

My System 481

Chapter 481 - Qingqing Isn't Hungry, Let Me Go! _2

Qing Luan, carrying the red robe, entered the room to see that Cheng Guang was already seated at the desk. She hesitated for a moment before quickly adjusting her reaction, striding briskly to Cheng Guang's side to help him dress neatly.

As Qing Luan was arranging Cheng Guang's robes, she spoke, "Princely Heir, the madam had people notify the Taihao Sword Sect yesterday, asking them to hurry over today."

"Additionally, early this morning, Steward Wang was arranged to prepare for your marriage matters. Miss Ning has also dressed and made up."

"Princely Heir should also loosen your clothes for the time being. Once Miss Ning's kinsfolk have all arrived in the Capital city, your marriage will be held."

Cheng Guang wasn't surprised by what Qing Luan said and nodded slightly in acknowledgment.

He cooperated and put on the red robe.

Once Cheng Guang was dressed neatly, Qing Luan stepped back a few paces to look him over and nodded lightly with a smile in her eyes.

"Princely Heir looks truly handsome like this."

With that, Qing Luan's gaze turned to the white jade delicate body on the bed.

"Is Miss Qin still sleeping...?"

Cheng Guang stretched out his hand to stop Qing Luan, saying, "Let her sleep for a while longer; there is no need to specially arrange this room."

Qing Luan obediently nodded, slowly withdrawing her gaze from Qin Yanqiu on the bed and subtly biting her red lip.

Cheng Guang did not notice the slight emotion that flashed across Qing Luan's face and walked out of the room to the courtyard.

Upon seeing Cheng Guang, Steward Wang promptly came forward to greet him with respect.

"Princely Heir."

Cheng Guang nodded slightly and asked, "Besides this courtyard of mine, is everything else prepared?"

Steward Wang, with haste and respect, replied, "Princely Heir, the servants began preparations since last night, and every other place in the mansion has been arranged. We initially thought that the unusual phenomenon caused by the Princely Heir might change the wedding arrangements."

"So we did not decorate the Princely Heir's courtyard. Today, this is the only place left to arrange."

Cheng Guang nodded slightly.

He was walking out of the courtyard to take a look.

Steward Wang then seemed to remember something, adding, "Princely Heir, today is your grand wedding. The madam has arranged banquet tables inside and outside of the Duke's Mansion, up to ten miles away, to invite the entire city."

"At that time, the Princely Heir will need to leave the mansion for a tour of the city. It is an indispensable ceremony."

Cheng Guang nodded again, "We'll talk about it when the time comes."

Having said that, Cheng Guang left the Million Specie Garden.

The Duke Zhen's Mansion was adorned with lanterns and streamers. Servants walking around all wore joy on their faces, not just because they were happy about the marriage of the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, but also for another more important reason.

That was because Wu Yuemei had given red envelopes to everyone in the mansion today.

Everyone received extra reward money.

Because of this, the laughter that filled the air was genuine and from the heart.

Cheng Guang walked around inside the Duke Zhen's Mansion, took a lap, and then headed towards the southeastern courtyard where Wu Yuemei and Cheng Zihai were.

His steps were measured, unhurried and steady.

About a quarter of an hour later, from a distance, several people approached.

Among them were Wu Yuemei, and Cheng Zihai.

Following behind Wu Yuemei and Cheng Zihai was a face he recognized.

The person seemed to have just entered from the Entrance Hall of the Duke Zhen's Mansion and, upon seeing Cheng Guang, paused for a moment before bursting into booming laughter.

"Princely Heir, oh no, my esteemed son-in-law!"

The man was Ning Liang.

Father of Ning Qianxue.

Cheng Guang, whose Spirit Dao cultivation was now comparable to that of a Sky-Man, gazed at Ning Liang and saw not a person, but a sharp sword.

Although not yet at the level of Sky-Man, his might was still more formidable than an ordinary one.

In Cheng Guang's perception, Ning Liang seemed to be constantly suppressing his cultivation, honing himself, treating his whole being as a sword, ceaselessly forging day and night.

One day, when Ning Liang unsheathed his sword, perhaps then the whole world would come to recognize the true face of this master of Taihao Sword Sect.

If it hadn't been for Cheng Guang taking the Heavenly Dao Pill and merging with the Fruits of Path to Divinity, he might not have been able to notice the anomaly in Ning Liang, and would have mistaken him for a normal Ninth Grade Martial Emperor Realm peak expert like Cheng Zihai.

If Ning Liang were to face off with Cheng Zhihai.

Under normal circumstances, Cheng Zhihai might win.

But if Ning Liang were truly cornered, it would likely end with Cheng Zhihai's death.

Cheng Guang observed Ning Liang inwardly in awe, and at the same time, maintained proper etiquette, greeting Ning Liang respectfully.

"Uncle Ning."

Seeing Cheng Guang's politeness and that he did not put on airs of the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, Ning Liang was even more pleased and hurriedly stepped forward to support Cheng Guang.

"There's no need for such formality, Princely Heir. Today you are marrying Qianxue, and I'm genuinely happy. It shouldn't have been postponed by those matters till now."

Cheng Guang smiled in response, "Please forgive me, Uncle Ning."

Cheng Guang briefly dealt with Ning Liang and then noticed a gaze upon him.

His eyes moved past Ning Liang to the old woman by his side.

The old woman next to Ning Liang was dressed in a purple robe with gold patterns, looking richly majestic and dignified.

"Uncle Ning, this lady is...?"

Cheng Guang asked Ning Liang about the old woman beside him.

Ning Liang slapped his forehead, realizing Cheng Guang had not yet met the Granny, and explained.

"This is Granny Qianhua. The name 'Qianxue' was given by her. Moreover, since childhood, Qianxue has been raised by Granny Qianhua and hasn't spent much time with me."

"Truth be told, Qianxue is even more affectionate with Granny Qianhua than with me, her old father," Ning Liang said, bursting into a hearty laugh.

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Cheng Zihai, standing to the side, now added with a smile.

"Guanger, that day when you brought Qianxue, the child, over to our Duke Zhen's Mansion for the marriage arrangement, the person we agreed upon was indeed this Granny Qianhua."

Upon hearing this, Cheng Guang muttered an "Oh" somewhat absentmindedly and, without being impolite, bowed to Granny Qianhua.

Granny Qianhua gazed at Cheng Guang with a smile, her eyes expressing a touch of kindness, "Princely Heir, there's no need to be so formal with an old woman like me."

As she spoke, Granny Qianhua lightly touched Cheng Guang's robe, and a gentle force dissipated the bow he had made.

Under Granny Qianhua's hands, Cheng Guang's body, despite being enhanced by the Fruits of Path to Divinity, couldn't resist in the slightest, as if he were a little chick.

Cheng Guang's eyes widened, and he looked at Granny Qianhua with surprise and uncertainty.

This Granny Qianhua.

Could she be a Sky-Man?

At this moment, Cheng Guang took a moment to sense Granny Qianhua's aura more carefully, and under his perception, he felt that her presence, though profound, gave him an unfathomable feeling.

Hiss...

He couldn't help but draw in a breath of cold air.

This feeling, it seemed even stronger than an ordinary Sky-Man, almost on par with Empress Wei of Great Wei.

The depths of the Taihao Sword Sect, one of the Four Great Hidden Sword Sects, could it be so rich??

Granny Qianhua's ancient but clear eyes gazed at Cheng Guang, and seemingly noticing the shock in his eyes, she gently said with a chuckle, "We are all old now, the future world is for young ones like the Princely Heir."

"Princely Heir's skills are impressive and your opportunities abundant. The commotion you created last night, I felt it too," Granny Qianhua added.

"Truly extraordinary."

"Be careful when you are away from home," Granny Qianhua reminded him with a smile.

Cheng Guang obediently responded, then conversed and laughed with Cheng Zihai and Wu Yuemei, as the three of them headed towards the interior of Duke Zhen's Mansion.

They chatted casually in Cheng Zihai's southeastern courtyard.

During that time, guests gathered in droves.

Aside from the Imperial Palace, almost every dignitary from the entire Court of Great Zhou had arrived at Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Outside of Duke Zhen's Mansion, along the streets stretching for ten miles, banquet tables were filled.

Anyone with sincerity who could offer a word or two of congratulations could dine there.

The event was extraordinarily lively, with an atmosphere filled with fervor.

As the clock struck the auspicious hour and the bells rang at sunrise.

Wu Yuemei put down her teacup, interrupting the conversation between the two families and said to Cheng Guang, "The auspicious hour has arrived, let's start the wedding ceremony."

"Guanger, go and bring Qianxue over. Even though she's already at Duke Zhen's Mansion, all the proper rituals and ceremonies must be observed without exception," Wu Yuemei's voice fell.

Cheng Guang nodded slightly, stood up, and walked towards the Million Specie Garden in the distance.

During this time, the gazes of many guests within the Million Specie Garden converged on Cheng Guang.

Cheng Guang wasn't the least bit stage-frightened. Facing the watchful eyes of the surrounding dignitaries, his complexion remained unchanged as he walked straight into the Million Specie Garden.

Upon entering the Million Specie Garden, it was clear that the place was meticulously arranged by Steward Wang's orders, with festive red paper visible everywhere, yet not gaudy—all was just right.

"Princely Heir, Miss Ning is already inside the room," said Qing Luan as she came up to guide Cheng Guang.

Cheng Guang nodded slightly, donned in red attire, approached the room's door, and pushed it open.

As Cheng Guang pushed the door, sunlight quickly filled the room, following his figure inside.

The room also had been specially arranged.

Ning Qianxue, dressed in red with a veil over her head, sat primly in front of a writing desk.

In front of her lay the red paper she had just used to tint her lips.

It looked like she had just blotted her lips, leaving behind a light impression.

As soon as Cheng Guang entered the door, Ning Qianxue sensed his presence.

Her hands nervously clasped together, her fingers fidgeting and twirling aimlessly.

Seeing this, Cheng Guang couldn't help but chuckle.

Ning Qianxue, a character that one could describe as 'socially savvy', he didn't expect to see her nervous.

Yet it was somewhat understandable, as it was her first time facing such a situation in her life.

Cheng Guang gave a smile, stepped forward, and gently took Ning Qianxue's hand.

It was slightly warm.

Like a piece of warm jade.

"Let's go," Cheng Guang said softly.

Upon hearing Cheng Guang's voice, Ning Qianxue's initial tension relaxed somewhat.

She slowly stood up.

And stood close to Cheng Guang.

Like a child lacking a sense of security, she tightly clasped Cheng Guang's hand.

Cheng Guang, leading Ning Qianxue, walked out of the room.

He then helped her into the bridal sedan chair.

Cheng Guang himself mounted the Dragon Horned Horse that Steward Wang had prepared in advance.

"Lift!"

A servant's shout commanded.

The sedan chair carrying Ning Qianxue was lifted.

Cheng Guang, riding the Dragon Horned Horse, led Ning Qianxue out of Duke Zhen's Mansion and circled within the Capital city.

Since it was the Town-Nation Duke's Heir's grand wedding, the streets of the Capital city were filled with onlookers.

Everyone used their gaze to observe the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, Cheng Guang.

Being frequently observed by others, Cheng Guang had grown accustomed to it and did not feel any discomfort.

But Ning Qianxue couldn't handle it.

She had grown up in the Sword Pond Ancient Courtyard of Taihao Sword Sect, so her sociable nature had developed due to limited contact with outsiders.

Suddenly finding herself the focus of countless people's attention made her tense instantly.

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The delicate hands were tightly clasped together.

Seeing this, Cheng Guang couldn't help but chuckle and shook his head, slowing the pace of his Dragon Horned Horse and coming up beside Ning Qianxue, gently patting her head.

Ning Qianxue felt the breath of Cheng Guang right beside her.

Her originally tense emotions, for some reason, suddenly didn't feel so tense anymore.

It seemed as if she now had someone to rely on.

They took a turn outside Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Cheng Guang, leading the team and about to set off with Ning Qianxue to return to the mansion, completing the final step when—

Just in front of the mansion gate.

He suddenly noticed someone standing alone at the door, emitting a 'keep away' aura.

The surrounding crowd, many of them dignitaries, clearly startled upon seeing that person, then showed an extremely fearful demeanor.

The guards of Duke Zhen's Mansion, upon seeing that person, blocked the entrance and were also troubled for a long time, ultimately not approaching.

It was unclear whether it was the order of Cheng Zihai or the instruction of Wu Yuemei.

Cheng Guang looked at that person's stunningly beautiful appearance, the noble and elegant Crown Prince's attire, a head of neatly combed black hair, as the hands were quietly placed in front of her.

"Wu Ling?"

Cheng Guang stopped in front of the mansion gate.

The procession behind him also came to a halt.

Under the scrutiny of Cheng Guang and the countless others around, Wu Ling nodded slightly, her clear eyes gazing at Cheng Guang, her pupils shimmering with an indefinable meaning.

Ultimately, she did not speak to Cheng Guang.

Instead, her gaze fell upon Ning Qianxue in the palanquin behind Cheng Guang, her hands resting on her knees as she sat primly.

"What is your name?"

Ning Qianxue also noticed the woman blocking the way to Duke Zhen's Mansion, and through the red brocade, she could see that the other's beauty did not lose to her own.

"Ning Qianxue."

After hesitating for a moment, Ning Qianxue revealed her name and then looked at Cheng Guang, "Princely Heir, is this lady a friend of yours?"

Ning Qianxue seemed to have sensed something and, without realizing it herself, her tone carried a hint of sourness.

Hearing Ning Qianxue's question, Cheng Guang smiled, "Yes."

Wu Ling gave Cheng Guang a noncommittal glance upon hearing his answer, "You, you have quite the fortune with women."

Cheng Guang felt a bit embarrassed and looked at Wu Ling with a smile, "You should have told me in advance that you were coming today, so I could have welcomed you properly."

Wu Ling slowly shook her head, her expression turning somewhat downcast, "No need."

"I just came to see what the Wife of Crown Prince is like."

"And also, to bring you a gift."

As she spoke, Wu Ling produced a chessboard and two boxes of black and white chess pieces from somewhere.

The chessboard and pieces were made from precious jade, and they seemed to have been painstakingly carved by hand. Although they were not perfect, effort was evident.

Clearly.

This was Wu Ling's own handiwork.

It was unknown when she had begun to carve them.

Wu Ling handed the chessboard and pieces to Cheng Guang, stuffed them into his arms with a moment's hesitation, and then whispered something into Cheng Guang's ear.

"Big liar, I don't know if I'll ever get the chance to play chess with you again."

With that, she ran off into the distance.

Midway through her run, Wu Ling, seemingly unable to contain her frustration, turned her head, made a face at Cheng Guang, and stuck out her tongue.

Soon after, Wu Ling's figure quickly vanished from Cheng Guang's sight.

Cheng Guang stood there, watching Wu Ling's disappearing figure with a puzzled look, gazing at the meticulously crafted chessboard and pieces in his hand, feeling a complex mix of emotions.

This Wu Ling.

She really put her heart into things concerning him.

The gift she gave was also so unique.

But...

Why did she call me a big liar?

I've never lied to her about anything.

Bewildered, Cheng Guang shook his head and stored the chessboard and pieces Wu Ling had given him into his storage ring.

When he turned around, Cheng Guang suddenly realized that Ning Qianxue was still watching him.

He touched his own face, "What's wrong? Is there something on my face?"

Ning Qianxue shook her head, pouted her rosy lips thoughtfully, "No, it's just that I feel that girl, she seems to have special feelings for you."

Cheng Guang chuckled, tapping Ning Qianxue's head lightly with his hand.

"What do you know about feelings? I've eaten more salt than you've walked roads."

Having said that, he took Ning Qianxue's hand and they walked towards Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Ning Qianxue covered her head, wanting to say something, but upon seeing Cheng Guang pulling her into Duke Zhen's Mansion, the looks of the crowd around them became even more pronounced.

Gradually, Ning Qianxue lowered her hand, obediently and quietly following behind Cheng Guang.

As Cheng Guang and Ning Qianxue entered Duke Zhen's Mansion,

Outside Duke Zhen's Mansion, a guest at one of the banquet tables was about to turn away, withdrawing his gaze from the figure of Town-Nation Duke's Heir and continuing to dine,

when he suddenly noticed.

A dark little hand was stealthily reaching towards the plate in front of him, slowly gripping the chicken leg on his plate.

The guest's eyes bulged, lifted the tablecloth, and looked down.

He locked eyes with a pair of pitch-black little ones.

"Hey, you little beggar, you dare to steal food from your Grandpa, huh!"

The guest made to hit the offender.

The beggar got startled, showing an incredibly agile body despite being frail, grabbing the chicken leg and then dashing under the guest's body away to the distance.

"I didn't steal, the people of Duke Zhen's Mansion said that as long as you come with good wishes, you can get food."

While running, the beggar made a face at the guest.

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The guest's face turned red with anger. "Is Duke Zhen's Mansion's food something that just anyone can eat?"

"You come back here!"

The guest was so angered that he was about to rise and chase after the thief.

But he noticed the smirks on the faces of the people around him.

His body came to a halt.

Upon reflection, the guest realized that if he were to leave his place now, by the time he got back, there might not be a spot for him to sit anymore.

It was just a chicken leg, after all.

The guest settled back down at the banquet, clinking drinks with the others, loudly congratulating Cheng Guang, the Princely Heir, on his wedding.

Meanwhile, the beggar boy who had pilfered the chicken leg ran like mad, as if afraid someone was chasing him. Even though he was almost out of breath, he continued to run desperately.

Soon.

The beggar boy had run out of the inner city and arrived at an abandoned house in the outer city.

He agilely climbed through a window, squeezing in through a narrow gap, and then hurriedly took out the chicken leg from his clothes and ran towards a pile of straw.

"Qingqing, Qingqing, I'm back."

At the sound of the beggar boy's voice, a dark little head popped out of the straw, as black as the boy's but noticeably paler, with hair like weeds, clearly a little girl.

The beggar boy helped Qingqing to sit up and handed her the chicken leg.

"Qingqing, eat up."

Qingqing's eyes lit up at the sight of the chicken leg. She swallowed subconsciously, and was about to take it but hesitated and pushed the boy's hand back.

"Tongzhen, I just had some millet porridge, I'm not hungry, you eat."

Li Tongzhen looked at the little millet porridge left in the iron pot beside him and shook his head quickly. "We'll eat together."

Upon hearing Li Tongzhen's words, Qingqing wanted to refuse, but seeing Li Tongzhen's expression of 'if you don't eat, I won't either,' she nodded lightly.

Li Tongzhen smiled, quickly tore the now slightly cold chicken leg in half, and handed one half to Qingqing.

Qingqing nervously rubbed her little hands, wiping them briefly on her body before finally taking the chicken leg.

"Eat, eat, today is the big wedding of the Town-Nation Duke's Heir, there are so many tasty foods. Once you finish, I'll go get you some more later."

Li Tongzhen's dark face broke into a smile; he sat on the ground and hastily stuffed pieces of the chicken into his mouth.

Without savoring it much, he swallowed the chicken directly into his belly.

The flavor of the chicken instantly filled his mouth, making it water.

Li Tongzhen gobbled down, unable to resist even crunching the chicken bones clean.

Finally, reluctant to let go, he licked every bit of grease from his fingers.

Li Tongzhen patted his stomach; he was still a bit hungry, but much better off.

He loosened the cloth belt tied around his belly and sat aside, turning to look at Qingqing.

Qingqing was a girl.

She ate much slower than Li Tongzhen and with more refinement.

Realizing that Li Tongzhen had finished, she hesitated no longer, thrusting the one-third-eaten chicken leg back at him.

"Tongzhen, you eat. I'm full with just a little bit," she said softly.

Li Tongzhen licked his lips and shook his head. "No need, you eat. I'll just go grab some more."

Qingqing extended the chicken leg towards where Li Tongzhen was sitting. "Eat."

She added one more sentence.

"I'm not hungry."

Li Tongzhen looked at Qingqing skeptically.

"Really?"

Qingqing nodded vigorously and then opened her mouth to let out an exaggerated burp on purpose.

Li Tongzhen believed her.

He was about to take the piece of chicken leg from Qingqing's hand.

Suddenly, a rather abrupt "gurgle" sounded.

Qingqing covered her stomach awkwardly and quickly waved her hand. "It wasn't Qingqing's stomach growling."

Li Tongzhen bit his lip and stuffed the chicken leg back into Qingqing's hands.

"You eat. The Duke of the State's Heir is celebrating his big wedding today, and there's so much food they can't possibly finish it all! I'll go get more!"

Having said that, Li Tongzhen quickly crawled out of the house and headed toward Duke Zhen's Mansion.

Qingqing stood there, feeling a bit unsteady as she patted her stomach.

"It shouldn't have growled, I just drank water..."

"Qingqing drank a lot... I'm not hungry at all..."

Qingqing muttered to herself, putting the chicken leg into her mouth.

Savoring the deliciousness on her tongue.

Though she wanted to finish quickly, she thought of the possibility that Li Tongzhen might come back empty-handed.

"He's a boy, he needs to eat more, Qingqing should save some for him."

Having said that.

Qingqing slowly put the chicken leg down again.

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Li Tongzhen ran along the street, heading toward Duke Zhen's Mansion.

The closer he got to Duke Zhen's Mansion, the louder the hubbub and festivities became.

As Li Tongzhen ran, when he approached Duke Zhen's Mansion, the crowd around him, many belonging to the famous aristocratic families of the Capital city and the least of whom were well-known traders within the city, bustled past.

Although Duke Zhen's Mansion was hosting a banquet for the entire city, not just anyone was entitled to attend.

Ordinary citizens of the Capital city still didn't have the prestige to be there.

What sort of standing could a beggar boy like Li Tongzhen have?

As soon as Li Tongzhen approached this street, the passersby held their noses and their faces showed disgust.

"How did this beggar get to the area around Duke Zhen's Mansion?"

"Who knows why, it surely isn't to bring the Princely Heir good luck. He just came to freeload food and drinks."

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"Lady Wu of Duke Zhen's Mansion is just too kind-hearted, otherwise, we would definitely have driven that beggar away."

"Ah, never mind that beggar. He can't sit at the table; at most, he just picks up some food and drink."

"Even so, it's quite disgusting. Seeing that beggar ruins my appetite."

Nobles and notables from prestigious families held their noses as they walked past Li Tongzhen, never ceasing their chatter.

It was as if Li Tongzhen reeked with a foul stench that made them despise him all the more.

Li Tongzhen heard the words that came from their mouths, but his face showed little change. He had long since grown accustomed to the disdain of people around him and silently retorted in his heart,

"I made a special trip to wash in the river this morning, and I don't stink at all."

Li Tongzhen ran into the street and saw the long banquet tables, starting to look for a target. He couldn't steal from or dare to steal from those with cultivation.

He could only steal from some merchants who had little to no cultivation and were ordinary people.

Li Tongzhen was well aware of the rationale for survival in this world.

He searched all the way.

Li Tongzhen quickly found his target.

At the banquet table, a wealthy merchant as big as a small mountain sat surrounded by his many family members.

The merchant raised his wine cup with hands buried in fat, his face slightly flushed as he loudly congratulated:

"I toast to the Princely Heir's wedding!"

After saying that, the merchant, drunk, started coaxing a young woman by his side to eat.

A young-looking lady leisurely eating suddenly noticed the tablecloth beneath her stir.

Before she could react,

a pair of dirty hands reached out from under the table towards the food on it.

The lady was stunned for a moment, and then saw a pair of dark but lively eyes peeking from under the tablecloth, which frightened her stiff.

"Ah!"

The lady quickly stood up but slipped and fell to the ground.

Li Tongzhen was startled and hastily reached out to grab something. It felt like delicious fat, soft and squishy, and saliva instinctively dripped from his mouth.

Li Tongzhen steadied the lady and noticed that the atmosphere around had quieted down a bit.

He didn't dare to look any longer, took whatever food he had grabbed without knowing what it was, stuffed it into his bosom, and quickly ran towards the distance.

After Li Tongzhen left,

the lady seemed only to come to her senses, her face turning pale with rage.

As she looked at the black mark in front of her,

a murderous thought crossed her mind.

The merchant's face also darkened as he looked at the lady and then at Li Tongzhen, who had run off into the distance. He furiously stomped his foot and shouted at the guards around him.

"You useless fools, what are you even good at!?"

"Didn't you see the missus getting bullied by a beggar??"

"Chase after him and teach him a lesson!!"

As soon as the merchant finished speaking, the burly guards lacking much cultivation hastily responded and chased after Li Tongzhen.

Once the guards had left,

the merchant began to soothe the lady by his side, comforting her while he couldn't help wiping his hands on her.

The lady, who was greatly upset after being touched by Li Tongzhen, found the merchant's greasy hands even more distasteful, deeming them not large enough.

And the wiping was not even.

"Master, that beggar is truly awful, stealing our food and treating your family that way..."

The lady dabbed the corners of her eyes, appearing extremely delicate.

The merchant laughed, "Don't worry, once the guards bring him back, I'll make sure he's dead."

Time slowly passed.

But in a short while,

a clamor arose in the distance.

"Let me go! Let me go!!"

"You all, quickly let me go!!"

Several towering and intimidating Great Han men, some with injuries on their faces, others baring their teeth and grimacing, were holding Li Tongzhen, who had a ferocious look on his face, as they walked back.

People around were initially stunned when they saw Li Tongzhen.

Then, they showed expressions of schadenfreude.

"How did this beggar manage to provoke Pig Bapi?"

"We people here don't even bother arguing with beggars, but Pig Bapi is different. He's the most vengeful."

"There's going to be a good show now."

Amidst the surrounding people's whispered discussions,

a wealthy businessman slowly walked up to Li Tongzhen.

A lady, sobbing miserably, also approached and pointed at Li Tongzhen, saying to the businessman, "My lord, look at this lecherous boy. He used those claws to graze all over me."

"I am now unclean."

The rich man comforted her as if his heart was breaking, then, without any warning, swung a backhanded slap across Li Tongzhen's face.

"Scoundrel! You beggar! Who gave you the audacity!!"

Li Tongzhen was slapped by the wealthy man, his face swelling instantly. He couldn't comprehend the lady's words, nor did he understand what she was saying.

Perhaps it was because he had stolen their food, that's why they were so angry.

But.

What I stole wasn't theirs.

It belonged to the Town-Nation Duke's Heir.

Thinking back...

I didn't really steal it.

At this thought, Li Tongzhen spat out a mouthful of blood, and while struggling, he shouted, "I'm not wrong, I'm not wrong!!"

"You fat pig, let me go!!"

When the rich man heard Li Tongzhen's words, particularly the words "fat pig", the corners of his mouth twitched violently.

"Damn it, you little beast, I'll beat you to death!!"

The rich man suddenly let go of the lady clinging to him and began to rain down blows and kicks on Li Tongzhen, not caring about whether he hit any vital spots.

At first, Li Tongzhen was able to struggle a bit, but soon his breath became weak.

"Damn it, die! Die!"

Even after Li Tongzhen had stopped moving much, the rich man still kicked his head several times fiercely, then spat, and said to the surrounding guards:

"Throw him far away, so it won't look bad if the people from Duke Zhen's Mansion see him."

The guards shuddered, hurried forward, picked up Li Tongzhen—whether he was dead or alive they didn't know—and ran off into the distance.

In the midst of running,

Li Tongzhen was still fiercely protecting what was in his arms.

Unable to contain his curiosity, one of the guards wondered what was so important that he guarded it so closely.

A glance revealed it.

It was food.

All kinds of food.

A middle-aged guard sighed, "Brothers, let's take this beggar to the medical hall. Otherwise, if he truly dies, it won't look good for the master when explaining to Duke Zhen's Mansion."

"After all, today is the Princely Heir's wedding day, and we must avoid bloodshed."

As the middle-aged guard spoke, the others exchanged looks.

Someone said, "I don't have any silver left."

"Neither do I. Are you going to foot the medical bill?"

The middle-aged guard clenched his teeth, looked at Li Tongzhen, who was breathing out more than he was breathing in, and felt his own money pouch, ultimately shaking his head.

"Forget it, just leave him at the front door of the medical hall. Whether a doctor takes pity on him and saves him is up to fate."

With that, the middle-aged guard finished speaking and the others tacitly agreed.

After dumping Li Tongzhen at the doorstep of a medical hall, they promptly walked away quickly.

Chapter 486 - Mom Really Wants to Watch You Grow Up

Li Tongzhen woke up to find pain throbbing throughout his body.

It seemed to be a medical hall.

There were quite a few people around, looking at him.

Li Tongzhen gritted his teeth, propped himself up with his hands, and managed to stand.

After standing up straight,

Li Tongzhen checked his clothes and saw that most of the food was still in his embrace, though some had been squashed, losing their appealing shapes.

But that was still alright.

For Li Tongzhen, as long as the food wasn't lost, that was all that mattered.

Li Tongzhen tucked the food into his embrace and then started walking step by step towards the outer city.

The Town-Nation Duke's Heir's wedding banquet would last only this day, after which opportunities to steal food like this wouldn't come easily.

Although he had taken a beating, he had obtained food, which made it worthwhile.

Li Tongzhen moved slowly, his figure staggered slightly.

When he reached the residential area of the outer city, Li Tongzhen squeezed through a crack in a window and entered a house.

Once inside,

Li Tongzhen called out the girl's name as usual.

"Qingqing, I'm back."

Li Tongzhen walked towards the pile of hay.

But after calling the girl's name, there was no reply.

Li Tongzhen felt a surge of confusion as he took out all the food from his embrace and ran towards the hay.

Seeing the hay there scattered haphazardly,

the space was empty.

Only an uneaten chicken leg lay forlornly on the ground.

"Qingqing...?"

Li Tongzhen was momentarily stunned, staying frozen in place for a while. At that moment, he simply couldn't understand why Qingqing had disappeared without even finishing her chicken leg.

Where had she gone?

Could something have happened to her??

A sense of urgency rose in Li Tongzhen's heart, and he hastily started running towards the outside of the house.

But just as Li Tongzhen ran out the door, a series of muffled sounds came from one of the side rooms of the residence, followed by something falling to the ground and a cry of pain.

Li Tongzhen hurriedly ran into the side room upon hearing the noise and saw Qingqing, her slender frame burdened by several bundles of firewood that were disproportionate to her size.

"Qingqing, what are you doing?" asked Li Tongzhen, puzzled as he looked at Qingqing.

Qingqing replied with a smile, "You've been helping me all this time; I have to do something for you, too."

"It's getting dark soon, and we can use this firewood to keep warm," she said.

Upon hearing this, Li Tongzhen nodded in resignation, "Alright then."

Li Tongzhen made no objections and didn't say anything else to Qingqing, but just took her hand and brought her to the food.

This time Li Tongzhen had been beaten,

and time was of the essence,

so he hadn't been able to grab much food.

A half loaf of bread and a few pastries.

Li Tongzhen handed the relatively intact pastries to Qingqing, "Eat."

Qingqing shook her head as if to indicate she was not very hungry. Then she quickly got up and handed the chicken leg beside her to Li Tongzhen.

Just as he was about to speak,

a roar suddenly erupted outside the door.

"Damn, all you useless fools, who allowed you to spare him?"

"That bastard touched my woman, and you spared that little brat, even daring to dump him at the medical hall's doorstep? Do you not take me seriously?"

When that furious voice appeared,

Outside the residence,

through the cracks of the window, several silhouettes could be seen standing at the door,

one as imposing as a small mountain.

Li Tongzhen recognized the visitor at a glance.

His eyes instantly narrowed.

He truly hadn't expected that person to come after him again.

"Are you certain that the little beggar is here?"

Standing outside the abandoned residence, the merchant questioned the bodyguard beside him.

The bodyguard, too afraid to say much, simply nodded quickly.

Assured by this, the merchant waved his hand grandly,

"Smash this place to pieces for me, and drag that beggar out," commanded the merchant.

The words of the merchant had barely fallen.

when the bodyguards exchanged glances.

"Master, after all, he is just a beggar, and we've already taught him a lesson; if we go to this extent and accidentally kill him..."

One of them spoke hesitantly.

The merchant, focusing his gaze on the one who had spoken, slapped him across the face and then, as if not fully satisfied, kicked him several times.

"Enough with your nonsense!"

The other bodyguards looked fearfully at the merchant, suppressing anger in their hearts.

Seeing the bodyguards' hesitation, the merchant yelled furiously, "Do you still want your wages? To sympathize with a beggar over me?"

Upon hearing the merchant mention wages, the bodyguards hesitated no more,

and charged towards the residence's main gate.

The residence's gate had been secured with planks of wood nailed shut,

but before the formidable bodyguards, the gate seemed to have no defense at all.

With just a few powerful kicks, the gate began to wobble as if on the verge of collapse.

Inside the residence,

Li Tongzhen's face turned pale when he heard the noise outside. He hadn't expected the merchant who had beaten him to still not let him go.

"Qingqing, we need to go," urged Li Tongzhen.

He picked up Qingqing, placed her on his back, and, not bothering to put the food he had just taken out back into his embrace, he held it in his hand, carrying Qingqing to another exit.

Just as Li Tongzhen had picked up Qingqing and dashed towards another exit,

the residence's main gate came crashing down with a thunderous sound.

Chapter 487 - Mom Really Wants to Watch You Grow Up _2

A cloud of dust billowed up.

Particles of dust, illuminated by the sunlight, were clearly visible.

A group of guards rushed into the residence, only to see a black shadow disappear around a corner inside.

They hurriedly gave chase.

Then they spotted two small figures, running towards the outside through the window of the abandoned dwelling.

Upon approaching, they made a startling discovery.

The window was so small, they couldn't even stretch their heads through it.

It was hard to imagine how those two beggars had managed to squeeze in.

Smashing the window wouldn't do much good; they would probably have to knock down the entire wall to get through.

"Still chasing?"

"Forget it, they're probably out of reach now."

"The master is still watching from behind, shall we put on a show? Otherwise, do we not want our pay?"

The guards whispered amongst themselves and, in a tacit understanding, began deliberately smashing the window.

Meanwhile, the rich merchant, who hadn't entered the house, stood at the doorway, nestled against a lady of high status beside him, covering his nose and mouth with his hand in disdain as he observed the scene inside the abandoned residence.

Just as he was preparing to wait for the guards to drag the little beggar out, he saw another small head emerge from another direction in the dwelling.

Although it appeared only for an instant before quickly retracting, the sharp-eyed merchant still caught sight of it.

He cursed under his breath.

"How could they let him escape? What are those fools good for?"

With that, the merchant gently patted the lady's hand and strode towards where Li Tongzhen was.

Seeing the merchant heading towards him, Li Tongzhen was startled.

The rolls of fat on the rich man's body quivered with every step he took.

He was like a large, imposing mound.

Full of commanding presence.

Li Tongzhen immediately took off running without any hesitation.

Although the wealthy man was large, he seemed to have some martial training, moving much more agilely than the average person.

In just a short while, he caught up to Li Tongzhen.

"Still running? Offending me, Zhu Xicheng, you won't just get away with skin intact."

Zhu Xicheng's face, full of corpulent flesh, split into a grin as he reached out to grab Li Tongzhen.

A frigid fear gripped Li Tongzhen, and sweat beads instantly covered his forehead.

Then he abruptly lunged forward.

He thought he had dodged Zhu Xicheng's attack.

But following that,

Li Tongzhen felt his body suddenly lighten.

Then a somewhat panicked voice sounded next to him.

It was Qingqing's voice.

Qingqing's frail body was held in Zhu Xicheng's grasp without any power to resist.

"You, let her go!"

Li Tongzhen's eyes widened in desperation, and he yelled at Zhu Xicheng without delay.

Zhu Xicheng, however, simply smirked, intrigue gleaming in his eyes.

"You're no ordinary beggar, so young and already looking for a wife."

"Besides, your physique seems different from normal people. A common beggar wouldn't recover so quickly after a beating like yours."

As Zhu Xicheng spoke, his gaze fixed intently on Li Tongzhen, "You have unusual talent. How about this, kneel and kowtow to me, acknowledge me as your foster father, and I'll let this girl go. I'll also nurture you. What do you say?"

Upon hearing Zhu Xicheng's words, Li Tongzhen didn't hesitate, "Fine, I agree!"

Zhu Xicheng was somewhat surprised by Li Tongzhen's response, and he smiled, "You are somewhat sensible, at least."

Li Tongzhen, without showing any emotion, walked steadily up to Zhu Xicheng and bowed.

The lady of high status and the pack of guards quickly caught up and watched the scene unfold with a strange expression on their faces.

What was this situation?

Why was he suddenly taking someone as his foster son?

The lady of high status wanted to say something,

but Zhu Xicheng simply waved his hand.

As a businessman, he might be wealthy, but he was still at the bottom rung of the world.

Similarly,

he was neither stupid nor dull.

Li Tongzhen was young, and despite the severe beating, seemed hardly wounded and appeared to have recovered swiftly based on his recent performance.

His constitution was unusual.

Zhu Xicheng thought of the many prodigious martial artists, whose bodies were often extraordinary compared to the common folk.

Perhaps Li Tongzhen was one such individual.

As Zhu Xicheng watched Li Tongzhen bow, a satisfied smile crossed his lips, but he also worried that Li Tongzhen harbored a grudge against him because of the previous events.

Suppressing his revulsion, he smiled and gently patted Li Tongzhen's head, "Good."

Li Tongzhen looked up at Zhu Xicheng, "Can you let Qingqing go now?"

Zhu Xicheng noticed the lack of respect in Li Tongzhen's gaze and frowned almost imperceptibly.

The hand that had just patted Li Tongzhen's head paused slightly.

"What, is she important to you?"

Zhu Xicheng's plump face revealed a meaningful smile as he regarded Li Tongzhen.

Li Tongzhen, without any suspicion, simply nodded vigorously.

Zhu Xicheng laughed again.

"Fine."

He released Qingqing's throat.

Qingqing's body fell to the ground, limp like a fallen leaf.

Li Tongzhen quickly stepped forward to catch Qingqing and then looked up at Zhu Xicheng. Without a moment's hesitation, he hoisted Qingqing onto his back and ran off into the distance.

Zhu Xicheng was not surprised, watching the retreating figure of Li Tongzhen and simply shaking his head with a dismissive laugh.

Chapter 488 - Mom Really Wants to Watch You Grow Up _3

"Beggars will be beggars, they simply can't be tamed, but this one has a special physique. I wonder if it could be used as some sort of tonic."

Zhu Xicheng muttered to himself, then waved a hand at the guards behind him.

"Chase after him, and bring him back."

The guards, confounded by the rapid sequence of events, snapped back to reality upon hearing Zhu Xicheng's order and hurriedly strode towards the direction Li Tongzhen had gone.

It took a bit longer this time.

But it wasn't long before

Li Tongzhen was caught and dragged out again.

After several such attempts,

even the resilient Li Tongzhen couldn't help but feel a bit of despair rising within him.

In the face of several burly men, tall and strong, he had hardly any strength to resist.

"Let's go, take him back."

"My lord, what about this girl?"

One of the guards asked.

Zhu Xicheng glanced at the grimy Qingqing, and at a single look, he lost interest, waving his hand dismissively as if to signal that she could be thrown away at random.

However, when he saw Qingqing's pale skin revealed as the tears streaming down her face wiped away the dirt,

for some reason,

Zhu Xicheng's heart pounded fiercely.

Zhu Xicheng frowned slightly, wondering why he suddenly found this girl so alluring.

He was indeed lustful,

but had no interest in someone as undeveloped as her.

This was strange.

If the beggar had an extraordinary physique with astonishing healing abilities, could it be that the girl had a special constitution as well???

Thinking thus, the keen instincts of a merchant kicked in.

"Take her back as well, clean her up, and see if she can be sold."

Having said this, Zhu Xicheng left, his arm around his noble companion.

He didn't bother to look back at Li Tongzhen and Qingqing.

To Zhu Xicheng, Li Tongzhen's special physique, if tamed, could serve as a watchful guard, but if not, he would merely be a tonic.

It was said that regularly consuming the blood of those with a unique constitution could improve one's own.

From conversations with nobles and famous families, Zhu Xicheng had learned of this method.

He himself didn't know if it would work, but having stumbled upon this opportunity, he decided to give it a try.

Zhu Xicheng's mood for continuing to the banquet of the Town-Nation Duke's Heir was disrupted by Li Tongzhen's interference, and he had lost much of his will to go on for drinks.

So he led his entourage back to his residence.

After a brief tidying up, Zhu Xicheng walked slowly into a secret chamber.

Within this chamber,

Li Tongzhen was tied to a wooden frame.

Zhu Xicheng, watching Li Tongzhen thrash and scream furiously, showed little emotion on his plump face, merely saying with a hint of regret:

"If only you had been compliant at the start, perhaps it wouldn't be necessary to bind you like this."

"But, it doesn't matter now."

As he spoke, Zhu Xicheng ignored Li Tongzhen's cries and took out a small knife,

slowly coating the blade with a mystery liquid.

Once applied, the blade shimmered with an eerie, purple-tinged luminescence.

Zhu Xicheng walked up to Li Tongzhen, holding the knife near his arm, and lightly slashed at the artery.

Flesh was cut, and

blood began to spurt out violently.

Upon its appearance, Zhu Xicheng immediately picked up a prepared small bowl and used it to catch the blood.

Next, he took out a jade stone and dropped it into the blood.

He watched intently for changes in the jade submerged in the blood.

But after a while,

the color of the jade remained unchanged.

Zhu Xicheng's brows furrowed, "Hmm? Perhaps this beggar's physique isn't as special as I thought? He's just hard to beat down, have I made a mistake?"

Zhu Xicheng continued to stare at the blood for a long time.

His mouth briefly twisted in disappointment.

"Damn it, all this for nothing; I might as well have killed you outright instead of going through the trouble of making you my sworn son, what a damn waste."

With that, Zhu Xicheng carelessly dumped the bowl of blood he was holding and then walked in front of Li Tongzhen, kicking him hard several times before striding out of the room to busy himself with something else.

The cut on Li Tongzhen's arm, where the knife had sliced through, was not healing due to the unknown liquid.

Blood continued to flow like water,

and with the heavy loss,

Li Tongzhen's consciousness began to blur.

Faint voices echoed beside him.

Those sounds were both incredibly familiar and strangely foreign.

"Husband, Zheng'er was born after three years in my womb, I won't let you do this."

"Zheng'er, why are you sitting on the wall?"

"Remember when you were just a lion's head meatball in your mother's belly? Now you've grown into a handsome young man with nose and eyes."

"I really wanted to see you grow up."

Memories flickered in Li Tongzhen's mind, and the world around him seemed to warp.

But only for a moment.

Everything quickly returned to normal.

Unnoticed, the blood from the wound on Li Tongzhen's body started to change color.

From the initial bright red to golden.

Inside him, it was as if there was a golden current, flowing endlessly from a spring without a source, and coursing through his body.

In an instant, it chased away the countless shadows haunting Li Tongzhen's mind.

And brought him back to his true self.

The wound began to heal.

Meanwhile, the jade that had been soaked in Li Tongzhen's blood suddenly couldn't withstand the immense power anymore; it exploded without warning with a "bang".

Chapter 489 - Mom Really Wants to Watch You Grow Up _4

...

At the same time.

Li Tongzhen slowly opened his eyes, a vivid red flashed through his pupils, followed by tears that he didn't know when had begun to flow.

Li Tongzhen slightly moved his hand, and the ropes binding him shattered like paper.

He touched his cheek with his hand.

He suddenly realized.

That he was crying.

Why was he crying?

Those inexplicable new memories in his mind, whose were they?

Those gentle eyes that watched over him...

Why did they call him "child"...

Suddenly, Li Tongzhen heard a voice speaking again.

"The Li Jing family met with misfortune, so I will surely discipline this child strictly in the future. I will take the blame for all his mistakes."

Hearing just this sentence, Li Tongzhen inexplicably felt his heart throb with pain.

"What's going on with me, what's happening."

Li Tongzhen was a bit panicked about the blurry images in his mind.

However, he had no time to think further.

He hurriedly rushed out of the secret chamber and ran outside.

"Qingqing, Qingqing, where are you?"

Qingqing, this girl.

She was the first person he saw when he "awoke."

He said he had no parents, and the first person he saw was Qingqing.

Qingqing had laughed then.

No matter who it was, the first person they saw in this world couldn't possibly be her.

But Li Tongzhen knew that he wasn't lying.

He had no memories before meeting Qingqing.

Qingqing taught him how to eat, how to dress.

Later, Qingqing fell ill.

Then he began to take care of Qingqing.

For so many years, the two of them had survived solely dependent on each other.

Li Tongzhen absolutely wouldn't allow anything to happen to Qingqing.

Outside the secret chamber was a long corridor, with walls laid with ancient blue stones, and oil lamps placed at intervals.

Along this corridor, one could see the doors to many people's rooms.

Li Tongzhen ran along the corridor towards the outside.

But he hadn't run for long.

He suddenly heard a suppressed crying sound.

Then he heard a series of rapid gasps.

"It's changed color!"

"That beggar has no special physique, but this girl does!? Jackpot, jackpot!"

Li Tongzhen could tell just by hearing the voice.

It was Zhu Xicheng's voice.

Li Tongzhen quickly ran toward the room from which the voice emanated and kicked open the door.

He did it reflexively.

He had thought that his strength would probably cause his leg to break.

But.

The iron door, as if made of paper, was useless before his strength.

The door flew open.

Li Tongzhen looked inside.

At a glance, he saw a frail girl tied to the wall with long cuts on her white arms, drops of greenish blood oozing from her body.

"Qingqing!"

"You..."

He only had to look once at the scene before him, and he was frozen, feeling his heart wrench fiercely several times.

And looking to the side.

Zhu Xicheng's fat face bore a chilling smile, holding fresh blood in his hand, with traces of blood at the corner of his mouth.

As if he had just tasted it.

Just one look.

Li Tongzhen's eyes nearly split with rage, staring dead at Zhu Xicheng.

When Zhu Xicheng saw Li Tongzhen appear, he was stunned for a moment and then looked toward the twisted iron door, not far from his feet, that had been kicked open.

His fat face twitched a few times.

"You beggar, you're really strange, how did you get out?"

"And this strength..."

Zhu Xicheng's voice dropped as he spoke.

Because of this sort of enhancement practice, among the major noble families, it was not a rare occurrence.

But after all, Emperor Zhou was still alive.

Ordinary people were protected by the laws of Great Zhou.

Even though most of them didn't regard the lives of commoners, they couldn't be too outrageous.

Even if they were to do it.

It had to be done in secret.

Zhu Xicheng had not arranged for any guards in the secret chamber this time.

Everything was operated by him alone.

So.

At this moment.

Zhu Xicheng looked at Li Tongzhen, whose appearance had become incredibly strange, and a chill instinctively rose in his heart.

Without any guards around, the chill in Zhu Xicheng's heart rose sharply.

"Damn it, what exactly is going on with you!"

Zhu Xicheng plucked up his courage, shouted at Li Tongzhen, and then strode toward him.

The blade in his hand stabbed directly towards Li Tongzhen's throat.

Li Tongzhen instinctively turned his head to dodge Zhu Xicheng's attack, then kicked out fiercely.

Zhu Xicheng, with his mountain-like stature, instantly doubled over from the kick.

He fell against the wall.

It seemed like his spine had broken under Li Tongzhen's kick.

His limbs twitched involuntarily.

He let out a scream of agony.

"Somebody, help! Help!!"

Li Tongzhen looked at his palms, bewildered at why he had suddenly become so strong.

The panic in his heart was greater than the joy.

Li Tongzhen quickly went forward, released Qingqing from the wall, and carried the pale and weak Qingqing, running towards the distance.

"Qingqing, don't worry, I'll take you to the doctor, they can save you, they can save you."

Li Tongzhen stepped over Zhu Xicheng's body and hurriedly dashed towards the outside.

Chapter 490 - Mom Really Wants to Watch You Grow Up _5

"Damn it all!! Someone come quick!! Stop that little bastard!!!"

Zhu Xicheng was frantic, filled with an inexplicable fear towards the sudden change in Li Tongzhen. Yet, there was also a spark of joy in his heart.

This Li Tongzhen, was definitely not ordinary!!

If he could capture him and bring him back...

Zhu Xicheng thought to himself, but he hadn't come to any happy conclusions yet.

He suddenly felt an uncomfortable sensation in his chest.

He violently coughed up a mouthful of fresh blood.

Then he felt something, stuck in his throat.

Zhu Xicheng instinctively raised his hand to his mouth and forced a spit.

That was...

Pieces of his internal organs.

Zhu Xicheng's face suddenly turned pale, and he quickly looked around at the guards rushing towards him. He opened his mouth, intending to shout something loud.

But the words never escaped his lips.

The life quickly began to fade from his entire being.

His hand fell to the ground, devoid of strength.

Some guards who saw Zhu Xicheng in this state were startled.

"What's happened to the master? Was he made like this by that beggar?"

"That beggar couldn't even beat us, so how could he have bested the master? After all, the master had undergone training."

"What do we do now?"

"Report to the Office, to the Office!"

Some guards rushed towards the government Office, while others chased after Li Tongzhen.

As for Zhu Xicheng's concubines, especially the noblewoman who had been wailing at the beginning, seeing that Zhu Xicheng was very likely already gone, they were momentarily stunned, then quickly returned to their rooms, not knowing what they began to pack up.

In a short time, the entire Zhu Mansion was in chaos.

...

Li Tongzhen, holding the weak and frail Qingqing in his arms, hurriedly ran towards the medical clinic.

The Zhu Mansion was in the inner city, and Li Tongzhen was not familiar with the location of the inner city, so he could only ask passersby for the location of the medical clinic.

Both Li Tongzhen and Qingqing were covered in blood, which scared the passersby as he asked for directions.

But fortunately, the outcome was positive.

Soon Li Tongzhen found the location of the medical clinic.

By then, it was already late evening.

The bright moon hung high.

Li Tongzhen, holding Qingqing, arrived at the medical clinic and started pounding on its door frantically.

"Doctor, doctor, come quickly to save someone, please come and save her!"

Li Tongzhen knocked on the door of the clinic while gazing at the Qingqing in his arms.

Qingqing, perhaps due to excessive blood loss, had her body temperature drop drastically.

What made Li Tongzhen feel even more helpless,

was the long wound on Qingqing's arm.

The wound seemed to have been contaminated by some medicinal fluid, and it just wouldn't heal, continuously bleeding out.

Li Tongzhen could only press his hand on Qingqing's arm, praying that the blood inside her body would flow less.

"Doctor, doctor!"

Li Tongzhen was crying, shouting through his tears.

"Who's there, making a racket in the middle of the night like a banshee?"

The wooden door of the clinic finally opened, and a young man wearing a gray hat poked his head out. At first, he appeared irritated, but after seeing Li Tongzhen and Qingqing at the doorstep of the clinic, his expression changed.

"Good heavens, you guys..."

"Come in quickly."

The young man hurriedly invited Li Tongzhen inside and, after sitting them down, he quickly went back inside to call for the doctor.

Wang Ruoguan was just about to go to sleep when he heard his apprentice calling him again, saying that a patient had arrived.

Wang Ruoguan didn't feel like responding.

The patient was important.

Was he not important as well?

He was an old man, almost ready to return to dust, couldn't he have some rest?

Although Wang Ruoguan thought this way, he still got out of bed, hastily threw on some clothes, went to the door, and as he entered the diagnosis room, he smelled the strong scent of blood.

Wang Ruoguan's gaze sharpened as he frowned, looking at the girl lying on the bed and then at Li Tongzhen beside her.

Upon seeing Li Tongzhen, Wang Ruoguan was taken aback, as if he recognized him.

He didn't interfere any further,

but walked swiftly to Qingqing's side and asked in a deep voice, "What happened?"

Li Tongzhen shook his head, baffled. "Qingqing and I were captured. That person made a cut on my body, but while the cut on my body healed, the wound on Qingqing's body kept bleeding unstoppably."

Li Tongzhen explained simply.

Upon hearing this, Wang Ruoguan furrowed his brows deeply, gently lifted the blanket, and glanced at Qingqing's pale wound, devoid of any blood.

He leaned in closer to smell.

His expression completely changed.

"This scent, isn't it the Court Martial Department's forbidden medicine?"

"How could it appear on a little girl?"

Forbidden medicine was named so because once wounded by a weapon smeared with it, the injury was very hard to heal; one could only wait for death unless treated with a special medicinal solution. It was always used in warfare against enemy nations, so why had it appeared here?

And on a little girl at that.

The Court wouldn't go so far as to use it on such a little girl, would it??

Wang Ruoguan's eyes darkened and he quickly took out some medicinal solution, treated Qingqing's injury superficially to stop it from getting worse.

Just as he was about to say something,

suddenly, from outside, there came a commotion.

"My lord, the one who murdered our master has hidden in here!"

"In broad daylight, right under the Emperor's nose, to brazenly intrude and commit murder!"

"Severe punishment, there must be a severe punishment!"

Noises came from outside one after another.

Then,

the door of the medical clinic was kicked open.

Several City Ping County constables entered with swords drawn, followed by several women wailing, it was unclear if their crying was genuine or not.