

Royal Marriage 111

Chapter 111: Broken Shoes Suit You Best

“That’s right!”

“Oh, so you must have put down a deposit, right?”

“I said it’s reserved and that means it’s reserved. There is no need to put down a deposit.”

Jiang Ning smiled and said, “No deposit applied. How can it be considered a reservation? Just by you, Princess Ling’an, having a word, with a touch of your lips, you want to buy a pair of shoes worth ten taels of silver? In my opinion, your behavior is far more overbearing than our Fifth Daughter. After all, she paid the money.”

“Exactly!” Jiang Yuan immediately said, “It turns out you didn’t even give a deposit.”

Jiang Ning looked at the shopkeeper, “I wonder what the rules of the shop are. Can I reserve something by just saying it? If I was interested in a set of jade jewelry on display, would it be enough if I just said something and you won’t be able to sell it anymore?”

The shopkeeper smiled, “Well...Naturally, that’s not acceptable.”

Jiang Yuan burst into laughter, “Ling’an, did you hear the shop rules? You want to reserve something with just a word. Are you trying to bully people with your power?”

His Majesty, the present Emperor, did not like aristocrats acting privileged and bullying people with their power.

Princess Ling’an didn’t dare to behave like this publicly.

She scoffed, “Why does a cripple need shoes? Shabby shoes suit you best!”

Jiang Yuan angrily shouted, “What did you say?”

“I’m saying that your family has no shame, your mansion is a mess, your concubines and legitimate daughters all like to snatch things from others! Bah! Take these broken shoes, this princess doesn’t care!”

“You’re asking for a beating!”

Jiang Yuan jumped up and grabbed her by the hair bun—

Princess Ling’an was pulled back by her hair and fell to the ground with a thud.

Jiang Yuan quickly let go of her hand, called Jiang Yan, pushed Jiang Ning’s wheelchair, and ran.

Not until they climbed into the carriage did Jiang Yuan burst out laughing, “Today was so refreshing!”

Jiang Yan said with a pale face, “Fifth Sister, you’ve bullied Princess Ling’an like this, she won’t let it go easily.”

“Am I afraid of her?” Jiang Yuan snorted, turned to Jiang Ning and raised her eyebrows, “Jiang Seventh Daughter, you did well today.”

Jiang Ning gently rubbed her leg and smiled, “After all, you quarreled with her just to buy me shoes. It’s actually not worth it for just a pair of shoes. She is a princess, after all.”

“Is this about a pair of shoes? It’s about face!” Jiang Yuan handed the shoes to her, “Anyway, It’s not the first time I’ve fought with Princess Ling’an.”

Jiang Ning examined the shoes.

The embroidered shoes were exquisite and beautiful, like a piece of art.

No wonder Princess Ling'an wanted to grab them.

Ten taels of silver, enough for an ordinary family to live on for one or two years.

Jiang Yan whispered, "Seventh Sister, don't be sad, and don't care about what Princess Ling'an said. Even if your leg is not perfect, you can still wear the best shoes."

Jiang Ning smiled and said, "I really do like these shoes. It's a pity I can't wear them and walk."

Jiang Yuan looked at her, "What happened to your leg? I remember it was fine when you were young."

"I don't quite remember. I think I fell from a height once, and the family that raised me was poor. They had no money to take me to the doctor, so it ended up like this."

Jiang Ning didn't have much memory of this, all of this was heard from her childhood friend He Tang.

Jiang Yuan said, "Then, you're really unlucky."

Jiang Yan showed pity and sadness, "It's so pitiful. If they didn't have the money, why did they raise you? It ended up harming your whole life."

"Can it still be cured? Find an Imperial Physician to take a look." Jiang Yuan suggested.

"Father has consulted an Imperial Physician. The Imperial Physician said it's been too long since the injury, and the bones in my kneecap and lower leg have become crooked. There's nothing that can be done.."

Chapter 112: The Imperial Edict Arrives

Jiang Yuan and Jiang Yan both fell into silence.

The leg fracture of a child is fairly easy to heal, simply finding a doctor who specializes in trauma and getting it reconnected could do the trick.

Yet, because of the lack of money, it put her life on hold.

No wonder she got lost in thought while looking at the embroidered shoes.

The pair of shoes cost ten taels of silver. If she had had ten taels of silver back then, she wouldn't have ended up being lame.

Jiang Yan's eyes were turning red.

Jiang Yuan glanced at her, and said in a cold voice, "If you are so ready to cry, do you have an endless supply of tears? What is there to cry about? Hasn't she returned? As the legitimate daughter of the Jiang family, even with an impaired leg, there are plenty of people to serve her. You're worried about ten tael shoes? She can also afford shoes that cost one hundred taels or even one thousand taels!"

Jiang Ning mockingly commented, "Seeing how vehemently you fought with Princess Ling'an the last time, ready to beat her to death. Today, why did you run as soon as she fell?"

"What could I do if it erupted into a fight, I could end up hitting you and the baby inside your belly?" Jiang Yuan said, rolling her eyes.

"Haven't you always been disdainful of me being pregnant?"

"It's you that I have a problem with, not the baby. Do I look like I'm bored enough to pick a fight with an unborn child?"

"Fifth sister, don't be like this." Jiang Yan smiled at Jiang Ning, "She's always been like this, sharp-tongued yet not that bad at heart."

"Am I in need of your defense? And what do you mean by 'not that bad'? Are you suggesting I am bad?"

"That's not what I meant, you wronged me..."

"How dare you talk back to me!"

Jiang Yuan turned around and squabbled with Jiang Yan.

Jiang Ning just looked on with a faint smile.

The two girls had different characters. Jiang Yuan was proud, irascible, liked to flaunt, but was also very loyal.

Jiang Yan was quiet, timid, but very gentle and meticulous.

Overall, they weren't bad at all.

On returning home, she first went to the Purple Forest Garden to see Lin Zizi.

Lin Zizi was now, in spirit, much better, but her health was still not great. She seldom went out, spending most of her time in the small meditation room, quietly reading and copying scriptures.

However, today was a bit different.

Jiang Ruobai and Jiang Yi were also here, accompanying Lin Zizi while drinking tea and chatting.

Seeing Jiang Ning return, a spark of joy flashed in Lin Zizi's eyes, "My dear girl, come here."

Jiang Ning went over with a smile.

Lin Zizi pulled her close, rubbed her back and wiped off her sweat with a towel, "Where have you been playing? You're covered in sweat. Why did no one around you think of helping you change clothes?"

Jiang Ning glanced at Jiang Ruobai and Jiang Yi.

Jiang Yi subtly shook his head.

This indicated that Lin Zizi was feeling a bit confused again and was treating Jiang Ning as if she were a three-year-old child.

When Jiang Ning disappeared at the age of three, Lin Zizi was greatly traumatized, her mental state became unclear and often her memory stayed at that time.

Jiang Ning smiled, "Mother, I'm a bit hungry."

"What do you feel like eating?"

"I want to eat the purple rice cake that mother makes."

"Good, good, I'll go and make it right away." Lin Zizi stroked her forehead and repeatedly warned the maid to look after her closely, then rose to leave.

Jiang Yi sighed, "Over the years after Seventh Sister's disappearance, mother has been in so much pain and unable to move on."

"Now that Little Seven is back, everything will get better." Jiang Ruobai put down his teacup and smiled, "Little Seven, I have some good news for you. Just now, an Imperial Edict arrived from the palace."

"An Imperial Edict?"

"The Emperor first rebuked the Prince of Yu, ordering him to apologize to you in person and take you back to the Prince of Yu's mansion," Jiang Ruobai said with a smile, "For his daughter-in-law, rebuking his son is an unprecedented act. The second, third, and fourth princes are all married and have caused a lot of trouble, but the Emperor rarely intervenes.."

Chapter 113: A Cornered Dog Will Jump the Wall

Jiang Ning remembered the words spoken by the Prince of Yu at the teahouse.

He said that as long as he wanted, he could take her back.

He meant to go directly to the Grand Commander.

How naive!

Did he think that with the Imperial Edict, she would give up her comfortable life in the Jiang Family and shamefully follow him back to the Prince of Yu's residence?

He must be thinking about the child in her belly.

Jiang Ning laughed: "What does father think?"

"I came to ask for your opinion." Jiang Ruobai said, "Since the Imperial Edict has arrived, the Prince of Yu will definitely visit to apologize. When that happens, you should accept his apology first. Our Jiang family's daughter can't be bullied for nothing."

Jiang Yi nodded: "That's exactly what I meant."

Jiang Ruobai looked at him: "Shouldn't you be returning to the Academy?"

"I have to see the Prince of Yu apologize to my sister before I leave."

"You have plenty of excuses. The examinations are in two months, you should prepare well and not be distracted by the family's affairs."

"Father, don't worry. As the eldest brother-in-law, how can I not be present for such a grand scene like the Prince of Yu apologizing?"

Jiang Ning faintly said: "Third Brother is really nosy."

"This is about showing concern for you."

"But I don't want to go back."

"If you don't want to go back, then don't." Jiang Yi said, "We can accept the apology, but going back is impossible."

"Stop instigating! Let your sister decide for herself." Jiang Ruobai glared at his son, "She won't marry Wenren Zong, do you plan to have her widowed for the rest of her life? If the Prince of Yu sincerely apologizes and doesn't bully her anymore after returning, this matter is negotiable."

Jiang Ning shook her father's sleeve: "But I want to stay by my mother's side and not leave."

This sentence made Lin Zizi, who had just entered the room, burst into tears.

She rushed over to hug Jiang Ning: "No one can force my obedient daughter to leave. Jiang Ruobai, you didn't appreciate my daughter back then. Now you let her get married, but who knew the Prince of Yu would be so incompetent? Her husband's family treats her badly, and you still force her to go back. You might as well drive both of us, mother and daughter, to death!"

Jiang Ruobai hurriedly said: "Madam, don't be angry, don't get excited. I absolutely won't force our daughter to go back. It's up to her to decide."

"Daughter, you have to make your own decision." Lin Zizi said.

"For now, I don't want to go back." Jiang Ning was quite content being surrounded by Lin Zizi's fragrant and soft embrace, "I'm pregnant, and there are several concubines in his residence who are not easygoing. What if they upset me? I think, at least not until the child is born."

Lin Zizi asked: "Do the concubines in your residence bully you?"

"I'm so innocent, what if I'm secretly harmed?"

"Makes sense." Jiang Yi nodded, "When the Prince of Yu comes, let's have him kick all the concubines out."

This family really dares to think big.

Although Jiang Ning was touched, she found it funny as well.

Could the Jiang family be so overbearing as to force a prince to drive away his own concubines?

Nowadays, the two brothers of the Jiang family hold high positions, with the elder brother being a general holding military power and the second child being the Prime Minister with great influence in the Imperial Court.

Invincible and arrogant.

But Jiang Ning felt that the current glory couldn't last long, and being so overbearing would certainly not be tolerated by the royal family.

After all, the royal family is not a charity, how could they watch idly as the Jiang family climbed onto their necks?

Today the Jiang family can force the Prince of Yu to visit and apologize, who knows if in the future they could also force the Emperor to do something?

Jiang Ning felt that the Jiang family was in danger.

But the Jiang family members seemed to have no sense of it.

Even a cornered dog would jump over a wall, let alone a prince's son.

They must know when to stop and not push people too far..

Chapter 114: Brother and Sister

Jiang Ning quickly interrupted the fantasies of the family of three.

"Let's not push people too far."

"What do you mean by that... Who dares to bully Prince of Yu?" said Jiang Ruobai.

Jiang Ning thought, you forced the Emperor to issue an edict, making someone's own son come to apologize, isn't that bullying?

Lin Zizi finally spoke up: "In this matter, we should listen to Ningning. Whatever she says, it will be. None of you should force her to make a decision."

Neither father nor son dared to defy her.

At this moment, a maid came over and said, "Aunt Liu is not feeling well, please ask the Old Master to come and have a look."

Jiang Ning looked at her father.

As if they hadn't heard, Lin Zizi and Jiang Yi just carried on with their tasks.

Jiang Ruobai said, "If she's not feeling well, let the doctor have a look."

"The doctor has seen her, but the headache is still severe. She would like to ask the Old Master to see if there's something wrong."

Jiang Ning laughed, "Aunt Liu really has no manners. While dad is with mom, she sends someone to invite him repeatedly."

Jiang Ruobai felt a bit embarrassed.

He only had two concubines, which was already quite few considering his status.

Over the years, Lin Zizi's health and spirits hadn't been good, so he spent more time in Aunt Liu's room as she took care of the household affairs.

Jiang Ning's disappearance back then was definitely related to him.

Maybe it was because he didn't dare to face Lin Zizi, so he only occasionally came to Black Bamboo Garden, only staying for a short while before leaving.

However, since finding his youngest daughter, Jiang Ruobai had been revitalized, frequently sitting in front of Lin Zizi with or without a reason. Although he hadn't stayed overnight yet, his eyes were almost glued to her.

He'd hardly visited the other two aunts at all.

Aunt Bai, Jiang Yan's birth mother, didn't mind, but Aunt Liu, used to being favored, couldn't stand being neglected suddenly and tried every method to invite him over.

Lin Zizi said calmly, "Since she says she's not feeling well, you should go and see her."

Jiang Ruobai hesitantly stood up, "I'll just go and take a look. I'll come back to have dinner with you tonight."

Lin Zizi didn't say anything.

Jiang Ruobai left.

Jiang Yi snorted.

Jiang Ning peeled a grape and put it in his mouth, "Brother, what are you snorting at?"

"None of your business, you little girl!"

"I..." Jiang Ning glanced at her belly, which was already starting to show.

Jiang Yi glanced at her, pushed her forehead, “No matter if you’re married or having a child, you’ll always be a little girl in my eyes.”

Jiang Ning asked, “When I got lost, you were just a few years old, do you remember me?”

“Of course, I remember.” Jiang Yi looked at his mother, “I’m three years older than you, and I was six at the time. How could I not remember that? Back then, you followed me everywhere, clutching the hem of my clothes, calling out ‘Third Brother, Third Brother’. Ah, it was so annoying.”

Jiang Ning laughed, “That’s how a three-year-old child behaves.”

“I was young and didn’t know anything, sigh...” Jiang Yi sighed and couldn’t continue.

Lin Zizi said, “After you went missing, your Third Brother cried for many days and nights, always trying to find you, calling out ‘Seventh Sister, Seventh Sister’ even in his dreams...”

“Mom, stop it,” Jiang Yi interrupted.

Jiang Ning looked at him, clearly seeing his face turning slightly red.

The loss of their little girl back then was indeed a huge blow to the family.

But it also proved that they genuinely loved her and doted on her a lot.

Jiang Ning grabbed Jiang Yi’s sleeve and rubbed her face on it.

“Tsk... are you dirty or what? Don’t rub snot on my clothes! I just had this outfit made, and it’s my first time wearing it today. It’s valuable, you know!” Jiang Yi quickly pulled his sleeve back, looking disgusted..

Chapter 115: Brother’s Things are Yours

Jiang Ning laughed and said, "I'll compensate you with ten of them."

"Show me the money."

"I have something good for you." Jiang Ning turned to leave, and soon returned with a small scroll. She handed it to him and said, "I heard Third Brother is quite knowledgeable and has great literary talents. You'll surely like this." "What?" Jiang Yi took the scroll and unrolled it. Then, his gaze fixed upon it.

Lin Zizi glanced at it and laughed, "It's the authentic version of 'Sunset Glow'." "Wow, awesome!" Jiang Ning clapped her hands. "Mom has such sharp eyes; she identified it instantly."

Lin Zizi smiled gently.

Jiang Yi regained his senses, "Seventh Sister, did you know that when our mother was young, she wasn't just the most beautiful woman in Chang'an City, but also the most talented? She's an expert at identifying calligraphy and paintings."

Jiang Ning looked at Lin Zizi: "Beautiful and talented Mom is so amazing!"

Lin Zizi laughed.

"Where did you get this painting?" Jiang Yi asked.

"The Emperor gave it to me."

"What?"

"Really, he gave it to me. In exchange for a meal."

"It's always been rumored that the authentic painting was in the palace. So, it's true." Jiang Yi gasped, "How many meals did you have to cook to get a painting worth that much?"

"Just one meal."

"..." Jiang Yi thought of the dishes she cooked and fell silent.

For the Emperor, enjoying a delicious meal and then casually giving away a painting wasn't impossible.

Moreover, Seventh Sister looks exactly like their mother when she was young. The Emperor would inevitably have some thoughts upon seeing Seventh Sister. Jiang Yi held the painting very carefully, "Seventh Sister, are you really giving this to me?"

"Yes, I'm giving it to you." Jiang Ning laughed, "I have no use for it anyway, and I couldn't bear to sell such a precious painting."

Jiang Yi was extremely excited, "Seventh Sister, you can take whatever you want from my place. Wait, everything there is already yours."

Jiang Ning laughed, "Do you like it that much? I have a few more calligraphy and paintings at my place, probably all authentic. If you like them, feel free to check them out."

"Where are they?"

"They're all at the Prince of Yu's mansion."

"I'll bring your dowry back another day."

"Good. We have to get the dowry and betrothal gifts back."

“No problem.”

“Thank you, Brother.”

“I should thank you, Sister. It’s so nice to have a sister like you!” Jiang Yi carefully carried the painting, and cautiously turned to leave, “I have to put this treasure away and keep it safe from any scratches or damage. My classmates will be so envious when they see it!”

On the way back, he ran into Jiang Ruobai.

Jiang Ruobai asked, “What are you carrying?”

“Sunset Glow, the authentic version.” Jiang Yi, worried that he wouldn’t believe him, added, “Seventh Sister gave it to me.”

Jiang Ruobai, of course, knew Jiang Ning had this painting. Although he had been tempted, he never asked for it since it was a gift from the Emperor and belonged to his daughter.

Unexpectedly, she had directly given it to her brother.

“Why did she suddenly give you this painting?”

“Because...” Jiang Yi glanced away, “Seventh Sister said that Dad isn’t as well-behaved as her brother.”

“What?”

“If Dad hadn’t gone to Aunt Liu’s place just now, this painting probably would have belonged to him.”

“Dad, you take care. I’m going home to admire my authentic painting. My classmates are going to be so jealous!” Jiang Yi walked away, looking very pleased with himself.

Watching his son's swaggering exit, Jiang Ruobai suddenly felt immense regret.

Why did he go to Ms. Liu's place earlier and watch her pretentious show of affection?

That was the authentic version of the 'Sunset Glow,' the authentic version!

Jiang Ruobai was so heartbroken that he could hardly breathe.

Early the next morning, just as day broke and Jiang Ning was still fast asleep, Li Hongyuan arrived..

Chapter 116: Prince of Yu Arrives

Initially, Jiang Ning was awakened by a series of loud gongs and drums.

She sat up groggily.

Huang Ying rushed in, her expression strange, "Miss, Prince of Yu is here."

"What's all that noise about?"

"It's the people that Prince of Yu brought along, they said they want to publicly apologize to you and take you back."

Jiang Ning became completely awake in an instant.

From Prince of Yu's residence, all the way to Jiang Family's while making noise with gongs and drums?

This Prince of Yu is ruthless.

With such a public spectacle, how could she secretly defy the Imperial Edict?

It was evident that Prince of Yu had already blocked her move, starting the commotion from their doorstep, letting everyone know that he, Prince of Yu, had come to apologize according to the Emperor's will and was extremely conciliatory.

If Jiang Ning didn't go with him, it would mean that she was ungrateful and defied the Imperial Edict.

Although the Jiang Family was powerful, at most they would be willful behind closed doors and resort to underhanded tricks, but they would not dare to openly defy the Imperial Edict.

In other words, Prince of Yu was using public opinion to force her to go back.

So ruthless.

Jiang Ning repeated this thought.

Huang Ying whispered, "Miss, you should get dressed first. The Old Master and Third Master are greeting them in the front, they should be asking for you in a moment."

"Get me dressed then."

Jiang Ning sat up, supported herself on the bed, and stood up.

Huang Ying called Chunlai and a few maidservants to help her change clothes, wash her face, and comb her hair.

Once she was dressed, Huang Ying helped her sit in the wheelchair and put on her shoes.

“Miss, these shoes look really beautiful, shall we change to these ones?” Huang Ying held up a pair of gold-threaded, soft brocade shoes embroidered with pearls.

Those were the shoes Jiang Yuan had snatched from Princess Ling’an.

“Alright.” Jiang Ning nodded.

Huang Ying immediately helped her put them on.

Chunlai smiled, “They look so beautiful, only a pair of shoes like this is worthy of our Miss’s appearance.”

Jiang Ning looked down at the glittering, pale pearl luster of the shoes just visible beneath her skirt, soft, elegant, and magnificent.

Such expensive shoes felt wasteful to wear.

But she didn’t walk, so they wouldn’t get dirty or damaged.

It was no different from wearing jewelry.

“Exactly.” She smiled.

At this point, a maid from the front yard came and said that the Old Master requested Seventh Miss to go there.

Huang Ying pushed Jiang Ning to the front yard.

From a distance, they saw the noisy crowd of drummers and gong players, almost a hundred of them crowded together.

Jiang Ning suspected that the Prince of Yu had invited everyone who could play gongs and suona in Chang'an City.

In the small Flower Hall, Jiang Ruobai and Prince of Yu were sitting, and Jiang Yi was standing.

Although the Prince of Yu was of noble status, Jiang Ruobai was his father-in-law after all, and a Prime Minister of the country, so he didn't have to kneel or stand in front of the Emperor all the time.

Seeing Jiang Ning's wheelchair appear, Li Hongyuan looked back at her.

She was still in a white cotton dress, with her arms folded and her shaggy, waist-length hair hanging loose, except for a pair of delicate, eye-catching pink embroidered shoes on her feet.

He had never seen her dressed formally with a dignified demeanor before.

It seemed that this woman was innately lazy and seemed not to care about anything.

Just looking at her made him feel displeased.

However, he still had to take her back.

No matter what, she had to give birth to the child in the Prince of Yu's residence.

By then, she could either stay or leave.

But the child must stay behind.

Li Hongyuan looked away and said to Jiang Ruobai, "Since she's here, I'll take her back."

Jiang Ruobai exchanged glances with his daughter and said, "Ningning's body is still not feeling well, so it's better to let her rest here for a few more days."

Li Hongyuan said indifferently, "The Emperor Father ordered me to take the Princess Consort back. Is Jiang Master going to defy the Imperial Edict?"

Jiang Yi said, "If I remember correctly, the Imperial Edict demanded an apology from Your Highness to Seventh Sister? Since Seventh Sister has not yet received an apology, how could she go back?"

Chapter 117: Good, Don't Be Afraid

""Oh, right, This Prince almost forgot. Come with me."

Li Hongyuan stood up and reached out to push Jiang Ning's wheelchair.

Jiang Ning grabbed onto her Third Brother's thigh: "Where are you taking me?"

Jiang Yi immediately protected his sister.

Li Hongyuan bent down, gently touched Jiang Ning's cheek, and spoke softly, "Behave, don't be scared. Aren't you here to apologize? This Prince will take you to apologize in front of everyone. Prime Minister Jiang and Third Young Master wouldn't want me to defy the edict, would they?"

Jiang Yi frowned, wanting to take action, but was stopped by Jiang Ruobai's gaze.

Li Hongyuan broke Jiang Ning's fingers from Jiang Yi's thigh one by one.

"If you want to apologize, do it here. I'm not going out!" Jiang Ning said.

"That won't do. If I don't apologize in public, how can I show my sincerity?" Li Hongyuan smiled. "Or are you saying, Princess Consort, that you want me to carry you out?"

Jiang Ning tried to stand up, but Li Hongyuan held her shoulder down, softly laughing, "The exquisite embroidered shoes on the Princess Consort's feet should not be dirtied by the dust on the ground."

Jiang Ning felt a chill down her spine as he blew into her ear.

Disgusting.

As expected, Li Hongyuan was sinister and cunning.

He would do anything to achieve his goals.

Although Li Hongyuan only threatened her without actually trying to hold her, he eventually succeeded in pushing her out of the Flower Hall and in front of hundreds of people who were beating drums and gongs.

"These are all the people of Chang'an City. Should this be considered 'in public'?" Li Hongyuan asked.

"Fine, you say." Jiang Ning had nothing to say.

"Good." Li Hongyuan turned around, faced her, and looked deeply into her eyes as he said word by word, "Ningning, I'm sorry. Everything is my fault, I shouldn't have angered you. I truly realize my mistake. Please come back home with me."

The crowd below cheered, beating drums and gongs, nearly deafening Jiang Ning's ears.

"Enough." Jiang Ning could bear it no more, "I'll go back with you."

"That's great." Li Hongyuan held her hand, "You don't know how much I've missed you."

Jiang Ning:

She could never have imagined that the Prince of Yu would go to such extremes.

For a prince to swallow his pride like this, doing such things in front of ordinary people, one could see how heartless he was.

If he could be so ruthless to himself, he could naturally be more ruthless to others.

Jiang Ning looked back and saw Jiang Ruobai and his son walking out.

Jiang Ruobai spoke unhurriedly, "Your Highness, with such sincerity, we can only accept. However, since Seventh Sister is not well and we need to consider the child, let her stay at the mansion for a while longer."

Li Hongyuan narrowed his eyes, "Today, This Prince must take her back. This is the Imperial Edict. Is the Jiang Family planning to rebel?"

Whispers spread among the hundreds of people below.

Jiang Ning frowned.

The Prince of Yu would not give up until he achieved his goal.

Just then, a clear child's voice came—

"Little Aunt!"

It was Li Tingqian.

Behind him were seven or eight eunuchs and Imperial Guards.

He ran over, grabbed Jiang Ning's hand, and happily said, "Little Aunt, I can come to see you again."

With the arrival of the emperor's eldest grandson, things were getting interesting.

Jiang Ruobai and his son exchanged glances.

Jiang Ning smiled and asked, "Xiaoqian, how did you get here?"

"I came to take Little Aunt home! Grandfather said that I can even stay overnight in the Prince of Yu's Mansion. Little Aunt, can you read stories to me?"

His eyes sparkled like stars.

Jiang Ning looked at her father.

Jiang Ruobai frowned.

The Emperor, fearing that the Jiang Family would renege, had sent the eldest imperial grandson as well.

This eldest imperial grandson was his attitude.

Jiang Ning had to go back today, whether she wanted to or not..

Chapter 118: Xiaoman

Jiang Ning didn't want to escalate the situation.

It wouldn't be good for anyone.

The Emperor also sent Xiaoqian, clearly giving her and the Jiang Family a way out.

Although she was not a donkey, she had to take the Emperor's offer and back down.

She turned to her father: "Father, since the Prince has said so, I will go back." Looking at Jiang Yi, "Third Brother, will you escort me home?"

Jiang Yi hurriedly said, "Of course. But...are you really going back?"

He had made up his mind that if his sister shook her head, he would fight the Prince of Yu even at the risk of his own life.

However, Jiang Ning nodded her head and smiled, "I can't stay at my mother's house forever, can I?"

Jiang Ruobai said, "If that's the case, you can go back temporarily. In a couple of days, your father will come and fetch you."

"Thank you, Father."

"Also, your father will give you a servant." Jiang Ruobai nodded to the housekeeper, who immediately turned and left, then led a slightly sturdy maid over.

The maid walked to Jiang Ruobai's side.

Jiang Ruobai said to Jiang Ning, "This girl is called Xiaoman. She is an orphan I found outside a few years ago. Take her back with you. Xiaoman, from now on, you will follow Seventh Miss. Remember, you will only listen to Seventh Miss's orders."

The maid nodded earnestly, walked in front of Jiang Ning, knelt down and kowtowed, "Xiaoman pays her respects to Seventh Miss."

"Get up." Jiang Ning was a little puzzled as to why Jiang Ruobai would give her another maid.

She had four maids who accompanied her as part of her dowry, plus Huang Ying made it five, along with two older women, and the family of Jiang Fu. It was not a small number.

Moreover, this maid looked clumsy and not as pretty and lively as Huang Ying and Chunlai.

Jiang Ruobai didn't say much, just told Jiang Yi to escort her home safely.

At this time, Lin Zizi walked over with the support of a servant girl's hand.

Jiang Ruobai was surprised to see her.

For so many years, this was the first time she had left Black Bamboo Garden and come to the front yard.

The rest of the servants were also stunned.

Was Madam getting better?

Jiang Ruobai, visibly moved, quickly went to support Lin Zizi's hand: "Madam..."

But Lin Zizi didn't look at him. She came straight to Jiang Ning, took her hand, and tearfully said, "My dear, no one can force you to leave. Don't be afraid."

Li Hongyuan looked at Lin Zizi and then Jiang Ning.

Indeed, mother and daughter shared a striking resemblance.

Although Jiang Ning is young and beautiful, Lin Zizi was older and pale and thin.

It is said that Lin Zizi was the number one beauty in Chang'an City when she was young.

This beauty is not only about appearance, but also about demeanor.

Even though Jiang Ning inherited Lin Zizi's beauty, her lazy appearance and sharp, caustic words made it difficult for people to think of her as the first beauty.

Jiang Ruobai was a bit anxious.

His wife's excessive love for their youngest daughter had reached the point of obsession. If she refused to let Jiang Ning leave, it might cause a scene.

But he didn't dare force the issue, fearing it might trigger more of her illness.

Just as he was troubled, he saw Jiang Ning push her wheelchair with one hand while holding her mother's hand with the other. They talked quietly for a while before Lin Zizi's face filled with smiles as she left, supported by the servant girl.

Everyone was amazed.

Jiang Ning returned with the wheelchair and Jiang Ruobai could not help but ask, "What did you say to your mother?"

“Just some small talk.”

Jiang Ning smiled, “Brother, let’s go.”

Jiang Yi nodded, pushed her, and left.

After Li Hongyuan waved his hand to disperse the crowd, he cupped his hands toward Jiang Ruobai and left with Xiaoqian.

At the door, they saw Jiang Yuan and Jiang Yan waiting for them.

“Here to watch the show?” Jiang Ning asked with a smile.

Jiang Yuan snorted coldly, “Yes. To see if you’re dead yet..”

Chapter 119: Be Nicer to Little Aunt

“Fifth Sister, don’t say that.” Jiang Yan hurriedly said, “Seventh Sister, don’t be angry. Actually, Fifth Sister and I heard that Prince of Yu was picking you up, so we came here specifically to see you off.”

Jiang Yuan snorted.

Jiang Ning tugged at her sleeve: “Can’t you say something nice?”

Jiang Yuan said, “Didn’t you say you’re not going back?”

“I have no choice.”

“So useless.”

“Since you two are here, why not come along and visit the Prince of Yu’s residence?”

“Is...is that really okay?” Jiang Yan asked quietly.

Her eyes sparkled with anticipation.

Being a concubine-born daughter, she never tried to compete for attention and was not favored. As she never accompanied her legal mother to social events, she seldom participated in the social circles of high-ranking ladies over the years, nor had the chance to visit other prominent families.

Let alone a prince’s residence.

“Prince, is it okay?” Jiang Ning asked Li Hongyuan.

Li Hongyuan was already on his horse and said indifferently, “If you want to bring your sisters, bring them. Xiaoqian, come with me.”

He pulled Xiaoqian onto the horse and took the lead.

Xiaoqian looked back eagerly, “Imperial uncle, I want to go to Aunt’s side.”

“You, a boy, what are you doing hanging around women’s carriages? You’re not allowed to go!”

Li Tingqian pouted, “Aunt smells nice and is soft. It’s more comfortable than with Imperial Uncle.”

Li Hongyuan tapped his forehead, “At such a young age, you already know to burrow into women’s arms. If your Imperial Grandfather finds out, he’ll skin you alive!”

“Imperial Uncle’s room is full of women too, right? I’ve heard they bully Aunt.”

“Don’t talk nonsense.”

“Imperial Uncle, you have to be nicer to Aunt.”

“Why?”

“Because she’s very gentle, treats me well, and her cooking is especially delicious.”

“Her gentle?” Li Hongyuan raised the corner of his mouth.

Prince of Yu’s Residence.

Jiang Yi dismounted his horse, wanting to help his sister down, but saw the maid Xiaoman easily carrying Jiang Ning and placing her on the wheelchair.

From her relaxed appearance, it seemed that even lifting the wheelchair would be a piece of cake.

This scene astonished many onlookers.

Though this maid seemed unsophisticated, she didn’t appear particularly strong. How could she have such great strength?

Jiang Ning laughed and asked Xiaoman, “You are so strong?”

“This servant has been strong since childhood and eats a lot. My family couldn’t afford to raise me, so they abandoned me.” Xiaoman bowed her head, somewhat restrained, “Later, Prime Minister took me in, fed me, and even arranged for someone to teach me martial arts. From now on, this servant belongs to Seventh Miss.”

Jiang Ning smiled, "Xiaoman is impressive."

It was the first time Xiaoman had heard anyone praise her, let alone from a fairy-like Seventh Miss.

She felt both shy and moved.

Jiang Ning smiled, "Don't worry, from now on, I'll make sure you're well-fed, and you can eat as much as you want."

"Thank you, Seventh Miss!"

Xiaoqian hugged the wheelchair, "I'll carry you back, it's bumpy on the road."

Then she was about to lift the wheelchair and its occupant.

Everyone was dumbstruck.

Jiang Yi grabbed her arm, "Is this girl a fool?"

Jiang Yuan jumped down from the carriage and said, "Third Brother, don't you know? This girl really is a bit dull-witted, probably because of a fever she had before. She used to only listen to Father and ignore everyone else. Now she's following Seventh Miss, so naturally, she only pays attention to her."

Xiaoman lowered her head.

Jiang Ning said, "Xiaoman, don't slack off when I need you to lift something in the future, okay?"

Xiaoman quickly waved her hands, "Seventh Miss, don't worry, this servant has great strength."

Li Hongyuan dismounted his horse and ignored the commotion. He held Xiaoqian's hand and entered the prince's residence..

Chapter 120: The First Batch, Fried Chicken

Pieces

Xiaoqian's eyes were wide, but he didn't dare to disobey his imperial uncle. He walked away while looking back.

Jiang Ning beckoned: "Xiaoqian, come."

"Little Aunt, I'm coming!" Xiaoqian's eyes lit up, and he immediately broke free from his imperial uncle's hand.

Li Hongyuan:

Stinky kid.

When this child was two years old, the Eldest Prince passed away, and he had been following him ever since.

At that time, Li Hongyuan was only fourteen or fifteen years old, still a half-grown youth. He would always be spotted with a delicate little boy in tow, both inside and outside of the palace.

They had almost become a scene in Chang'an City.

The relationship between these two is like that of an uncle and nephew, but not much different from father and son.

He never thought that after just a few days, his “son” had been captured by Jiang Ning.

Once she called him softly, he didn’t hesitate to leave Li Hongyuan and run away in excitement.

Surrounded by people, Jiang Ning returned to the Prince of Yu residence.

Jiang Ning opened the storeroom, took out the treasured items in the basket, and gave the calligraphy and paintings to Jiang Yi. She also gave Jiang Yuan a piece of paperweight stone and Jiang Yan a brush washer.

These were all extremely precious items.

Just to mention Jiang Yan’s brush washer, it was made by the famous Ru Kiln and worth at least five or six hundred taels of silver.

After sending them away, Huang Ying laughed and said: “Miss is really generous.”

Jiang Ning said: “These things are just sitting here anyway, why not let everyone enjoy them? Be it family or friendship, relationships need to be carefully maintained. You can’t expect others to be naturally good to you.”

“Miss’s thinking is clear.” Huang Ying sighed while organizing the clothes, “However, we have come back this time. Those maids and palace servants serving the Prince would probably come to disturb you again.”

“Disturb me?” Jiang Ning laughed, “I just don’t care about them. If they really come to make trouble, it’s hard to say who’s disturbing who.”

Xiaoqian ran over, holding Jiang Ning’s hand: “Little Aunt, I’m hungry. I want to eat the fried oil cakes made by Little Aunt.”

Jiang Ning pinched his little nose: “You’re a royal prince, is that all you’re aspiring to? Little Aunt can make many more delicious things.”

Deep-fried oil cakes were out of the question—she had now entered the Prince’s residence, so how could she still eat that?

Since she had nothing better to do, Jiang Ning rolled up her sleeves and went to the kitchen.

The cooks in the kitchen were at a loss.

The Princess Consort going into the kitchen herself?

And now being pregnant.

They dared not.

The kitchen manager quickly reported to Li Hongyuan.

Li Hongyuan was dealing with several matters sent by the Emperor and said: “Let her do whatever she wants to do, as long as she doesn’t leave the Prince’s residence.”

“But, Princess Consort is cooking for Prince Xiaoqian.”

“With Xiaoqian being so picky, I’ll be surprised if he is willing to eat her food.” Li Hongyuan didn’t care, “Let her mess around.”

The cooks had no choice but to clear out the kitchen.

Letting the Princess Consort mess around in the kitchen.

They couldn't help but whisper and complain.

What could she cook?

Would the food she made even be edible?

Hopefully, she wouldn't burn down the kitchen.

But soon, they all shut up.

Because a delicious aroma wafted from the kitchen.

The smell of crispy fried goodness made everyone's mouth water uncontrollably.

A moment later, Huang Ying came out holding a small basin.

Jiang Ning came out shortly after and said with a smile: "Xiaoqian, have a taste."

Li Tingqian looked at the golden, steaming dish in the basin and asked curiously, "Is this also an oil cake?"

"You try it." Jiang Ning took a piece, blew on it, and handed it to him.

Li Tingqian took a bite, and his eyes lit up.

"Little Aunt, what is this? It's delicious."

"Fried chicken chunks." Jiang Ning smiled and looked at him.

Which child could resist a hamburger and fried chicken, after all?

It's a pity that conditions are limited; otherwise, if she could also make a cup of cola, it would be even better.

Li Tingqian ate four or five pieces in a row, causing the surrounding cooks and servants to be stunned.

The little prince had always been known for having a poor appetite, being picky, and not liking to eat..