuse to believe that there is truly no one in Longteng who can prepare this exquisite Spiritual Food."

President Mu and Master Chen were quickly summoned.

When they saw the monster, President Mu and Master Chen also looked helpless.

"Is it true that no one in Longteng can prepare the Tai Sui Clam!"

Emperor Longteng was furious.

His voice of questioning echoed endlessly on Qingque Platform.

"Father!"

At that moment, an anxious voice, accompanied by the sound of footsteps, quickly approached.

A small figure rushed in from outside like the wind.

"Xin Lin, how dare you! The national banquet is being held at Qingque Platform; you dare trespass! Be careful; I will have the Emperor deal with you for disrespect."

Following that was the angry reprimand of the Third Prince Long Qingchen.

Xin Lin and Long Qingchen appeared one after the other.

"Darling..."

As soon as Chu Beiqing, who had been trembling in fear, heard Xin Lin's voice, his eyes shone brightly, and he jumped up, running towards Xin Lin.

"Father, are you alright?"

Xin Lin saw that her foolish father was safe and breathed a sigh of relief.

Only then did she notice the strangeness inside Qingque Platform.

All the ministers along with the displeased Emperor and Empress of Longteng and the dumbfounded Third Prince Long Qingchen.

"Greetings, Your Majesty, Empress Feng."

Xin Lin glanced at the self-satisfied General Nalan, the kneeling President Mu, and Master Chen, vaguely understanding something.

Emperor Longteng waved his hand, feeling utterly powerless.

"Your Majesty, this commoner girl has come to apologize to the Emperor on behalf of my father. Father didn't prepare any gift for Your Majesty's birthday, but this commoner girl wishes to offer a gift to you, hoping the Emperor would kindly accept."

After thinking for a moment, Xin Lin suddenly spoke.

"Presumptuous! Can't you see the Emperor is troubled and has no time for your gift?"

Empress Feng berated.

"Empress."

Emperor Longteng waved his hand.

"Xin Lin, what gift do you have?"

"Your Majesty, Xin Lin has recently learned a new Spiritual Food, but has been lacking ingredients. Just at this banquet for Your Majesty's birthday, there are suitable ingredients, so I boldly wish to borrow the ingredients from Your Majesty and present this gift."

Xin Lin said respectfully.

"Oh, which ingredient?"

Emperor Longteng was slightly startled.

Xin Lin wished to demonstrate her skills?

"Your Majesty?"

Empress Feng had a look of disbelief; at this moment, the Emperor was still engaging with Xin Lin, oblivious to General Nalan and those foreign guests' mocking gazes?

"It is precisely it, the Emperor Toad."

After Xin Lin spoke, she pointed to not far from her at that oddly shaped Five-star Dark Spiritual Beast.

Chapter 873: A Shocking Statement

Emperor Toad?

The court officials and foreign guests looked in the direction Xin Lin pointed.

"Xin Lin, what nonsense are you talking about? This Dark Spirit Beast was clearly given by General Nalan, what does it have to do with you?"

Long Qingchen almost jumped up.

He had seen shameless people before, but never one so shameless.

Chu Beiqing came empty-handed to celebrate the birthday, which was forgivable.

His daughter was even more shameless, directly taking someone else's grand gift as her own?

Over this Dark Spirit Beast, he was already at his wit's end. Xin Lin's nonsense was making it hard for him to explain things to his father.

"Xin Lin, that was the Tai Sui Clam sent by General Nalan from Hai Zhang Country."

Emperor Longteng lightly coughed, reminding Xin Lin.

"May I ask, General Nalan, is this Tai Sui Clam also called Emperor Toad?"

Xin Lin looked at General Nalan.

"Yes. Do you know Emperor Toad?"

General Nalan was somewhat surprised.

Being in Longteng for such a long time, no one recognized the Emperor Toad; didn't expect a little girl to do so?

But even if she recognizes it, so what? General Nalan did not believe Xin Lin could prepare it.

Being a Five-star Dark Spiritual Beast, in a Spiritual Food Country like Hai Zhang, it would at least require a Five-star Spirit Chef to prepare.

The little girl before him was young; being able to cook would be impressive enough.

"If it's Emperor Toad, then that's right."

Xin Lin bowed, expressing thanks.

"Father, she..."

Long Qingchen still wanted to say something.

"Shut up, you think the trouble you've caused isn't big enough?"

Emperor Longteng glared angrily at Long Qingchen.

"Ladies and gentlemen, no need to panic, actually, this is just a play arranged by His Majesty to welcome our esteemed guests."

In front of over a hundred guests, Xin Lin confidently performed a bow.

"A play? Little girl, what a big tone you have. Are you implying that everything that just happened was fake?"

General Nalan was taken aback, then immediately mocked.

"What's true or false, General Nalan, why bother? As long as I can prepare the Emperor Toad."

Xin Lin pointed at the Emperor Toad.

"Xin Lin, you can't just spout nonsense. You can prepare the Emperor Toad? I doubt you can even get close."

Master Chen reprimanded from the side.

This Emperor Toad is extremely formidable, the ice arrow it sprays is deadly, not to mention, no culinary handbook has ever recorded how to prepare it.

If Xin Lin just casually claims she can prepare Emperor Toad and something goes wrong later, being a member of the Spiritual Cuisine Master Association, it wouldn't be the Association's reputation at stake?

"Whether I can prepare it, we'll know after trying. However, before preparing, I want to ask His Majesty to grant me two requests."

Xin Lin pleaded with Emperor Longteng.

"Xin Lin, you have some nerve, daring to negotiate terms with His Majesty?"

Empress Feng looked displeased, Xin Lin was becoming increasingly presumptuous.

"It's not negotiating terms, just requesting His Majesty's help to release the Imperial Kitchen's chefs and dining officers, pardoning their punishments. The Imperial Kitchen is empty now, without anyone preparing the royal feast, how can the birthday banquet proceed?"

Upon hearing this, Emperor Longteng glared at Long Qingchen.

The latter shrank his neck, not daring to speak.

"Release the people from the Imperial Kitchen, pardon them without punishment. What is the second request then?"

Emperor Longteng asked.

"Your Majesty, do you truly believe her?"

Empress Feng was shocked.

Emperor Longteng glanced at Empress Feng, thinking, how could she be so inflexible this time?

At this point, it's not about whether Xin Lin can prepare Emperor Toad, at least she can recognize it.

Whereas other Spiritual Delicacy Masters, including Five-star Spirit Chefs like President Mu, wouldn't prepare Emperor Toad or dare to make a move.

Chapter 874: Borrowing Power

Longteng Country, no one!

If this news gets out, how will Emperor Longteng maintain his footing on the mainland?

In such a situation, as long as someone is willing to make a move, even if it might fail, it's better than admitting defeat.

"Xin Lin is the daughter of Bei Qing. I trust her as I trust Bei Qing."

Emperor Longteng spoke earnestly.

Upon hearing this, the surrounding ministers all nodded slightly, whispering to each other, praising Emperor Longteng for his benevolent heart and his consideration for past relationships.

"The second matter is, the young lady wishes to borrow the Longteng Stele."

Xin Lin pointed to the Longteng Stele which had been moved to the corner.

She glanced at it, clearly noticing the Longteng Stele trembling slightly.

"What does the Longteng Stele have to do with preparing Spiritual Food?"

Emperor Longteng was puzzled, and the ministers were also abuzz with discussion.

"Move the Longteng Stele over here."

Although somewhat unclear, since Xin Lin proposed it, Emperor Longteng naturally complied.

General Nalan's expression became more serious.

At the side, Young Master Tu also had an inexplicable look, glancing at Chu Beiqing, then at Xin Lin.

In the center of Qingque Platform, the Emperor Toad remained motionless, and no one dared to approach it without permission.

"Place the Longteng Stele over there."

Xin Lin pointed near the Emperor Toad, causing the guards' faces to change.

"If I tell you to move it, move it. The Longteng Stele is protected by the True Dragon and is the leader among the Sea Beasts. Once it appears, all Sea Beasts will be intimidated by it."

Xin Lin said loudly.

The Longteng Stele let out a mournful wail.

Little ancestor, please stop exaggerating. I'm just a little worm.

"So, you're saying that once the Longteng Stele appears, the Emperor Toad will be intimidated by it?"

Emperor Longteng's face lit up with joy.

Other foreign guests also looked at the Longteng Stele upon hearing this.

"Exactly."

After Xin Lin spoke, she patted the Longteng Stele.

Old friend, it's all up to you.

The Longteng Stele, filled with frustration, could only slowly release the True Qi within.

Although not as impressive as Xin Lin said, it was, after all, still a breath of the Dragon.

Once the Dragon Breath emerged, the Emperor Toad indeed shuddered and didn't move again.

Though somewhat exaggerated, the Dragon Breath is indeed something the aquatic creatures avoid and fear.

The Emperor Toad, although a Five-star Dark Spiritual Beast, had not yet developed intelligence and was quite clumsy.

It felt the presence of the Dragon Breath but couldn't distinguish whether it was around a Dragon or Dragon Breath, causing it to tremble with fear and not dare to move.

Xin Lin walked toward the Emperor Toad.

"Xin Lin, be careful."

President Mu reminded.

President Mu and others had personally witnessed the scene where the Emperor Toad injured people earlier.

"It doesn't matter, I ask everyone to take your seats. I'll prepare the Spiritual Food for you now."

After saying this, Xin Lin had already walked to the side of the Emperor Toad.

Not far away, General Nalan's tiger eyes narrowed, and he sneered inwardly.

"Little girl, do you really think that just because you've used the Longteng Stele to subdue the Emperor Toad, you can do whatever you want?"

As she approached the Emperor Toad, Xin Lin hadn't touched it yet when she felt a chill envelop her body.

So cold.

Xin Lin couldn't help but shiver.

Near the Emperor Toad, the temperature dropped sharply, and a cold aura emanated.

In no time, a layer of white frost covered Xin Lin's eyebrows and hair, her fair face turning an iron-blue color, and her lips purple.

"Little girl, I advise you not to force it. I'm not sure how you found out about the Emperor Toad, but it was captured from the Deep Sea Ice Channel and is ice-cold throughout. If an ordinary person approaches, they will inevitably freeze to death."

General Nalan implied that even if Xin Lin knew how to handle the Emperor Toad, she had no way to proceed.

Chapter 875: Five-star Spiritual Food

A loud "snap" sounded.

And there stood Young Master Tu.

"General Nalan, isn't this too demanding? This Emperor Toad is indeed hard to swallow. Let me lend a hand."

As he finished speaking, Young Master Tu stepped forward.

"No need, Young Prince. I have a tough skin and thick flesh; this bit of cold doesn't matter."

Xin Lin spoke, then the Earth Fire Pulse in her body trembled, and the Fire Spirit within her slowly began to release.

Fire Spirit.

General Nalan sneered internally.

Just a bit of Fire Spirit trying to counter the cold from the deep-sea Emperor Toad? This girl is truly fearless like a newborn calf.

Who would have thought, after releasing the Fire Spirit, it grew stronger and stronger.

In her hand, she held a piece of Qi Stone.

This meant that what she released wasn't just her own Fire Spirit, but included part of the Overlord Egg's Fire Spirit.

The cold emanating from the Emperor Toad was forcefully suppressed by the Fire Spirit.

Such pure Fire Spirit.

Empress Feng's eyes narrowed.

How could this girl possess such a strong Fire Spirit?

Empress Feng was full of disbelief.

Wasn't she supposed to be a waste with all her Five Meridians destroyed?

Surely, something is hidden within this girl.

On one side was the Dragon Breath from the Longteng Stele, and on the other was the pure Fire Spirit from the Overlord Egg.

The Emperor Toad, with even its cold being suppressed, was utterly wilted, unmoving.

Then Xin Lin took out a small knife, its icy gleam flashed, she raised the knife and lowered it, slicing a piece of Emperor Toad meat.

That Emperor Toad seemed difficult to deal with, yet at this moment, it was quite docile, showing no reaction to being cut.

Moreover, even more bizarre, after Xin Lin made a cut, it didn't bleed, and the wound quickly returned to its original state.

With skillful hands, Xin Lin quickly sliced a plate of Emperor Toad meat.

Each piece of the Emperor Toad meat was as thin as paper, with a color gleaming with a hint of pink within its whiteness. Xin Lin ordered the preparation of a sauce, adding some ground chili pepper.

For seafood sashimi like this, wasabi is the best pairing.

Unfortunately, Longteng didn't have the plant wasabi, so they had to use ground chili pepper as a substitute. The taste wasn't bad.

The plate of Emperor Toad meat was placed in front of Emperor Longteng.

"How dare you serve such a crude thing to the Emperor!"

Empress Feng viewed with angry eyes.

Is this supposed to be Spiritual Food?

The Spiritual Food in the Imperial Palace, each dish meticulously prepared over hours, seasoned with rare worldly delicacies. Xin Lin's approach of directly cutting and taking meat seemed to Empress Feng as greatly lacking in refinement.

"No problem, Empress."

Emperor Longteng had never tried such Spiritual Food before. He hesitated for a moment, disregarded Empress Feng's objection, picked up a piece, and put it into his mouth.

The Emperor Toad meat was slightly cool. Upon entering, it had a smooth, elastic texture with a touch of coolness. The meat was tender and juicy, and with a soft bite, a sweet freshness filled the senses.

Then, the salt from the sauce and the spice from the chili pepper mix together.

Emperor Longteng, having finished one slice without saying a word, picked up another, again drowning it in the sauce and chili pepper.

The cool sensation in the mouth and the fiery heat in the belly, this ice-fire dual feeling had Emperor Longteng enthralled, and in one breath, he finished the entire plate of Emperor Toad meat.

"Life Book prompt: Congratulations to the life master, successfully crafted a Five-star Spiritual Food Ice Cold Royal Clam, Heaven-defying Value +50.

Congratulations life master, received guest Emperor Longteng's very satisfied evaluation, Heaven-defying Value +5."

"Good, very good, extremely good!"

Emperor Longteng's complexion was flushed, a thin layer of sweat forming on his forehead.

Three consecutive praises.

The corner of Empress Feng's beautiful lips twitched hard.

Chapter 876:

Emperor Longteng's repeated praise was equivalent to having already acknowledged Xin Lin's Spiritual Cuisine.

"Congratulations to Your Majesty, may your fortune be boundless and your life as long as the Emperor Toad."

Xin Lin congratulated respectfully.

The Emperor Toad not only has strong life force, but also a long lifespan.

They are the oldest mystical beasts in the Sea Zhang Waters, and the lifespan of this Emperor Toad before them reached a full five hundred years.

Emperor Longteng immediately ordered that each guest present be rewarded with a plate of Emperor Clam Sashimi.

Xin Lin, without hesitation, started slicing the Emperor Clam Sashimi.

After tasting the Emperor Toad, every guest heaped praises upon it.

As expected, Xin Lin also reaped a bountiful harvest of Heaven-defying Value.

After the Imperial Chefs were released, the birthday banquet resumed.

The commotion brought about by the Emperor Clam was thus calmed down.

Chairman Mu's face, which was gloomy at first, now turned bright.

However, Master Chen was gritting his teeth in hatred, for it turned out to be just raw consumption, the simplest method.

That seemingly strange Emperor Clam turned out to be so simple to prepare.

In fact, Master Chen had also guessed the method of eating it raw earlier, but considering that raw consumption seemed quite vulgar, how could it be attempted at Emperor Longteng's birthday banquet?

How could he have known that for Emperor Longteng and those foreign guests, they had tasted all kinds of luxurious Spiritual Cuisines?

Instead, this kind of unpretentious food, which preserved the most original taste of the mystical beast, was something they had not tried before.

Moreover, the Emperor Clam from Hai Zhang, caught from the deep sea, had unparalleled meat quality, and Xin Lin's use of the 'live slicing' technique undoubtedly preserved the Emperor Clam's texture to the greatest extent.

Master Chen's moment of carelessness resulted in Xin Lin seizing an easy opportunity.

The birthday banquet continued, and when Xin Lin saw her foolish father sitting beside Emperor Longteng, enjoying the food heartily, she breathed a sigh of relief and withdrew from the Qingque Platform.

"This time, it's really thanks to the Life Book."

As she stepped out from the Qingque Platform, her clothes at the back were already soaked through.

Although she appeared calm in front of the palace, in reality, it was her first time preparing Emperor Clam.

She had even learned about such a thing through the Heaven-defying Book.

The Emperor Clam is an ancient mystical beast.

In Longteng and most regions of the mainland, it has already gone extinct.

Even in Hai Zhang Country, the Emperor Clam is rare.

On this point, General Nalan wasn't lying.

The Emperor Clam doesn't exist in modern times, and Xin Lin hadn't tasted it, but the Heaven-defying Book hinted that this Emperor Clam is of the same family as the modern geoduck, which Xin Lin had tried before and knew that it tasted best as sashimi.

She took a gamble and succeeded.

"Master Xin, please wait."

Just as Xin Lin breathed a sigh of relief and prepared to visit Huang Xuerou's father, General Nalan quickly walked over from behind.

Seeing General Nalan, Xin Lin became very cautious.

"Master Xin, may I ask how you knew about the Emperor Clam?"

Unlike his previous arrogant demeanor in the hall, General Nalan's attitude towards Xin Lin was very respectful.

"I discovered it in an ancient book."

Xin Lin scratched her head and replied offhandedly.

"May I ask if that ancient book is available for sale? I'm willing to offer a high price, how about one thousand gold?"

A fervent light shone in General Nalan's eyes.

One thousand gold for a book?

Xin Lin was astonished.

The other party didn't even know what the book was.

"General, I'm sorry, that ancient book isn't mine; it was authored by my father. If you want to buy it, you'll have to negotiate with him."

Xin Lin's eyes twinkled as she earnestly babbled nonsense.

Chapter 877:

General Nalan was still not convinced.

"Your father is?"

He saw Xin Lin was a Spiritual Delicacy Master and assumed her father was also one.

Xin Lin rolled her eyes.

This General Nalan was somewhat adorable; it seemed he was the only one present unaware she was the daughter of Chu Beiqing.

"General Nalan might not know; this is the daughter of the Divine Doctor Chu Beiqing. Her father, naturally, is Chu Beiqing."

Prince Tu approached unhurriedly.

"The Divine Doctor Chu Beiqing, wouldn't that be the fool from just now?"

General Nalan was taken aback.

"My dad is not a fool; he became that way due to certain reasons. Besides, one day he will recover."

Xin Lin's expression turned stern as she spoke seriously.

Though she herself often called him "fool dad," she would never allow others to call Chu Beiqing a fool.

Even as a joke, it was unacceptable.

Buying things with a fool seemed somewhat inappropriate.

General Nalan looked troubled.

Prince Tu cast a meaningful glance at Xin Lin.

"Miss Xin, could I speak with you for a moment?"

Prince Tu smiled and gestured for Xin Lin to talk aside.

"I have nothing to say to the young prince."

Xin Lin didn't even show Prince Tu a kind face and turned to leave.

Prince Tu's expression turned awkward. He prided himself on being charming and handsome; why was Xin Lin so unfriendly towards him?

Could it be...

Prince Tu recalled Xin Lin's earlier words.

Could it be that Xin Lin knew about the poison affecting Chu Beiqing being related to him?

Impossible.

She was merely a small Spiritual Delicacy Master; how could she possibly know about the Three Corpse Poison?

Prince Tu was in a daze for a moment, and when he came back to his senses, Xin Lin was nowhere to be found.

Xin Lin returned to the Imperial Kitchen, where a middle-aged man in his forties and several Imperial Chefs awaited her.

"Miss Xin, truly thank you this time."

The middle-aged man had a round face, somewhat resembling Huang Xuerou.

He had already learned from the Imperial Chefs what had happened and realized Xin Lin was a great benefactor to their Imperial Kitchen.

"Uncle Huang, no need to be so formal. Xuerou and I are classmates, and as a Spiritual Delicacy Master, what I did was just a minor effort."

Xin Lin said with a smile.

After some pleasantries, Xin Lin took leave of the Imperial Chefs and left the palace.

As soon as she reached the palace gate, she saw Captain Yang waiting there.

"Master Xin, the Emperor summons you to the Imperial Study Room, your father is also there."

Captain Yang said politely.

"Brother Yang, stop teasing me, this 'master' title is over the top."

Xin Lin coughed lightly.

"Xin Lin, you accomplished a great deed tonight, and everyone in the palace knows it. Why be modest? You made a Spiritual Dish that neither the old food officer nor the Spirit Food Association chairman could. You truly deserve the title of 'master.'

Captain Yang laughed heartily.

Hmph—

From not far away, a cold laughter was heard.

President Mu and Master Chen walked over.

President Mu seemed indifferent to Captain Yang's words and smiled at Xin Lin.

Master Chen looked upset.

"Xin Lin, don't think that just because you got lucky and achieved a great feat, it means you can act arrogantly. Your skills hardly qualify for the title of 'master.'

"Master Chen is right; Xin Lin is enlightened."

Xin Lin said politely.

"Xin Lin, you must manage Chu's Restaurant well in the future. I believe, before long, it will shine brightly in Longteng. The path of a Spiritual Delicacy Master is long; I'll be staying in Purple Cloud City for a few days. If there's anything you don't understand about being a Spiritual Delicacy Master, feel free to come find me at Fenglin Inn."

President Mu encouraged Xin Lin before leaving in his carriage.

Chapter 878:

President Mu's carriage had already gone far, but his words still lingered in Xin Lin's ear.

Xin Lin realized that in terms of actual skill as a Spiritual Delicacy Master, she wasn't even on par with the most ordinary Imperial Chef in the Imperial Palace, let alone compete with people like President Mu and Master Chen. Fortunately, this time the preparation method for the Emperor Toad was sashimi, otherwise, she wouldn't have had the capability to prepare any Five-star Spiritual Food.

Moreover, President Mu's words seemed to hold another meaning.

"Another day, I'll have to pay a visit again."

Xin Lin contemplated.

"Master Xin, the Emperor is still waiting for you."

Captain Yang reminded her from the side.

Xin Lin nodded, no longer insisting on Captain Yang changing the form of address.

Before this birthday banquet, Xin Lin was merely Chu Beiqing's daughter, a regular student at Qingtian Academy.

But after tonight, Xin Lin's outstanding performance undoubtedly turned her into a famous Spiritual Delicacy Master in Purple Cloud City, her status vaguely threatening Master Chen of De Yue Building.

Moments later, Xin Lin arrived at the Imperial Study Room.

Inside, Chu Beiqing was drinking tea with Emperor Longteng.

"My dear..."

Seeing Xin Lin, Chu Beiqing jumped up, waving his arms excitedly.

"Father, look at you, I've told you many times, clean your mouth after eating."

Xin Lin, seeing some sugar syrup on her silly father's mouth, helplessly wiped it clean for him.

Behind her, Emperor Longteng raised his eyes, his sharp gaze sweeping over Xin Lin and Chu Beiqing.

The sharpness flashed briefly, and when Xin Lin pulled Chu Beiqing along to greet Emperor Longteng, he reverted to being the benevolent-looking Emperor Longteng.

"Rise, Xin Lin, I've told you many times, when we're alone, you and your father are like family to me, no need to fuss over formalities."

Emperor Longteng casually waved his hand, signaling Xin Lin to sit down.

Xin Lin sat upright, while her silly father grabbed a piece of sugar lotus root from the table and munched it happily.

"I heard these sugar lotus roots and buns were made by you. Beiqing is lucky to have such a good daughter."

Emperor Longteng said with envy.

Only after the banquet did he find out from Shi Pin that the Empress Dowager had secretly arranged for Xin Lin to prepare the longevity buns and sugar lotus roots to surprise him.

The guests uniformly praised the freshly made delicacies by Xin Lin, and coupled with the previous Ice Cold Royal Clam, Emperor Longteng was very pleased with this birthday banquet.

"If Your Majesty enjoys them, Xin Lin could prepare some to send to the Imperial Palace daily."

Xin Lin lifted her little face, her big dark eyes full of surprise and delight.

"No need daily, I understand your studies at Qingtian Academy keep you busy. If I'm ever in the mood, I'll have you send some over, and you studying together with Little Xinzhuo will be nice companionship."

Emperor Longteng gazed at Xin Lin's innocent and charming little face, unknowingly a smile appeared on his lips.

"You and your father are nothing alike."

Xin Lin hesitated, then promptly said.

"I resemble my mother... Well, my mother is slightly less attractive than my father."

The Xin Family in Xin Lin's memory was often plagued by illness and didn't look well.

"Haha—you child, your words are indeed charming. It's a pity you're not my daughter."

The Emperor's words carried some regret.

Upon hearing that, Xin Lin's eyes flashed, and she immediately knelt, kowtowing loudly.

"If Your Majesty wouldn't mind, Xin Lin could call you Godfather. You are as close as brothers with my father, I'm my father's daughter, and therefore your daughter."

Chapter 879:

At the palace gate.

Chu Miaoyun walked out, surrounded by several noble ladies.

"Miaoyun, you're really lucky to be recognized as the sworn sister by Young Prince Tu."

"Indeed, from now on, you will be the Commandery Princess of the Tu Yuan Country."

"I heard you are going to study at the Holy Beast Academy in Tu Yuan Country, we are so envious."

Listening to the flattering words around her, Chu Miaoyun felt as if she were floating. Not long ago, she was the object of ridicule for everyone.

Chu Tianyi was demoted from his official position due to the Cold Palace incident.

The status of the Chu Mansion became very awkward, so Chu Miaoyun tried everything to urge Young Prince Tu to attend the birthday banquet as his disciple sister.

She originally planned to use this banquet to make an impression in front of Emperor Longteng and strive for her father's early release.

Because of her status, although she had a share in attending the banquet, she was arranged to sit at the very end, unable to even see Emperor Longteng's face clearly.

The thing that irritated her the most was Xin Lin stealing the limelight at this banquet. Just thinking about it made Chu Miaoyun feel stifled.

Fortunately, as the saying goes, misfortune could be a blessing in disguise. Young Prince Tu agreed to take her as his sworn sister and even asked Emperor Longteng to grant her the status of a Commandery Princess.

With this, Chu Miaoyun's status rose significantly.

"What's so great about that? I don't think Holy Beast Academy is necessarily any better than Qingtian Academy."

Just then, Zuo Mingshang and General Zuo walked over together.

Zuo Mingshang's father is a second-rank official, of noble status, and she herself is an excellent student at Qingtian Academy. She was also invited this time.

"Zuo Mingshang, you're just being sour grapes. Qingtian Academy is nothing more than a third-rate small academy, it doesn't even have a level. Holy Beast Academy is a silver-level academy, and the martial artists and spirit masters it produces are top-notch masters, they can't be compared."

Chu Miaoyun mocked.

The students on the mainland are also divided into different classes, the well-known academies on the mainland are classified according to bronze, silver, and gold levels.

Back then, Chu Miaoyun didn't know Young Prince Tu and always thought Qingtian Academy was a high-level academy, but now things are different.

She has come to know that Qingtian Academy doesn't even qualify as a university. The leader of Qingtian Academy might not even be able to defeat an ordinary student from Holy Beast Academy.

Furthermore, those who enter Holy Beast Academy are Heavenly Chosen Sons, of noble status, all from great countries.

Unlike Qingtian Academy, where even someone like Xin Lin, who has no spirit root, can enroll.

Given Chu Miaoyun's previous status, she was certainly not qualified to study at Holy Beast Academy.

Now, she relies on the connection with the Poison Saint, and having dual spiritual roots, to be recommended to Holy Beast Academy.

Thinking about how her strength and reputation will soar after enrolling in Holy Beast Academy, Chu Miaoyun couldn't help but feel smug.

"I don't bother arguing with people like you. A year from now, when I return from studying, I will make sure to beat you and Xin Lin, and the rest to tears!"

Chu Miaoyun said through gritted teeth.

Xin Lin, Murong Ziyue, and those who had mocked and bullied her, she would not let off a single one!

"I don't know if you'll make us cry, but I do know your father has been released, and it seems his days aren't looking good."

Zuo Mingshang wanted to retort but was glared at by General Zuo, so she merely pouted, full of disdain.

Chu Miaoyun turned around and saw several Imperial Guards escorting Chu Tianyi over.

"Father!"

Upon seeing Chu Tianyi, Chu Miaoyun was overjoyed and rushed up to greet him.

Chapter 880:

In just half a month, the once high-spirited Divine Doctor of the Chu Family, Chu Tianyi, has already turned gray-haired.

His tall stature, comparable to Chu Beiqing's, is now hunched over considerably.

His skin is sallow and wrinkled, his beard is scruffy, making him look at least twenty years older.

From the day he awoke in the Cold Palace to being thrown into the Heavenly Prison, Chu Tianyi never understood what was going on.

Father and daughter held each other and cried bitterly.

"Father, let's go home. Don't worry, your daughter is now a Little Commandery Princess of Tu Yuan Country. No one will dare to bully us anymore."

Chu Miaoyun gritted her teeth and said.

Chu Tianyi's expression was somewhat blank; no matter what Chu Miaoyun said, he nodded vaguely, apparently too shocked and somewhat incoherent.

His steps were limp, indicating he underwent torture in the Heavenly Prison.

"Those dog servants dare to treat my father like this. Father, don't worry, I'll take you back to the mansion now."

Chu Miaoyun said with reddened eyes.

She came today along with Brother Tu.

However, after the birthday banquet, Brother Tu's mood seemed not great, and he left first without notifying her; she also didn't have a carriage for pick-up.

She scanned the surroundings and saw a carriage with the emblem of the Chu Mansion.

"You, drive the carriage over."

The coachman was dozing off and was startled wide awake by Chu Miaoyun's shout.

"Miss... Miss... This carriage belongs to Chu Mansion, not Chu House."

Xin Lin and Chu Beiqing came to attend the birthday banquet, and Ma Jingtian was very thoughtful, having arranged for a carriage to pick up the father and daughter, driven by a member of the Water Wraith Gang.

Xin Lin and Chu Beiqing were summoned by Emperor Longteng, so the carriage waited outside.

"What Chu House or Chu Mansion, in Purple Cloud City, there's only one Chu Family, that's my Chu Mansion, and only one Miss Chu, that's me, Princess Chu, Chu Miaoyun."

Chu Miaoyun sneered coldly when she heard a mere coachman dare to defy her, and she saw her five fingers clench, with wind forming between her claws, sending shimmering cold light from her vividly red nails aiming at the coachman's neck.

At that moment, a wave of heat approached from behind Chu Miaoyun.

Chu Miaoyun was startled and stepped back, seeing Xin Lin approaching with Chu Beiqing.

"Chu Miaoyun, that's my carriage. You have no right to use it."

Xin Lin glanced at Chu Miaoyun.

"Who says I have no right to commandeer it? I'm a Commandery Princess, and today I will use your carriage. Whether you give it or not, you have to, since I'm a Commandery Princess and you're just the daughter of a village girl."

Chu Miaoyun smirked coldly.

"Chu Miaoyun, don't go too far!"

Zuo Mingshang couldn't stand it anymore and scolded with hands on hips.

"What if I am too much? Rank crushes people, not to mention her, even your father Zuo Zong is only on the same level as me. Guards, seize Xin Lin for me."

Chu Miaoyun was domineering, shouting once.

The surrounding Imperial Army members looked at each other, unsure of what to do for a moment.

"You all have such nerve, daring to defy the orders of this Commandery Princess. Get moving now!"

Chu Miaoyun finished speaking, unbuckling a spiritual tablet from her body, flaunting it to the Imperial Army.

"Miss Xin, perhaps you could just let Princess Chu have the carriage."

Captain Yang and the group of Imperial Army members were also troubled.

They disapproved of Chu Miaoyun's conduct, but she was a Commandery Princess appointed by Emperor Longteng. They couldn't offend her, especially since she was backed by Tu Yuan Country.