

Pregnant Before the Royal Marriage

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1 Chapter 1: Getting Pregnant at the Beginning

Rumor has it that the Jiang Family's little daughter who was stolen twelve years ago has been found!

...

Chang'an City.

Inside a three-room thatched cottage.

Jiang Ning, rubbing her belly, suspects she is pregnant.

Because she noticed recently—

Food has lost its taste!

She can't wake up from sleep!

She always feels nauseous!

Her chest aches and itches, and she has the urge to pee frequently!

These are typical pregnancy symptoms!

When did this happen?

She's still an unmarried girl!

In ancient times like these, wouldn't she be drowned in shame?

Jiang Ning rubs her chin, wondering how to abort the fetus.

Hospital?

None.

The present is ancient times where all medical clinics are run by men, and there's no such thing as an abortion procedure.

The only choice is to take medicine.

Going to the clinic for medicine would cost quite a bit, right?

Jiang Ning feels her empty money pouch, not even half a copper coin could be scraped from it.

Looking around her home, the three dilapidated thatched huts, even the rooftops are covered with grass.

The location isn't bad though, located in the bustling market of Chang'an, with a small storefront at the front, displaying a tattered banner bearing the word "eat".

The original owner was an orphan, with parents who passed away early, leaving only the three huts and a small restaurant upfront. By making a little food, she earns a few copper coins to support herself, often at the edge of starvation.

No money, how to abort?

Not aborting, having a child, how to support him?

She doesn't even want to raise the child.

Bad luck to be reborn as a lame orphan girl, struggling to survive...

As Jiang Ning thinks about this, she sees the courtyard door being pushed open, a fifty-something-year-old fat old man walks in, followed by a four or five-year-old boy.

The boy struggles carrying a large basket, clearly exerting a great deal of effort.

"Little girl, why the long face?" The fat old man asks, with a hint of flattery.

Jiang Ning waves her hand: "I'm not in the mood to cook today, and there's no rice left. Old Man Li, you better find someone else's place for a meal."

Old Man Li was picked up by her at the door two months ago.

This old man was even poorer than her and fainted from hunger.

Anyone who came to her doorstep, man or animal, she couldn't just leave them unattended. Jiang Ning simply gave him half a bowl of leftover porridge from the pot.

As a result, the old man became addicted to mooching off her, coming back every few days.

Feeling pity for him, Jiang Ning didn't have the heart to chase him away, since it was just a matter of adding another bowl of water to the pot.

Life was hard for everyone.

But today, she's really out of food!

The fat old man rubs his hands, laughing: "I've been eating here for a while, and I feel a bit bad about it. So today, I brought some rice, flour, fish, and meat. Grandson, come here."

The boy hurriedly steps forward with the basket.

Jiang Ning is curious: "Old Man Li, you have a grandson?"

"Why can't I have a grandson?"

"You're this poor and still have the nerve to have a wife and grandson?" Jiang Ning reaches out and pinches the boy's face, which is quite cute, "What's your name?"

"My name is... Xiaoqian." As the boy speaks, he puts down the basket, which contains rice, flour, vegetables, a piece of meat, and two fish.

Seeing the fish and meat, Jiang Ning swallows her saliva.

Looking at the boy's eager eyes, Jiang Ning picks up the basket: "You two, wait, I'll have the meal ready soon."

Watching Jiang Ning pushing her wheelchair away, Li Tingqian looks at the old man.

The old man's face is full of love.

Tsk tsk.

Why does the prince value this pretty little girl so much?

Palace gossip has it that back in the day, the prince had an extremely beloved woman, but she was married, and soon after giving birth to a girl, she slipped away from this world. The girl has been raised outside the palace ever since.

Could she be the one?

2 Chapter 2: Old Man Li's Meal Money

Li Tingqian took a deep breath, so she was his little aunt, right?

Letting his little aunt cook for him?

The little boy was somewhat frightened.

By the time Jiang Ning reappeared, she found Li Tingqian's gaze on her to be strange, a mix of curiosity, surprise, and confusion.

Was he hungry?

Jiang Ning felt sorry for him, and handed over a piece of fried dough: "Eat."

Li Tingqian took the ugly-looking piece of dough, wondering if it was really edible.

He absentmindedly took a bite, and the next moment, his eyes widened.

Wasn't it too delicious?

Was his little aunt such a great cook?

Looking at an ordinary piece of Fried dough, it was even better than what was made in the imperial kitchen!

Li Tingqian swallowed the dough in a few bites, licked his lips and still wanted more, but didn't dare to ask.

It was his little aunt who personally made this dough. It was said that she was only three years old when her own mother passed away and that she was the pearl held in the palm of the emperor's hand.

He didn't dare to ask his little aunt to make dough for him in front of the emperor.

But, even if his little aunt was raised outside, how could she live in such a broken house?

Could it be that this place is actually a geomantic treasure land and, despite its run-down appearance, it's actually the best house?

Jiang Ning looked at the child devouring the food, thinking, look at what the child had become from hunger.

She'd better cook some more food quickly.

She pushed her wheelchair into the kitchen, steamed rice, washed some vegetables, picked some red peppers from the yard, made a small stir-fry, steamed fish, and added a mushroom soup.

Three dishes and one soup, a combination of meat and vegetables, colorful and fragrant.

Both the grandfather and grandson were amazed at the sight.

What was this stuff?

It looks pretty, and it smells extraordinarily good.

They had never seen such cooking; the imperial kitchen only ever boiled vegetables and steamed rice!

This fish, this meat —

Compared to it, the imperial kitchen's creations were all garbage!

Both the grandfather and the grandson swallowed their saliva simultaneously.

Jiang Ning thought, they really are poor; they hadn't even seen stir-fried meat before.

Not knowing where the old man had pinched this meal from.

"Eat, you two..." As soon as Jiang Ning said half a sentence, she found the grandfather and grandson were already waving their chopsticks and eating hard.

Sigh.

Jiang Ning sighed in her heart,

Looking at the two of them like this, it's hard to ask for money.

But how can she buy medicine without money?

The seeds in her belly won't wait for anyone. They will become harder to deal with as they grow bigger.

They devoured the meal.

The three dishes, one soup, and half a pot of rice were all eaten clean by the grandfather and grandson.

Jiang Ning only soaked half a bowl of rice with the soup.

Old Man Li patted his full belly, reached into his pocket, fumbled for a while, took out a small cup, and casually put it on the table, saying: "Well, this is for today's meal expense."

Jiang Ning glanced at it, and it was a small, gray teacup.

For the past two months, every time Old Man Li came to a "free" meal, he would leave behind one or two items afterward, all sorts of things like broken bottles, dishes, and sometimes even a piece of broken cloth.

In short, they were all a pile of junk.

Even so, Jiang Ning accepted the fat old man's kindness and casually placed it in a big wicker basket behind the door.

The basket was already filled with rice money from Old Man Li.

Li Tingqian casually glanced at it, and his eyelids suddenly began to twitch.

Unless he was mistaken, there was a bowl over there, the authentic work of Master Xuanyun?

And the rest of the items...

Just casually thrown in a broken basket?

Li Tingqian's eyes were dizzy; he didn't dare to look closely and picked up the cup to drink water hastily.

As expected!

His guess was right!

This place only looks worn-out on the surface, but in reality, treasures are everywhere!

With so many antiques and curiosities strewn casually in the corner, one can only wonder what the other things are...

The old wooden chair he was sitting on, from which dynasty's antique?

3 Chapter 3: I am So Beautiful

Li Tingqian felt a bit prickly in his buttocks and didn't dare to sit anymore.

It's true that the imperial grandfather does spoil his niece.

Not long after Old Man Li left with his grandson, a carriage arrived at the entrance.

From the carriage, a well-dressed woman got off.

The woman looked at the shabby courtyard and furrowed her brows.

“Mother Zhou, are you sure our Seventh Miss lives here? In this broken place?” A maidservant behind her whispered, “Could it be another imposter?”

Over the years, the Jiang Family had encountered countless imposters in their search for Seventh Miss.

It was all for the sake of the Jiang Family’s glory and wealth!

The maidservant couldn’t help but have contempt in her heart.

Mother Zhou said, “Even if it’s a fake, we still have to go in and see.”

The two of them cautiously stepped into the courtyard, avoiding getting dust on their shoes and clothes.

As soon as they entered, they saw a teenage girl, sitting on a broken chair, basking in the sun with her legs propped up, drowsy and lazy.

Everything around was shabby and shoddy.

The girl was wearing only a faded old cotton dress, with her sleeves rolled up to her arms, revealing half of her slender white arms. Even wearing such simple clothing, she had a natural sense of comfort and simplicity.

However, when Mother Zhou saw the girl’s face, she couldn’t help but be dumbstruck.

This girl’s eyes were like cold stars, her eyebrows were like paintings, her skin like ice and jade, beautiful beyond the earthly realm. And yet, her gaze was lazy, as if she had no interest in anything around her.

This face contrasted sharply with the surrounding environment.

But what shocked Mother Zhou was not just that-

This girl looked almost exactly like Madam when she was young!

With a face like that, could there still be any doubt?

Mother Zhou’s whole body trembled with excitement, and she knelt down with a thump.

The maidservant was startled and knelt down subconsciously as well.

Jiang Ning looked at them, wondering why the visitors lately had been stranger than the last.

There was no need to kneel just because they were hungry.

But, even if they were hungry, she couldn't help them.

She genuinely had no rice left.

"Sorry, the restaurant is closed today. We're out of rice. Come back another day for a meal," she said.

Mother Zhou's tears flowed down at the sound of her words.

How could the Jiang Family's young miss wear such clothes, live in such a shabby house, and not even have rice?

She crawled on her knees to Jiang Ning's side and said with a trembling voice, "Seventh Miss, I'm here to take you back to the mansion!"

Hmm?

Jiang Ning finally took a closer look at them.

She remembered clearly that the original owner was a single daughter whose parents died early, so where did the Seventh Miss come from?

Could it be that she was being kidnapped by the madam of a brothel to do unspeakable things?

In recent days, Jiang Ning had also looked at her face in the water, and although a little malnourished, she was definitely a beauty.

It was understandable that such beauty could attract bad people.

Jiang Ning pointed to her leg, "Eldest sister, my leg is lame. There's no use in taking me with you!"

Upon hearing this, Mother Zhou's tears gushed out even more.

Seventh Miss was too pitiful, kidnapped since she was a child, finally found but not only living in such poverty, but also lame!

It must be this family who had been beating her, scolding her, and bullying her!

With tears streaming down her face, Mother Zhou vowed to tell the Old Master when she got back, and burn down this place along with the people in it!

Jiang Ning saw her tears and thought that times were hard, the brothel business must be tough, and not being able to abduct a beauty would make them cry like this.

She couldn't sell her soul and that sort of thing for the sake of the brothel's business.

"Go back, don't waste your time on me. Even if I starve to death, I won't go with you." Jiang Ning touched her empty purse and spoke righteously.

4 Chapter 4: Just Want to Live a Lazy and Carefree Life

Mother Zhou felt even more heartbroken when she heard that she refused to go back to the mansion with her.

Seventh Miss was only three years old when she was abducted, and she couldn't remember her real parents and home.

Her inability to accept this at the moment was understandable.

Mother Zhou tearfully returned to the Jiang family and told Second Master Jiang Ruobai everything.

Jiang Ruobai was thrilled to learn that Jiang Ning was indeed his daughter and wanted to see her immediately.

Mother Zhou said, "Shouldn't we inform Madam first?"

"Madam has been suffering from a cough lately, and she's a bit confused. She has been in poor health these years due to this child's situation. To avoid shocking her further, I'll go see the child first and take it slowly."

"Old Master is right; we should keep it from Madam for now. Ah, not to mention Madam, even I can hardly bear to see Seventh Miss's current circumstances..." Mother Zhou wiped her tears.

Seventh Miss's disappearance had dealt a fatal blow to Madam, leaving her memory muddled and her mind often in a haze.

What kind of devastation would Madam suffer if she knew that Seventh Miss had been living in a slum all these years and had even developed a limp?

Jiang Ruobai furrowed his brow, but he didn't ask any more questions and hurriedly left.

Mother Zhou sighed and turned around, only to see Fifth Daughter and Sixth Miss approaching, so she quickly greeted them.

“Mother Zhou, we heard you’ve found our Seventh Sister?”

“Yes, Miss, she has been found.”

“Really? What does Seventh Sister look like now? Isn’t her life particularly miserable?” The Fifth Daughter compared the market women they saw, feeling fortunate.

Mother Zhou calmly replied, “Seventh Miss is a legitimate daughter and even her presence and demeanor are incomparable to commoners, despite her current plight.”

Her words were clearly a jab at the two young ladies in front of her.

In Jiang family, all children from different branches shared equal siblings rank. Fifth Daughter and Sixth Miss were both illegitimate daughters of the secondary branch. Besides the firstborn son, Seventh Miss was the only legitimate daughter of Madam, who was the primary wife.

These years, since Seventh Miss was kidnapped, Madam’s health had been poor, and she had been constantly taking medicine and seemed dazed. She didn’t bother with anything, and the secondary branch was almost controlled by the two concubines.

Consequently, the servants who followed Madam also suffered bullying from the concubines.

But now, all is well.

Heaven had mercy on them, and they finally found Seventh Miss, the only legitimate daughter of the secondary branch!

If Madam knew, who knew how happy she would be!

Let’s see how arrogant these concubines and illegitimate children would be!

But—

Thinking of Seventh Miss’s miserable situation, Mother Zhou couldn’t help but cry.

Once Seventh Miss returned to the mansion with her limp legs, she would surely be ridiculed.

She really couldn’t bear it.

Fifth Daughter's eyes showed disdain, and she sneered, "Mother Zhou is right, Seventh Sister is indeed our family's legitimate daughter, and her demeanor is naturally different. However, I wonder if she has learned any talents like playing instruments, chess, or painting? Commoners outside can't even afford a full meal, let alone learn such things. Ah, it's such a pity for Seventh Sister. I really hope to see her soon. But, what if it's another imposter?"

Mother Zhou sneered silently.

Just wait until you see Seventh Miss's appearance, and you won't be able to laugh anymore.

...

Jiang Ning lay in the lounge chair, feeling drowsy under the warm sunlight of the spring day.

She was hungry but didn't really want to eat.

She had no money but didn't want to think of a way to make any.

Maybe staying like this in a daze wasn't so bad.

Until the gate was pushed open.

"We're out of rice, we're not opening," Jiang Ning said lazily with her eyes closed.

Jiang Ruobai stood at the door, looking at the sleeping girl from a distance, completely dumbfounded.

Her clear and gentle face and the fair skin, just like Madam when she was young.

5 Chapter 5: It's Crude to Talk About Money

However, on closer inspection, they were different.

The Madam was a dignified and gentle lady, while this young girl exuded a carefree and lax disposition all over. She was indifferent to her appearance, dressed in a crumpled old cotton dress, slanted in a reclining chair, her long hair randomly tied with a piece of string, cascading like a waterfall behind her, swaying gently with the warm breeze.

Jiang Ruobai stared at the young girl's face, approaching step by step.

The young girl felt a shadow cast over her and opened her eyes involuntarily.

Ah, they were a pair of cold eyes, hiding shattered stars.

"Is it you, Seventh Sister?" Jiang Ruobai asked in a trembling voice.

Jiang Ning saw his face clearly. He was a man in his forties, having an elegant appearance and well-dressed.

It appeared to be a wealthy nobleman.

Such a person, coming to a small broken-down restaurant for a meal?

What did he say, Seventh Sister?

Could it be that he was with that old brothel keeper before?

Ah, is he a client?

Disdain seeped into Jiang Ning's eyes.

Despite his human-like appearance, he was engaged in such deeds.

Perhaps the obvious disdain in the young girl's eyes had shattered Jiang Ruobai's heart a little.

Could it be his daughter was resentful towards him because he hadn't found her for so many years?

Yes, she should hate him.

"Come with me." Jiang Ruobai squatted down, staring at her, and said softly.

Go with him?

Was he being so blatant?

Jiang Ning said, "Honestly, I'm a cripple. You'll be disappointed and disgusted."

Jiang Ruobai's gaze fell on her legs, feeling a sourness in his heart: "How could I despise you? You are the one I've been looking for. You... are my daughter!"

Da-daughter?

Jiang Ning scrutinized him carefully. His appearance was handsome and his bearing refined.

It was obvious he was a rich man.

A rich father dropped from the sky?

"Are you sure?" she asked.

"When you see your mother back home, you'll know whether it's true or not. You look almost identical to your mother when she was young," Jiang Ruobai replied excitedly, "You were lost during the Lantern Festival when you were three years old. Twelve years have passed, and I have finally found you!"

"Does your family...have money?"

"..." Jiang Ruobai was caught off guard, what kind of question was that?

The Jiang Family in Chang'an City was among the top ten prestigious families. Discussing money seemed vulgar.

"Do you have money or not?" Jiang Ning inquired.

"Oh, yes, yes. You can have as much as you want, as long as you're willing to come home with me." Jiang Ruobai looked around, his heart heavy.

Looking at this shabby little house, this child must have met many hardships, hence her concern about money.

"Okay, I'll go home with you," Jiang Ning agreed without hesitation.

She was a crippled orphan with an unborn child from who knows who. Sooner or later, she would starve to death.

After all, if she was hit with something like transmigration, how could she be so unlucky?

Look, a wealthy father has willingly landed on her doorstep.

Jiang Ning was quite happy and said, "Let me pack a few things."

Jiang Ruobai quickly said, "You don't need to take anything, the mansion has everything."

What valuable things could possibly be in this rundown courtyard?

At that moment, a cat jumped down from the wall, dirty and ragged, meowing and approaching Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning smiled, "Miaomiao, have you come for food again? I saved half a fish in the pot for you."

Over the past two months, apart from Old Man Sun, this cat had visited most frequently.

Jiang Ning told Jiang Ruobai to wait and moved her wheelchair into the house, brought out half a fish, and placed it in front of the kitty.

Seeing her legs, Jiang Ruobai felt fury, almost murderous.

Whoever had kidnapped his daughter and caused her to become a cripple, he would exterminate their entire family!

With her chin propped in her hand and smile on her face, Jiang Ning watched the kitty eat the fish. Compared to her previous casualness and laziness, she revealed a touch of gentleness.

Looking at his once lost but now recovered daughter, Jiang Ruobai's gaze swept over the cat bowl on the ground and abruptly halted.