

Peasant 241

Chapter 241: A Gift

Chu Ziluo was a smart girl, and her answer made Ye Muyu very satisfied.

“That’s right, that’s it.” Ye Muyu rubbed her head and said, “Go down and rest for a while. I’ll call you again during lunchtime. You’ve been very tired during this period of time.”

“Mother, I’m not tired. I like learning these things. I want to be as powerful as Mother,” Chu Ziluo said seriously, her crescent-shaped eyes flashing with a bright smile.

“Mother believes that you will.”

Chu Ziluo was encouraged by Ye Muyu and walked briskly.

She had indeed returned to her room, but she was indeed sorting out the summary of her studies during this period of time with Nanya.

Ye Muyu stood up and put the remaining rice dumplings back into the big round plate, pretending to give them away.

Meanwhile, Zhang Shu and his wife had already eaten the dumplings.

After the dumplings were steamed, they were wrapped separately.

Chu Heng carried the gifts and went to the door to give them.

Lu Chuan helped to drive the carriage. There was too much alcohol, and he could not carry it by hand.

Chu Heng went to the fifth branch first, which was the closest to his house. "Fifth Aunt, happy Dragon Boat Festival."

Chu Heng got down from the carriage and handed the gifts to Madam Qian and Madam Shen.

Madam Qian saw Chu Heng and smiled warmly. "Ah Heng, it must be hard for you to personally deliver them. Your fifth uncle also went to deliver the dumplings. This year, my family made a lot of dumplings with bean paste filling. They're huge. Fifth Aunt knows that you like to eat bean paste filling the most. "

"Thank you, Fifth Aunt. My family made some savory ones this year. You guys try it. It's not big, so we're giving you more of them," Chu Heng said.

Madam Qian and Madam Shen had already seen the dumplings that Chu Heng had given them. Although they were curious as to why they were much smaller than in previous years, they could not help but feel that there were a lot of them, and they even smelled nice.

It was still hot, so it naturally had a smell.

Madam Qian did not think that Chu Heng was stingy. Naturally, there was a reason behind it.

She was a little curious when she heard about savory rice dumplings. "Savory rice dumplings? What's inside?"

"Fresh meat and salted duck egg yolk."

"There are only two salted duck egg yolk ones. I was worried that you wouldn't like them, so I didn't bring more over." Chu Heng took the big rice dumpling from the fifth branch and said, "Fifth Aunt, I will continue to send it to my father and the others."

"Go, go."

Madam Qian sent Chu Heng off with a smile.

Madam Chen carried the rice dumplings while Madam Qian carried tea leaves, sugar, and wine into the house.

"I think Ah Heng's rice dumplings are more fragrant than ours. We'll eat Ah Heng's rice dumplings for lunch first." Since Madam Qian had spoken, the others naturally did not object.

However, there were no men at home. They had all gone to the county to sell fresh toys.

Only the women were left at home.

Madam Shen opened a meat dumpling and took a bite, "Mother, this meat dumpling is really delicious. It's better than the ones we tried to make before." Madam Qian also opened a meat dumpling, just as Madam Chen said: "That's true. Although Ah Heng's rice dumplings are small, they are very tasty. The filling inside is also a lot. It tastes much better than the ones we make ourselves."

"No wonder it's so small." Madam Qin also said, "Mother, leave some for our husbands. They haven't tasted it yet." "Naturally."

The fifth branch did not say much.

Chu Heng was the last to go to the old residence. By the time he had finished sending the rest of the houses and the village chief's house, it was already late. As soon as he arrived at the old residence, he saw Madam Zhang quarreling with a woman.

By the time Chu Heng's carriage arrived, the woman had already walked far away. He took a casual glance and recognized her as the wife of Li Gendi, the eldest son of the Li family at the village entrance..

Chapter 242: Uncle's Home

When she saw Chu Heng, Madam Zhang immediately restrained her shrew appearance and smiled, "Third Brother is here? Come in quickly. Father and

Mother have been waiting for you for a while."

"Yes." Chu Heng nodded and asked Lu Chuan to bring the gifts in.

He gave two extra rolls of cloth to the old residence.

Putting the gifts on the table in the central room, Madam Zhang smiled even more. Compared to previous years, the cloth this year were obviously better. It could be seen that Third Brother had not forgotten his parents and did not only care about spoiling his wife.

Madam Zhang indeed envied Ye Muyu, but she was more afraid that Chu Heng only had his wife in his heart and not his parents.

Now that she saw this gift, she felt much more relieved. She thought of what Madam Li had said before and could not help but look at Chu Heng a few times.

"Father, Mother, I wish you all a happy and healthy Dragon Boat Festival," Chu Heng said.

Chu Zhiwen had a happy smile on his face. "Old Third, you're on holiday these two days. Will you go to the county to watch the children compete?"

"Yes." Chu Heng nodded. He might not have minded it before, but this time, Ye Muyu was definitely going. He was worried about her going alone.

"Then we'll set off together in the afternoon. Coincidentally, someone from your maternal grandfather's house might be going to the county this time. Although your maternal grandfather's house is far away, every village has been notified of this female arts competition. Your youngest uncle's family has a daughter of the right age. She will definitely go to the county when the time comes."

“Your mother hasn’t seen the two elders for a long time.”

“However, there will definitely be a lot of people in the county today. The restaurants and teahouses will be full. After discussing with your brother, we’ve decided to meet in the small courtyard behind his family’s shop in the county.”

Chu Heng was not surprised. He had never told his family that he had a courtyard in the county. It was for his business and was not suitable for his family to live in, so he did not mention it. “Father, sure. Since it’s a holiday, I’ll prepare a gift for Uncle’s family.” “I wonder what Big Brother has prepared?”

Chu Heng did not plan on surpassing Chu Lin’s family when it came to giving gifts. After all, he was the eldest son.

As expected, Madam Zhang was even more satisfied when she heard him say this. Chu Heng’s identity as an Elementary Scholar had indeed brought a lot of convenience to the clan, and he should also be valued.

However, she and Chu Lin were also trying their best to shoulder the responsibility of being the eldest son. If this kind of matter that should be expressed by the eldest son was ignored by them, it was inevitable that they would be unhappy.

Clearly, Chu Heng had never overstepped his big brother and sister-in-law. This made Madam Zhang even more satisfied with this brother-in-law.

Naturally, she was even more angry at those who gossiped.

“I’ve prepared five-grain rice dumplings, a roll of cloth, a string of money, as well as two cans of blessing cake and brown sugar.”

“My maternal grandfather’s house is deep in the mountains. There are the most tea leaves, so there’s no need to prepare tea.”

“As for the wine, it’s easy to get into trouble if you drink in the mountains. I don’t think we should prepare it.” Madam Zhang told Chu Heng the list of gifts.

“Sure. I’ll get Madam Ye to prepare accordingly.” Chu Heng nodded.

“Actually, you don’t need to give a string of money.” Madam Liu also felt sorry for her parents, but she had no choice.

The Liu family’s hometown was deep in the mountains. When she got married, the Liu family could not live in the county anymore. They could only sell their second courtyard and save up some silver before returning to their hometown.

Moreover, her father felt that he could also do business in the tea industry. There might be a way out if he went back to plant tea.

Who knew that his father would almost fall off the tea mountain later on, injuring his tendons and bones? His legs were not good, so he could only give up most of the tea mountain and focus on growing food.

Although his current life was not considered rich, it was still passable.

Every year, Madam Liu would bring back some silver to show her filial piety..

Chapter 243: Leaving No Danger

Her family’s life was better now, so she could help her family more.

“Mother, it’s what I should do. The tea-tasting skills that Qing Xiang learned were taught by Grandmother.” Madam Zhang knew that Madam Liu always felt indebted to her family.

This was the feeling of guilt in her heart when her parents were still suffering despite her living a good life.

Madam Zhang did not want to have a conflict with Madam Liu. Moreover, even if she did not give this money, Chu Heng might give it to them privately, even if it was to give face to the First household.

However, Madam Zhang had earned a lot of money this year. Not to mention medicinal herbs, just making the pickled cabbages alone had earned her a lot. Now, they were still continuing to earn money.

It was also the third branch that taught her the way. How stupid was she to offend the third branch?

Thus, Madam Zhang, who had saved up some money, waved her hand and made a decision.

“Since you’ve said so, I won’t say anything more. You’re all filial children.” Madam Liu smiled lightly.

“Mother, you’re being too polite.” Madam Zhang was the best at talking. Since she had done a good deed, she would naturally accept it.

“Third Brother, are you staying for lunch?” She smiled at Chu Heng.

“No need. We still have to rush to the county in the afternoon. You guys should eat early. Oh right, Sister-in-law, remember to bring some vegetables to the county. I’m afraid no one will be selling vegetables today.” Chu Heng reminded.

Madam Zhang nodded repeatedly.

“Then I’ll send you off, Third Brother.”

“Father, Mother, I’ll go back first.” Chu Heng nodded.

"Go back. Be careful on the road." At this moment, Madam Liu was feeling very happy. She knew that Madam Zhang had deep thoughts and valued profits.

Usually, she treated her three daughters-in-law equally and hoped that all her daughters-in-law would be filial to her.

What she wanted was for them to be filial and not give her any trouble, not to scheme against her money and assets. Now, Madam Zhang had taken the initiative to give her family money, which made Madam Liu even happier than giving it to her directly.

"Third brother, do you know the Li family at the entrance of the village?" Madam Zhang asked after seeing Chu Heng off.

"Li Gendi's wife just came to look for me. She was talking about you and Third

Sister-in-law in the hall. I thought it was strange, so I didn't talk to her much."

"Who knew that the woman would be so unreasonable? She said that I was jealous of you and Third Sister-in-law, so we quarreled."

Madam Zhang thought that her own words would give Chu Heng a better impression of her family than others, so she did not hide anything and told him what had just happened.

"Actually, there are quite a few times when people ask about you and Third Sister-in-law."

"I thought the villagers were bored and just asked out of curiosity."

"It seems like Madam Li is here especially for you and Third Sister-in-law today. I find it strange."

Chu Heng took it to heart. "Yes, I understand. Thank you, Sister-in-law." "No need to thank me." Madam Zhang was somewhat flattered.

Chu Heng had already turned around and got into the carriage. He turned the carriage around and went to Chu Cai's house.

"Have you heard about what happened in the village?" Chu Heng asked from the carriage.

"Master, this subordinate is not sure."

"It's almost as First Madam said. It was just a small action before, and I didn't notice it."

"This subordinate will go to the Li family and ask them."

"Go ahead."

Chu Heng did not want to stay in the slightest bit of danger.

"Investigate the Cao family and the Tang family again."

"Yes." After Lu Chuan sent Chu Heng home, he left. He had a drug with him that could make people lose their minds and reveal information.

Chu Heng entered the courtyard.

He saw Ye Muyu packing up her clothes in the east wing room, and there were also many rice dumplings in the central room. It was obvious that the other relatives had also come to deliver gifts during this period of time..

Chapter 244: Good-Looking

“You’re back?” Ye Muyu heard the voice and turned around. She saw Chu Heng dressed in a black satin robe. His well-defined handsome face was imposing without anger.

Ye Muyu suddenly remembered that he always wore dark-colored clothes and had never seen him wear light-colored ones.

“This time, Mother gave you a set of clothes. Do you want to try it on?” Ye Muyu pointed at the light gray robe beside the bed. It was made according to the requirements of a scholar.

Chu Heng’s gaze fell on the clothes on the bed. He did not care much. Instead, he looked at her. “Did you make clothes for me?”

“What? The one I made for you isn’t done yet.” Ye Muyu felt a little guilty. It was not that she did not do it, but that she did not like to do needlework, so her speed was a little slow.

Usually, she would do needlework when she had time.

However, she was helpless. She had many things to do, and she was slow, so she was delayed.

“Let me see.” Chu Heng walked to the chair in front of the desk and sat down. His expression was still serious, but there was no coldness in his aura. It was obvious that he was in a good mood.

Ye Muyu did not understand why he was in the mood to look at unfinished clothes.

However, since he wanted to see it, she did not refuse. It was not a big deal anyway.

Ye Muyu bent down and took the sewing basket from the bedside closet.

Chu Heng reached out and took the sewing basket. He frowned at her. “Stand still. You don’t have to come over.”

“Alright.” Ye Muyu knew that he did not want her to fall, so she did not argue with him. As they got familiar with each other, she more or less understood Chu Heng’s personality.

This person was also very serious when he cared about others.

The man’s bony hands were placed in the sewing basket. He took out the half-finished clothes and looked at the sewing carefully. After a while, he praised, “Not bad. You’ve improved.”

“Cough, cough...” Ye Muyu was a little embarrassed. Speaking of which, her needlework was not exquisite.

However, because she had always liked to strive for perfection, she habitually tried her best to do her best.

As time passed, her needlework was still passable.

“Alright, hurry up and try on the clothes.”

“Mother made this for you. If it’s suitable, you don’t have to adjust it.”

“I’ll go out and tell Madam Hu to prepare lunch. After lunch, we’ll go to the county earlier.”

“Yes.” Chu Heng nodded in response. “Oh, right. I also need to prepare a gift for my uncle’s family. You can do it according to the first branch.”

Chu Heng told her about the gifts that the first branch had prepared.

Ye Muyu nodded. These were the things that the village usually prepared for the Dragon Boat Festival. It was not difficult with Madam Hu around.

As for the blessing cake and five-grain rice dumplings, they needed to be steamed on the spot.

Ye Muyu went out of the east wing room. Outside, Madam Hu was picking some beans from the ground.

“Madam, we’re preparing to make bean braised rice at noon. Are these beans enough?”

“That’s enough. But now, we have to eat the blessing cake and the five-grain rice dumpling first.”

“Yes.” Madam Gu did not ask why.

She followed Ye Muyu to prepare.

Halfway through, Ye Muyu heard Chu Heng calling her.

She washed her hands, turned around, and saw Chu Heng dressed in a gray robe. His cold temperament unexpectedly softened, but he was still handsome.

“It looks good.” Ye Muyu commented seriously.

Chu Heng’s ears turned red, but his expression became even more serious.

After a while, he said, “Thank you.”

Ye Muyu looked at him in surprise, but when she saw Chu Heng’s true emotions, she could not help but smile. She did not expect Chu Heng, who was known for his coldness, to be shy..

Chapter 245: They Are All Smart People

“You’re welcome. You look good in anything. It’s also very pleasing to the eyes.” Ye Muyu deliberately said this seriously, but in fact, she was observing Chu Heng’s emotional changes.

As expected, a certain someone's ears turned even redder.

Coupled with his serious expression, those who did not know better would think that he had encountered some difficult problem. In fact, he was just shy.

"Go carve the blessing cake." Ye Muyu took the opportunity to arrange work for him.

"Yes." Chu Heng walked over and pressed the cooked blessing cake into the mold.

After lunch, Chu Heng brought his family to the county to participate in the female arts competition.

Lu Chuan had returned a long time ago. He was in charge of driving the carriage.

Zhang Shu drove his family's mule cart to Chu Cai's house to pick up his family.

Chu Cai's family did not have a mule cart or an ox cart. They had already borrowed a mule cart from Chu Heng.

Soon, they arrived at the old mansion.

When they arrived, Madam Liu and the others were boarding the ox-cart. This time, the two sons of Madam Zhang, Chu Sheng and Chu Ming, were also on the ox-cart.

The first branch's ox cart was a handcart without a shed.

This was also for the convenience of pulling goods.

Therefore, she could see what the first branch had brought with him at a glance.

Gifts were wrapped in cloth bags. There was also a stool for each person and some dishes.

The reason why they brought the stool was to sit down and watch the competition. There were a total of 521 women who had registered in the county this time. If 100 people were competing at once, they would need at least 5 rounds.

This was not a short time.

Those who were watching the show definitely could not stand that long.

That was why the county magistrate had arranged for them to bring stools. On the other hand, Chu Oincxianc was wearing new clothes and had put some makeup on her face. She had already taken good care of herself and her skin was not too dark. She also knew how to use rouge and makeup, so she looked quite good.

Not only that, but even Madam Zhang even used makeup.

Chu Jin was playful. He opened the curtain and called out to everyone.

Ye Muyu had already called out to her elders when she saw them. When Chu Jin was done, she gently patted Chu Ziluo, who obediently called out to her as well. "Alright, let's go. If we're late, we won't be able to find a good spot to watch."

After Madam Liu spoke, the group of people rushed to the county.

15 minutes later, Ye Muyu and the others appeared in the county.

Looking at the bustling county town, he could not help but suck in a breath of cold air. There were too many people.

Every street in the county was full of people. It was only a quarter past noon, but there was already a long queue at the city gate.

This time, they had to pay a city entrance fee, which was one coin per person.

If the mule cart did not have a house in the county, it was not allowed to enter.

Ye Muyu and the others were lined up in the distance.

“Have the Third Young Master of the Xie family and the county magistrate discussed the matter of the Soft Fragrance Cake?” she asked Chu Heng after taking a look outside.

“Yes, the entrance fee collected will be used to make Soft Fragrance Cakes.”

“What?” Ye Muyu was surprised. “Isn’t it the Third Young Master of the Xie

Family who’s giving them to the county magistrate in the name of the Xie

Family?”

Although the county magistrate of Nanchang County was not known for corruption, ignoring government affairs, drinking, or only enjoying himself, he would usually accept gifts from rich families.

It was not uncommon for people to receive gifts in the Great Chu Dynasty. However, whether they had the luck to receive them or not to enjoy them was another matter.

In short, Ye Muyu subconsciously felt that she had wanted to use the county magistrate to promote the Soft Fragrance Cake. She had never thought that the magistrate would give her money. After all, they would be the ones who benefited in the end.

To be able to get the county to distribute the Soft Fragrance Cake before the competition began was already equivalent to owing the county magistrate a favor...

Chapter 246: Father Is So Scary

Wait, a favor.

Ye Muyu seemed to understand something.

As expected, Chu Heng said, "The county magistrate is not stupid. Rather than asking the Xie family to fork out some silver, he would rather make Xie Yu owe him a favor."

"Xie Yu wouldn't want the Xie family to owe the county magistrate a favor."

"So, in order to reduce expenses, the county magistrate charged a single coin as an entrance fee. It wouldn't be too expensive and cause criticism from the people, and he wouldn't have to pay silver."

"If Xie Yu had discussed with the county magistrate and said that the Xie family owed this favor, I'm afraid there wouldn't have been a matter of collecting the city entrance fees."

Ye Muyu understood. The county magistrate felt that Xie Yu's personal favor was not enough for the county magistrate to pay for it himself.

"Is the Soft Fragrance Cake ready?"

There were at least twenty to thirty thousand people coming from the entire county, so the amount of Soft Fragrance Cake was probably not small. "Xie Yu has always been punctual. Don't worry."

Ye Muyu had always believed in Chu Heng's ability. He was not a person who would shoot without thinking. He believed that the Soft Fragrance Cake would sell well in the future.

As they spoke, it was their turn to enter the city.

Chu Heng took out a copper coin from his waist and handed it to the guard at the city gate. He then reported the courtyard of the county before the carriage passed by.

Chu Lin and the others behind him did the same.

When they entered the city, the carriage moved with difficulty.

“Third Brother, let’s go to the courtyard first and put down the ox cart and vegetables.” Madam Liu called out to Chu Heng.

“What about you guys?” “Let’s go over too,” Chu Heng said.

“Alright, you guys follow the ox cart.”

“Is there a house in the county?” Ye Muyu asked out of habit.

As a manager in her previous life, she was used to knowing every detail. She asked this question out of habit.

However, not long after she said it, she frowned slightly and felt that she should not ask. This was no longer her previous life. Even if Chu Heng really had private property, if she asked, it would be somewhat unpleasant.

Chu Heng tilted his head and saw her frown. He thought that she was unhappy about him hiding the fact that he had a house in the county. He explained, “I bought this previously to run a business. It’s usually used by outsiders to rest. It’s very messy.”

“If you want to buy a courtyard in the county, we’ll go and take a look later.” His voice was clearly gentler.

“I don’t want to buy a house in the county,” Ye Muyu said. She knew that he had misunderstood.

"I'm just a little surprised. I shouldn't have asked before. It's just my habit. It's good that you're not angry."

Looking at Ye Muyu's serious expression, Chu Heng felt that guessing her sincerity would only disappoint her. Ye Muyu was a person with a bottom line.

"I don't mind you asking. If you have anything you want to know in the future, just ask me." Chu Heng did not want her to have any suspicions. He had been a scholar for many years and guessed the other party's thoughts. He believed that he was not wrong.

However, in the end, he still cared about Ye Muyu's true thoughts. He liked the way the two of them interacted with each other, so he tried his best to maintain it.

Ye Muyu was a little surprised by Chu Heng's words. She had thought that Chu Heng was a scheming person and would not be willing to reveal everything, but she could not see any trace of him joking.

so...

Did he really want to tell her everything?

This kind of husband was very rare in her previous life.

"Alright." Ye Muyu naturally would not refuse. It was her fortune that Chu Heng was willing to be honest with her.

"Mother, what are you talking about?" Chu Jin asked the two adults.

"The adults are talking. Children shouldn't interrupt." Chu Heng glanced at him indifferently.

Chu Jin was speechless. Father's voice was so scary.. Did he say something wrong?

Chapter 247: The Lively County

Chu Ziluo covered her mouth to hide the smile on her face. She had long known that her father would only be gentle when he saw his mother. As expected, it would be over if her brother interrupted. This interlude passed quickly.

“Third Brother, we’re here.”

Chu Lin shouted from outside.

Lu Chuan, who was driving the carriage in front, jumped down first. Chu Heng opened the curtain and saw that it was the back door of Chu Lin’s shop in the county.

When Chu Lin first bought this courtyard, he felt that it was inconvenient to separate the shop from the courtyard. Now that he had rented the shop to someone else, he could also rent out the courtyard alone.

However, some time ago, the merchant who rented the courtyard had left. Now, he could use it to take a rest.

The door to the backyard had already been opened. Because there were many people on the street, the three families did not waste any time. Madam Zhang entered the courtyard and led the way.

It was Ye Muyu’s first time here.

Initially, she thought that this courtyard would not be too big. After entering, she realized that although it looked small, it was well-equipped.

The front and middle of the courtyard were paved with boulders. The sides were covered with mud. Perhaps it was because it had rained, so it was still a little wet.

There were rooms on both sides. Although they were a little old, they were very clean. However, perhaps because they were next to the river, they were a little damp.

After entering the inner hall, it was the central room.

There were four more back rooms, and there was a well in the courtyard of the back room. It was convenient to get water without going to the public well.

The rooms on both sides were cleaned out.

One of the back rooms was used as a firewood shed.

There were a total of six rooms. Now, all five rooms could accommodate people. Although it was a little narrow, it was already not bad to be able to buy a house in the county.

After putting down the dishes and gifts.

The mule cart and the others could be placed in the temporary firewood shed.

“Alright, quickly take your stools and leave. Ladies, take your own competition tools. We’ll set off for North Street.”

For this competition, every girl had to bring their own needlework equipment, cloth, kitchenware, and teacups.

As for today’s tea ceremony competition, Chu Ziluo, Chu Qingxiang, and Chu Qingyu from the second branch held their own teacups in a cloth bag, not daring to touch them at all.

Chu Ziluo hugged her teacup and followed Ye Muyu.

Soon, the group of people headed toward North Street.

There were even more people on the streets.

When they arrived at the yamen on North Street, there were already many stools in the huge venue.

Madam Zhang stood on her tiptoes and looked forward. "Oh my, there are too many people. If we had known earlier, we would have come earlier."

"It's fine. The county magistrate has a rule that only the families of the competing girls can send an elder to sit in the first few rows," Chu Heng said. "We can just watch from outside." Seeing so many people, Madam Liu's interest in watching the show lessened.

However, seeing that the commoners were all in an orderly manner, there were also government runners guarding the surroundings, it was still considered safe.

Apart from that, the surrounding restaurants were already full. Those rich people were basically watching from the restaurants and would not come down to squeeze with the commoners.

Ye Muyu looked at the competition venue. Although the people wanted to watch the show, they did not dare to squeeze to the stage. She felt more at ease.

"How are the girls coming down after they go up to compete?" he asked.

When the competition really began, there would be even more people. If they were crowded together, there might be perverts around. At that time, their reputation would be directly affected if the girls were targeted.

Chu Heng pointed at the manor next to the field. "That's the manor of a branch of the Xie family. Although the Xie family is not close to the county magistrate, it doesn't mean that others don't want to be on good terms with the county magistrate.."

Chapter 248: Arrange

“Well, that house can be used as a passageway. After the performance, the girls can come out. There will be two bailiffs guarding outside. When the girls come out, they will read out their names. When their family members arrive, they will leave. If their family members are not here in fifteen minutes, they can leave by themselves. If their reputation is tarnished, it will be their own business.”

“After all, they are here to make political achievements. These details have been discussed by the county magistrate.”

“I’ll go and pick up Ziluo. Lu Chuan will stay on guard here. No one will come near.” Chu Heng’s position more or less protected Ye Muyu.

Therefore, although it was crowded, she did not suffer the slightest collision.

“Alright.” Ye Muyu nodded.

Chu Jin was being carried by Zhang Shu. After watching the show, he could not stand it anymore. He tugged at Ye Muyu’s sleeve. “Mother, I don’t want to watch anymore. Can I go and look for Uncle Chu Xing?”

“Uncle Zhang, take him there. Be careful on the road.” Ye Muyu had already reminded Zhang Shu that Zhang Cong would not follow. Although Zhang Cong was older, he could not keep an eye on a five or six-year-old child like Chu Jin. Instead of letting him distract Zhang Shu, it was better for Zhang Shu to look after Chu Jin.

“Yes, Madam. I will keep an eye on Young Master.” Zhang Shu held Chu Jin’s hand and walked away.

Once Chu Jin left, Chu Ziluo was the one who was nervous.

“Mother, I’m number 205. I can only go up after the third round. Are we just going to sit here and wait?” Chu Ziluo tugged at Ye Muyu’s sleeve. She was worried that Ye Muyu’s body would not be able to stand the lively environment. She was looking forward to the upcoming competition with apprehension and

nervousness, not to mention that there were so many people watching. "Sister Ziluo, just follow me to the stage later. The seats on the stage are all

numbered. Just find your own number and sit down. Don't worry, I'm not far from you." Chu Qingxiang comforted Chu Ziluo.

"Thank you, Sister Qingxiang." Chu Ziluo nodded obediently.

Ye Muyu was not surprised by Chu Qingxiang's goodwill. She was kind and she was not the type to cause trouble. Naturally, they could get along well and there would not be any conflicts. "Ziluo, don't be afraid. Mother will be watching you from below." "Sit down and conserve your strength."

Chu Ziluo nodded and sat down on the stool in front of her.

Beside her, Madam Zhang was still giving reminders to Chu Qingxiang. At the same time, she was talking to the family members of the participating girls and asking about the situation.

Madam Liu asked Chu Lin to go and see if her little brother had come.

"Father, Mother, you two sit here. I'll go look for him," Chu Lin said.

"Forget it if you can't find him. It'll definitely be more crowded here later," Madam Liu reminded worriedly.

In just a short while, many stools had been placed behind them. It could be seen that there were more and more people.

Chu Lin nodded and left.

Ye Muyu looked around and was surprised to see some guards in dark blue robes.

“Who are those people?” Ye Muyu tilted her head and asked Chu Heng in a low voice.

Chu Heng looked up and recognized him. “It’s the guards of the Xie family. There aren’t many bailiffs in the county government. It’s inevitable that there will be some mistakes in such a grand event.”

“The Xie family is a big family after all. We are willing to offer help purely for their own business.” On the surface, aristocratic families were not allowed to get too close to officials. However, there were many deep friendships in private.

Chu Heng also knew that the Overwatch Council established in court had many aces..

Chapter 249: Good Progress

It would be extremely easy for the Overwatch Council to find out anything about the Xie family’s privacy if they wanted to. With the Xie family’s connections, they should know.

However, he did not know the true abilities of those people in the Overwatch Council. He only thought they were some civil officials. In reality, they were similar to secret guards.

However, even if the Xie family did not know, they would not be so stupid as to collude with the government and merchants.

“It seems like the Third Young Masters have paid a lot. I believe the Soft Fragrance Cake will sell very well.” There were quite a number of people here today. Just the number of people entering the county town showed that the people under the jurisdiction of Nanchang County, which was located in Jiangnan, had quite a lot of assets and surplus grain.

In addition, the wealthy merchants sitting in the restaurants would have a higher net worth. Although the price of the Soft Fragrance Cake was a little high, it was not without a market.

Chu Heng saw that she was happy, and the corners of his mouth curled into a happy smile.

“Sit down and rest for a while. There’s still time,” Chu Heng said.

Ye Muyu did not stand on ceremony and sat down with Chu Ziluo. Chu Heng sat behind her, with Madam Liu and Ziluo sitting next to him. Lu Chuan sat next to Ziluo.

Not long after, on the high platform, a bailiff walked up and struck the big gong.

“Silence!”

After three rings, the bustling street slowly quieted down. In front of the officials, the people instinctively feared.

“The auspicious time has arrived. I would like to congratulate everyone on the Dragon Boat Festival.”

“Everyone, do not crowd. According to the county’s orders, do not cause trouble. Those who violate the order will be whipped twenty times. If the crime is serious, they will be imprisoned and await punishment.”

As the bailiff spoke loudly, the people who were originally still making noises instantly disappeared. It was obvious that no one wanted to go to prison. In ancient times, if they went to prison, their lives would be ruined. To ordinary people, it was a disaster that could cause the sky to collapse. The bailiff was also very satisfied with the people’s silence.

“Please come up to the stage, County Magistrate.”

He saw the county magistrate in his official uniform walking out of the room behind him.

When he passed by the stairs, he was helped up by the bailiffs beside them.

A fat and wealthy official walked up to the high platform. He looked at the people below with a satisfied smile on his face.

He coughed lightly and began his speech.

Ye Muyu was far away, so she could not see the county magistrate's face clearly. Although he was long-winded, he was not perfunctory, especially in his last sentence. "I hope that you can show your ability and perform well. Not only will you win glory for your parents, but you will also let the reputation of the county spread and bring honor to your ancestors."

"Well said, County Magistrate."

The people below applauded in response.

County Magistrate Xu was pleased to see that the people's emotions had been stirred up. He said, "Then the auspicious time has come. I hereby announce the start of the competition. After the competition is over, I have a congratulatory gift for everyone. Each family can send one person to queue up to receive it."

"A congratulatory gift?"

"County Magistrate, what gift?" a bold man asked.

"We'll find out after the competition," County Magistrate Xu said calmly.

Seeing that the county magistrate did not reveal it, the commoners did not dare to ask any more questions. Anyway, it was just a matter of waiting for a while. Since every household had one, they could just let their families collect it when the time came.

After that, County Magistrate Xu left. Soon, some bailiffs came up and began to call out the competitors' names to compete.

The first hundred people would go up in order.

At the same time, the corresponding family members sat in the first hundred seats.

Regarding the needlework competition, the county's Silk Workshop, Thousand Clothes Hall, and Embroidery Pavilion would each send two embroiderers to be the judges.

These three shops in the county were the best clothing shops, and their embroiderers were also the best in the county..

Chapter 250: Song Lu Is Here Too

In order to be fair, each family would send someone. The embroidery of the top 100 girls would be displayed at the entrance of the county government.

This was also to prevent the referee from favoritism. More importantly, the county magistrate did not want to do bad things. If this female arts competition could be held once a year, not only would it speed up the development of business, but it would also promote the development of the population. This would be his political achievement, so naturally, he could not leave a mark.

Thus, with the people as witnesses, these embroiderers did not dare to show favoritism.

Soon, the first match began.

The top 30 people would be ranked, and those after the 30th place would be eliminated.

After five rounds, the rankings would be re-ranked. The top 100 would receive the corresponding rewards.

"The topic of this competition is pear blossoms." "Ladies, just show me your strongest embroidery skills."

"I hereby declare the commencement."

When the girls on the stage began to compete, it was quite lively below. Although the bailiffs shouted for silence, the people could not help but ask each other about the identities of the girls.

The county magistrate had originally wanted to increase the population, so he was naturally happy that these girls and boys would take a fancy to each other. However, the high platform was very high and far away. The boys from afar would not affect the reputation of the girls. It was killing two birds with one stone.

"There seem to be quite a few girls from the rich families in the county." Madam Liu's eyes were not wrong. She could tell at a glance that the girls who went up were dressed well. Although the girls from the countryside would try their best to dress well for this competition, a family with a really difficult situation would not buy expensive clothes for such a competition.

Besides, the girls in the county had more money, so it was normal for them to dress better.

In this way, there was a clear distinction.

"Mother, I saw the Song family." Madam Zhang suddenly said. Her eyes were filled with joy that could not be hidden. Chu Qingxiang was a little shy but she tried her best to sit up straight and pretend to be calm.

If one ignored the small movements she made when she looked to the side from time to time, it would make her look even better.

"Oh? Where?" Madam Liu hurriedly asked. Madam Zhang pointed out the Song family not far away excitedly.

This time, Song Lu also came. He sat in the crowd, looking tall.

"This time, the Song family seems to have a girl of the right age to participate in the competition. Qingxiang, perform well." Madam Liu was a self-reliant person. Although her eldest granddaughter had been given to the Song family, the Song family was not as well-off as the Chu family. In order to support Song Lu's studies, they had spent their remaining wealth. Now, the Song family was barely able to

survive. Fortunately, Song Lu passed the Elementary Scholar examination this year and had a quota for tax-free land. The Song family did not have to pay taxes this year, so they were barely able to survive.

Under such circumstances, the Song family wanted to take advantage of Song Lu's fame to find a good marriage for him.

Song Lu could be considered to have excellent character and was good in his studies, but as the saying goes, a poor scholar is a poor scholar. He had just become an Elementary Scholar, and his family had spent a lot of money.

could only temporarily put aside the opportunity to take the examination this year and find a job as a teacher in a nearby county. He had been working for more than a month now.

Although he was short of silver, many people took a fancy to him because of his good character.

However, in the end, the Song Family agreed to exchange the invitation card with the Chu Family, and Chu Qingxiang and Song Lu's marriage was settled.

"Grandma, I'll do my best." Chu Qingxiang's eyes flashed with determination. She had a strong personality and was good at judging the situation. She naturally knew the importance of this competition..