

Royal Marriage 131

Chapter 131:I Want You

If it were any other woman who dared to act this way towards him, he would have beaten her half to death and thrown her out long ago.

But, she is the daughter of Prime Minister Jiang.

She carries his child in her womb.

The child is the imperial grandson Emperor Father has been hoping for.

Bearing these factors, even if she made numerous mistakes, he couldn't simply harm her.

Looking at her lying on the bed, in a lazily comfortable manner, Li Hongyuan turned to leave.

"Have a good journey. I'm not going to send you off." Jiang Ning waved her handkerchief.

Li Hongyuan paused in his steps, closed the door, turned around and came back. He bent over to press down on her shoulders, directly biting down on Jiang Ning's mouth.

Her dewy, crimson lips were just as he imagined.

Warm and soft.

Jiang Ning did not expect such a move at all. She raised her hand to slap him, but Li Hongyuan caught her wrist.

He raised his head, coldly saying, "You are my Princess Consort. Serving me is your duty. Let alone, we are already husband and wife in deed."

"Only in your dreams!" Jiang Ning was furious. "I was trapped by your father! Who wants to carry your child and give birth!"

"If so, why don't you abort the child?" he said coldly.

"Do you think I haven't tried? As for why it failed, you might as well ask your Emperor Father!"

"It doesn't matter. I don't care."

"Then what are you doing now?"

"I want you."

Jiang Ning tried to run, but she was pregnant and clumsy. Where could she go?

She didn't understand why Li Hongyuan, who had been furious and gloomy just now, suddenly turned into a beast.

Li Hongyuan casually got her back on the bed and easily pulled off the soft white dress on her body.

She only had a bellyband and trousers underneath.

Her skin was as white as the first snow, delicate and soft.

Just seeing her shoulders and back was causing wild thoughts to run through his head.

Li Hongyuan's eyes dimmed slightly.

He raised his hand and put it on her back, gently pinching the thin strap of her bellyband.

With a little force, she would completely reveal herself in front of him.

“Don’t.” Jiang Ning shrank, her voice trembling slightly.

Li Hongyuan stared at her, bent over and leaned closer to her, licked her lips with his tongue and whispered, “Are you scared now? Weren’t you quite pleased just a while ago? Try using your skills on me like you did on Nanny Wei.”

A tear slid down from her eyes.

She choked up, “I don’t understand why the Prince hates me so much, why he’s targeting me. I confronted Nanny Wei because she bullied Xiaoqian. What else have I done wrong?”

Li Hongyuan glanced at her tears, frowning, his voice unconsciously softening, “You poisoned me, and now you’re playing innocent? Do you actually think I’ll believe your act?”

“When did I poison the Prince? Why would I harm the father of my own child?”

“Because you never wanted to come back. You’d rather marry Wen Ren Thirteen, or He Tang, than return to the Prince’s mansion.” Li Hongyuan became even more irritated as he spoke.

“Even though I indeed didn’t want to come back, would I be crazy enough to poison you?”

“You-” Li Hongyuan fumed, “This afternoon, you had someone deliver pastries. My attendants who ate them were poisoned and one even died. What do you have to say about that? What if I had eaten those pastries?”

Jiang Ning was astonished, “Pastries? I didn’t make those.”

“I know it wasn’t you, but you had them delivered.”

“Those pastries were made by Li Teng’s maid and sent to me. Considering the Prince is so fond of Li Teng’s maid, I thought it would be nice to let the Prince try them, so her hard work would not go in vain..”

Chapter 132: Collapse of Self-discipline

Li Hongyuan frowned: “The snack was given to you by Li Yuanyuan?”

“Yes. All the maids and servants in the yard can testify. If Your Highness doesn’t believe me, you can go and ask.”

There was no way to lie about such a thing.

Li Hongyuan stared at her for a moment, looking at her watery red lips, and fair shoulders, feeling that somewhere deep within him was awakening a clamor.

Although he initially had no intentions towards her, he simply wanted to teach her a lesson.

But...

Under these circumstances, his sense of self-control, which he took pride in, seemed to be gradually crumbling.

He was somewhat displeased about this.

He would never sink into so-called emotions and lust like his Emperor Father.

In his youth, his Emperor Father was once similarly captivated by the same face.

Thinking of this, Li Hongyuan's heart suddenly became alert, and he immediately released her chin, stood up, turned his back to her, and said coldly: "I will not falsely accuse anyone. I will summon Li Yuanyuan immediately for questioning."

After saying this, he walked out.

Upon opening the door, he hesitated, then glanced back at her.

Just this glance almost made it impossible for him to leave.

Objectively speaking, she was truly incredibly beautiful.

She usually seemed lazy and disreputable, but now, with her hair hanging down and her clothes half-revealing, she had a fatal allure.

Li Hongyuan didn't expect this of her, and a fire ignited in his eyes.

His fingers gripping the door frame tightened, and he said, "Put your clothes on properly," before leaving without looking back.

Watching the door close, Jiang Ning slowly breathed a sigh of relief.

For a moment, she had genuinely worried that Prince Yu would lose his reason and become a beast.

Of course, her fear, tears, and grievances were all an act.

Considering Li Hongyuan's cold and wary nature, in order to protect the child in her belly, he would never do anything to harm her.

Jiang Ning put on her skirt, and Huang Ying, along with a few maids, rushed in, only to panic when they saw her red-rimmed eyes and disheveled hair.

"Miss, are you alright?" Huang Ying supported her, whispering.

Chunlai asked, "Did the prince do something to you? Just now he..."

Xiachu anxiously asked, "Doesn't His Highness know that the princess is pregnant?"

"What are you all thinking? Nothing happened!" Jiang Ning interrupted them, "We just had a fight, that's all."

"Really? Your eyes are red, like you've been crying." Huang Ying said softly.

"Life is a play, and the key is acting." Jiang Ning rubbed her lower back, "Let's go to the Flower Hall and watch the play."

"Watch a play?"

"Xiachu, prepare tea. Dongxie, bring the hawthorn seeds we bought the other day."

The little maids agreed.

Huang Ying combed Jiang Ning's hair and pushed her towards the Flower Hall.

Li Hongyuan was already seated, his handsome face calm, yet his deep eyes were difficult to read.

Jiang Ning entered, but he didn't even raise his head.

It wasn't until Li Teng's voice came from outside that he finally lifted his head and glanced at her.

Li Teng, dressed in a blue skirt, was gentle and courteous as she knelt down and paid her respects: "Your servant greets Your Highness and Your Highness's consort."

"Stand up." Li Hongyuan's voice softened, "You mentioned your leg was hurting last time, don't kneel."

"Thank you for your concern, Your Highness." Li Teng straightened up, "May I ask why Your Highness and the Princess Consort have summoned this servant? I was calculating this month's expenses."

"The Princess Consort said that you sent her a plate of osmanthus cakes."

"Yes. I heard that the Princess Consort loves sweets, so I took the time to make some and send them over.." Li Teng looked at Jiang Ning, "Did Your Highness enjoy them?"

Chapter 133: Sweet Melon, Good Play

Jiang Ning smiled, "You should ask your Prince about that."

"What?" Li Teng was puzzled.

"That plate of osmanthus cakes was eaten by my subordinates; several got sick, one died." Li Hongyuan said calmly, "Li Yuanyuan, I believe you're not foolish enough to try to poison my heir."

Li Teng's face changed drastically, and he knelt down, weeping. "Your Highness, please investigate. If I had even a bit of such a rebellious idea, I wouldn't have a good end. When I heard the Princess Consort was pregnant, I was overjoyed for you. How could I have such a damnable thought? I have been following you for years. I am the most timid person and would never dare to do such a thing."

There was a crisp sound.

Li Hongyuan looked towards the source.

It was Jiang Ning cracking melon seeds.

When she saw him looking, she raised her hand, "Would you like some, Your Highness?"

Li Hongyuan ignored her, turned his gaze to Li Yuanyuan.

"You should explain these words to the deceased Housekeeper."

"I'm really wronged!" Li Yuanyuan wept, "These days, I came to pay my respects to the Princess Consort. I know there's no shortage of food here. But Madam Zhao sent a small jar of osmanthus honey, saying that she made it by picking osmanthus flowers herself. I thought the honey looked clear and really good, so I sent it over. If I had any intention of harming the Princess Consort and Little Master, I deserve to be torn into pieces."

Li Hongyuan was about to speak, but then he heard another crisp sound.

He looked at Jiang Ning.

She was holding half a watermelon, eating it with a silver spoon.

She was full of interest.

There was no trace of her pitiful, tearful eyes.

Li Hongyuan said, "Are you that hungry?"

"After all, it's two people eating."

"... Keep your voice down!"

"Alright." Jiang Ning smiled at him, "Continue."

She handed the watermelon to Huang Ying. "The melon is sweet, and the drama is not bad either."

Li Hongyuan said coldly, "What are you muttering?"

"I said the watermelon is delicious."

Li Hongyuan ignored her and ordered the housekeeper, "Go and bring Ms. Zhao here."

Soon Madam Zhao arrived.

She knelt and saluted, then glanced at Jiang Ning, who was vigorously eating melon seeds. Feeling a little uneasy, she looked at Li Yuanyuan subconsciously.

Li Yuanyuan said, "Madam Zhao, is there a problem with the osmanthus honey you gave me?"

"How could that be possible?"

"Your Highness, please investigate!" Li Yuanyuan kowtowed. "I still have some leftover cakes. Why not have the doctor examine them and see where the problem lies? If it's my fault, I'll take the blame. If it's not, I won't admit it, even if it kills me."

"Test them." Jiang Ning encouraged while eating seeds.

Li Hongyuan glared at her but didn't find her eating seeds annoying.

However, her look of watching drama was somewhat displeasing.

Just test it then.

Doctors and cakes arrived.

He also asked the housekeeper to go to Madam Zhao's place and get the remaining osmanthus honey.

Soon it was discovered that the honey was poisonous.

Madam Zhao immediately waved her hands, "No, it's not me. I didn't make this osmanthus honey. I had someone buy it from outside. Your Highness, I am wronged!"

Li Hongyuan asked calmly, "Where did you buy it?"

"It was an old lady who bought it for me."

"Didn't you say it was made from osmanthus flowers you picked yourself?" Li Yuanyuan was somewhat angry. "You tricked me? I was wondering why you would kindly give me osmanthus honey! So you were harboring malicious intentions!"

"I have no malicious intentions. I just wanted to...please you."

"Pleasing me with what?"

Chapter 134: The Princess Consort is the Victim

“Now that you are with Teng, and also managing the affairs of the backyard, who else should I please, if not you, for me to get by?”

“That reason is indeed acceptable.” Li Hongyuan said indifferently, “However, you provided the osmanthus honey, so you can’t escape from being implicated. How daring of you, Ms. Zhao, to plot against the princess consort and her child.”

Zhao Shu rushed to kneel and beg for mercy: “I really didn’t know, I am wronged, it must be that old woman who framed me, please, Your Highness, stand up for me!”

It’s a pity that her pleas for mercy were worthless in Li Hongyuan’s eyes.

He coldly ordered the housekeeper: “Strip her of her palace maid status, give her thirty strokes, and send her to the main cell of the Ministry of Justice.”

“No ”

Ms. Zhao let out a sharp cry, her eyes rolled back and she fainted.

She knew she was completely finished.

The moment she fainted, a doubt sprouted in her heart.

Why was it that when she and Ms. Fang committed the deed together, only she was called out and punished in the end?

After Ms. Zhao was taken away, Li Hongyuan turned to look at Li Yuanyuan.

Li Yuanyuan was in tears: “It is all my fault, I didn’t perceive Ms. Zhao’s malicious intentions and almost harmed the princess consort and the young prince. I ask for your punishment, my lord.”

“Oh, how should you be punished?” Li Hongyuan asked indifferently.

“I beg your judgment, my lord.”

“Dock your salary for three months. If this kind of incident happens again, I will not let it go so easily.”

“Yes, I will remember.” Li Yuanyuan bowed to him, then bowed to Jiang Ning.

Li Hongyuan then said: “Cut the princess consort’s salary by half for half a year.”

Everyone was shocked.

Why should the princess consort be punished?

Wasn’t she the victim here?

Was the prince failing to distinguish right from wrong?

However, Jiang Ning was calm. She picked up her teacup and moistened her lips, saying: “Okay.”

“Let’s put this matter to rest.”

Li Hongyuan stood up and left.

Li Yuanyuan hurriedly followed him.

Jiang Ning continued munching on her melon seeds, watching them walk away and saying with a smile: “They’re all a bunch of energy drainers.”

“Miss, you’re still laughing. We’re the ones being treated unfairly.” Xiachu pouted unhappily, “That vicious Zhao deserved it, her death was well deserved. But it was Li Teng who sent the stuff over, and she just got a light punishment of losing three months’ salary. Instead, we got a half-year punishment. The prince is obviously biased towards Li Teng.”

Dongxie said, “I heard before that the prince loves Li Teng the most. It seems to be true.”

Huang Ying said, “Are all of you stupid or what? Our princess consort is not wronged.”

“Why would you say that, Sister Huang Ying?”

“You wouldn’t understand, just go out and get busy, let the princess consort have some quiet.” Huang Ying chased them out, then helped Jiang Ning sit on the couch and massaged her legs, “Do you feel wronged, my princess?”

Jiang Ning laughed and said, “I knew the pastry was poisoned and I still gave it to the Prince of Yu. He only deducted my salary for half a year, probably because he considered the child.”

Huang Ying said, “The prince is also a bit ruthless. What if he really ate it? Aren’t you worried?”

“Why should I worry, if he dies the pastry wasn’t made by me.”

“You’re just saying that out of anger.”

“I knew he wouldn’t eat the dessert I sent. I just didn’t expect him to give the pastry to someone else.” Jiang Ning said, “I feel bad for that unfortunate scholar. Sister Huang Ying, can you help me out and give 500 taels of silver to his family?”

“I’ll make note of it.” Huang Ying frowned, “We won’t mention that fool Zhao, but Li Teng obviously knew that there was something wrong with the osmanthus honey, yet she still made the pastry for the princess consort, clearly with evil intentions.. Why did the prince just brush it off?”

Chapter 135: All These Messes Were Made by His Women

"She doesn't know, she's just suspicious." Jiang Ning lay down, "Ms. Zhao has always been arrogant, but suddenly sent osmanthus honey to Ms. Li, so Ms. Li must be suspicious. She can act as if she doesn't know anything."

"That is to say, whether there is poison or not, she has nothing to do with it."

"That's right."

"This Li Teng is really amazing behind her delicate appearance," Huang Ying said softly. "Prince of Yu must also be clear in his heart. Li Teng knew there might be a problem with the pastry, but still sent it to the Princess Consort. You also thought there was a problem with the pastry, so you picked it up and offered it to the Prince. No wonder the Prince was even more angry at you."

"He clearly favors Li Yuanyuan."

"You don't care about the life and death of the Prince, how can the Prince favor you?" Huang Ying laughed.

"It's better for him to take the risk than for me," Jiang Ning said. "In order to uncover this issue, someone must eat it. I wouldn't eat it myself, nor do I want any of you to eat it. So, Li Hongyuan is the one to eat it. After all, these troubles were caused by his women."

Huang Ying said, "Never mind the others, it's just that Li Teng... holds an unusual position in the Prince's heart. She's clearly not a simple character, yet the Prince only punished her by withholding three months' allowance."

"It's understandable. After all, Li Yuanyuan was targeting me, not him. It shows that Li Yuanyuan still loves him. But I'm different, I'm targeting him, so he definitely can't stand it."

Just as the master and servant were chatting, Dongxie lifted the curtain and entered, saying, "Miss, there is news from the Prime Minister's Mansion that the Fifth Daughter and Sixth Miss were beaten."

"Who did it?"

"It might be Princess Ling'an."

"Just let them be beaten, and fight back if need be."

Jiang Ning knew Jiang Yuan was not an easy target.

Dongxie continued, "This time it was a sneak attack, and it was very severe. The Fifth Daughter's leg was broken."

"Broken?"

"Quite severe."

"Oh," Jiang Ning nodded, "Do you know the reason?"

Dongxie said, "Princess Ling'an and Fifth Daughter have always been at odds, but it's just been minor disputes and they've never taken such a malicious action. People from the Mansion said that it was because of a pair of shoes." "Oh, the shoes from the store?" Jiang Ning understood.

Jiang Yuan and she had snatched the shoes, and Princess Ling'an was furious, so she had Jiang Yuan beaten and even broke her leg. It was clearly a warning to Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning fell silent.

Huang Ying hurriedly comforted her, "Presumably, Prime Minister Jiang will seek justice for the Fifth Daughter."

“Prime Minister Jiang is not the kind of person who would fall out with the Marquis of Nan’an over this matter,” Jiang Ning stretched lazily, “I’m sleepy, time to sleep.”

Dongxie was stunned.

She thought the Princess Consort would stand up for the Fifth Daughter.

But she just went to sleep.

So they tidied up and went to bed.

Mid-Autumn Festival was approaching.

Jiang Ning mentioned that it had been a long time since she had gone out for a stroll, and she wanted to go shopping, see a play, and listen to a story.

She applied to Li Hongyuan, but was immediately refused.

He gave her a word, “You should stay in my circle obediently and not think about going anywhere before you give birth.”

He said that, but Jiang Ning didn’t care.

While Prince of Yu was in the palace, she sent a message to the Prime Minister’s Mansion, and soon the carriage from the Prime Minister’s Mansion came to Prince Yu’s Mansion and took her away.

With Prince of Yu not in the Mansion, no one else dared to stop her.

That was Prime Minister Jiang's carriage, and with the Princess Consort heavily pregnant, who would dare to touch her?

Upon returning to the Jiang Mansion, she went to see Jiang Yuan first.

Jiang Yuan was lying in bed, holding a doll and stabbing it hard with a needle.

Jiang Ning pushed her wheelchair over and said, "Even if you stab the doll to shreds, it won't hurt a single hair on Princess Ling'an."

Chapter 136: Stirring Things Up

Jiang Yuan saw her and immediately hid the doll.

"I've already seen it, so it's too late to hide now." Jiang Ning pushed her wheelchair over, "It's because you usually don't spare a single bad word. She's a princess, and what are you? How dare you provoke her?"

Jiang Yuan angrily said, "Are you here to mock me?"

"I'm here to see if your leg is really broken."

"It's really broken, just like yours!"

"At least yours can heal, and in a few months, it'll be as good as new."

"...Who knows if it'll heal." Jiang Yuan turned her face away, "You've seen enough, you can go now. My leg hurts, and I don't have the mood to deal with you."

“Then you rest well.”

Jiang Ning pushed her wheelchair and left.

Jiang Yuan turned to look at her retreating figure, but accidentally bumped her leg, causing her to gasp in pain and involuntarily shed tears.

Jiang Ning went to see Lin Zizi.

Lin Zizi held her arm and asked her many questions, asking how she felt, if the baby in her stomach was restless, how her food and sleep were.

Jiang Ning smiled, “Everything is fine. Thank you for your concern, Mother. Where are Father and Brother?”

“Your father, that man, has been staying at home for a few days. If he’s not in the Imperial Court, he’s with his colleagues. We shouldn’t bother with him.” Lin Zizi hugged her daughter’s arm, “Your brother has returned to the academy.” “He finally agreed to go back?”

“The Autumn Examination is in half a month. If he doesn’t go back to review his lessons, the academy teachers will come and drag him back.” Lin Zizi said with a gentle smile, “He’ll be back for the examination.”

Jiang Ning saw that her mother’s spirit, logic, and speech were much clearer and more organized, and knew she was gradually recovering, which inexplicably comforted her.

Although not her biological mother, she gave her wholehearted maternal love.

Jiang Ning was happy to accept and willing to treat her well.

Actually, she came back to get Jiang Yi’s help, but since Jiang Yi was not there, she had to deal with this matter herself.

As she left the Purple Forest Garden, she saw Jiang Yan standing not far away, seemingly waiting for her.

“What are you doing?”

“Seventh Sister, I’ve found the people you asked for. Do you really want to do this?”

“Why not? Where are they?”

“They’re all at my place. I’ll take you there.” Jiang Yan pushed her wheelchair, took her back to her courtyard, where three elegantly dressed young men and women were standing.

Looking at their faces, they all somewhat resembled Jiang Ruobai.

Seeing them, Jiang Ning could confirm that the Jiang family’s eldest master and Jiang Ruobai were indeed brothers of the same mother.

Among the younger generation of the Jiang family, Jiang Yi had the most handsome appearance since he inherited Lin Zizi’s looks, which made it difficult for him to be ugly. But the young men of the eldest branch were also quite good-looking, with straight, tall figures and bright, handsome features.

That’s right, these young men and women were the children of the Jiang family’s eldest branch.

The heirs of the two branches of the Jiang family were ranked together, and due to the love for the girls, they were not ranked separately but mixed together.

The eldest master of the Jiang family had four children. The eldest, Jiang Qi, the second child, a girl named Jiang Shan, and the fourth and eighth were boys named Jiang Nan and Jiang North, respectively.

As the eldest of the Jiang family’s descendants, Jiang Qi had already established his own family and was serving in the imperial court.

Second child Jiang Shan was a year older than Jiang Yi and had gotten married, but she had yet to bear any children and often returned to her parents' home. The remaining two were still young.

Except for the eldest, Jiang Qi, the remaining three had come.

As they looked at Jiang Ning, their faces showed more curiosity than doubt.

After all, Jiang Ning looked very much like Lin Zizi, and after being lost for so many years, she had immediately married the Prince of Yu upon her return, becoming a princess consort, even though she spent her days in a wheelchair..

Chapter 137: My Great Sword Can No Longer Bear Its Thirst

It was hard not to arouse the curiosity of others.

Her temperament was just too special.

Jiang Shan laughed, "Seventh Sister isn't feeling well, is there something you need our help with?"

This Second Miss Jiang was also tall and straightforward, like a formidable girl.

Jiang Ning handed over a piece of paper, "Our fifth sibling has been bullied; will you help with this matter or not?"

Jiang Shan took a look and handed it to her two younger brothers.

Jiang Fourth Son shook his fan and spoke with a frivolous air, "Of course we'll help, but what's in it for us?"

Jiang Shan glared at him, "You money-grubber, will you die if you don't mention benefits?"

Jiang Ning laughed, "If you handle this matter, I'll personally cook a meal for you."

"Really?" Jiang Eighth Son's eyes lit up, "I heard from my third brother that the food you make is really special; even the chefs in the palace can't compare."

Jiang Ning laughed, "It is indeed special, but whether it tastes good or not is up to the individual. You'll know when you try."

"In that case, we'll do it."

Jiang Fourth Son shook his fan and said, "This Marquis of Yuandong abuses his power to bully people, and his sons and daughters are all unremarkable. I've been annoyed by them for a long time! But our father has been away from home, so there has never been a chance to teach them a lesson. Now that our Sixth Sister has had her leg broken, if we don't take revenge, others will think our Jiang Family is afraid of the Marquis of Yuandong!"

"Fourth Brother is right!" Jiang Eighth Son rubbed his hands together, "My broadsword has been itching for action!"

The Jiang Family's Master was a military official, and his children all liked to play with swords and spears.

Jiang Shan slapped him on the back of his head, "Don't use foul language."

"Dad said worse than this..."

"You're still young; wait till you're grown up to talk like that!" Jiang Shan looked at Jiang Ning, "Since you've planned it all, let's follow your arrangements."

"Come closer."

Jiang Ning beckoned.

So, everyone gathered around to listen to her whispering plans.

That afternoon, Princess Ling'an was caught having a secret rendezvous with a charming scholar at a teahouse.

The Marquis of Yuandong was furious and had her captured, then severely punished with fifty beatings.

The beaten Princess Ling'an was left with a bloody and bruised backside, she barely survived and couldn't get out of bed for three months.

That night at the Spring Flower Pavilion, the Marquis of Yuandong's Crown Prince was caught selling the exam questions and answers for the Autumn Examination with several other scholars.

It would have been one thing if it was just Princess Ling'an's personal affair, after all, it was the Marquis of Yuandong's private matter and, at most, it would ruin their reputation. But interrupting the Imperial Examination was a major issue.

The Emperor had always valued the examination system and could not stand cheating on exams.

The Imperial Examination was for selecting talents for the Imperial Court; if cheaters were selected, it would undermine the future of the Great Sheng Dynasty.

Ultimately, the Emperor still relied on his officials.

This matter even alarmed the Emperor himself.

The Emperor was furious.

Even if the Marquis of Yuandong wanted to protect his son, it was not possible.

After the evidence was verified, he was directly sent to the prison of the Ministry of Justice for interrogation. Punishment by torture was inevitable.

In just two days, the Marquis of Yuandong's reputation was ruined, and their status in the Emperor's favor plummeted, moving ever closer to ruin.

Who could have thought that behind all this were just a few Jiang siblings, who looked like noble degenerates?

Jiang Fourth Son deeply admired Jiang Ning.

The Marquis of Yuandong was closely associated with the Third Prince, Prince Huai. They were at odds with the Jiang Family. Even someone as cunning as Jiang Ruobai hadn't been able to do anything to the Marquis of Yuandong.

However, they were taken down by Jiang Ning with just a few moves.

It was just too f*cking amazing..

Chapter 138: This Really Has Nothing to Do with Dad

Jiang Ning laughed and said, "Since we can't suppress the Marquis of Yuandong from the front, let's start with his children. This is called pulling the firewood from under the pot."

"Amazing, amazing!" Jiang Eighth Son clapped, "If Seventh Sister were an official, she would definitely be more capable than Second Uncle."

"Just average, just average."

Jiang Ning modestly replied.

Jiang Fourth Son asked, "But I'm curious, how do you know about the affairs of Princess Ling'an and the Crown Prince?"

"Of course, I bought the information with money."

"You bought it with money?"

"Never underestimate the power of so-called lower-class people," Jiang Ning laughed.

"What kind of lower-class people?"

"Peddlers, foot soldiers, and the Beggar's Gang. You see people on the streets, carrying sedan chairs, selling things – who would usually pay attention to them? Would you?" Jiang Ning asked back.

Jiang Eighth Son shook his head, "Indeed, we wouldn't."

Jiang Ning said, "You are all noble children, used to being served and attended to. Do you think your daily words and actions can escape their eyes?"

They looked at each other and said nothing.

Jiang Ning continued, "When Princess Ling'an has secret meetings with her lover, someone has to pass messages, prepare a carriage or sedan chair, and provide food and drinks at teahouses and restaurants. All these attendants have eyes, you know."

Jiang Shan said, "I guess this is what they call 'If you don't want others to know, you'd better not do it yourself'."

"That's right!" Jiang Ning clapped. "You see that beggar at the street corner? He's been there every day, every month, every year, and seems to have a miserable life. You probably can't imagine how much the people and things he sees every day and the clues he gathers are worth."

They looked down from the teahouse and, sure enough, there was a beggar on the corner, dirty all over but stretching out comfortably in the sunshine.

His expression was not one of suffering, but rather contentment.

"Did you buy your information from him?" Jiang Yan asked softly.

"No, I was just giving an example," Jiang Ning laughed.

Jiang Fourth Son's face was full of admiration, "It's amazing that you thought of this."

Jiang Ning laughed, "Probably because I came from poverty too?"

"You're not poor at all," Jiang Eighth Son said. "But if being poor gives you such abilities, I'd be willing."

"You idiot." Jiang Shan patted his head, "If that's what you think, then every poor person should be as smart as Seventh Sister."

Jiang Ning said, "Speaking of which, I have a word of advice for you all: don't break the law with your debauchery, or you'll end up like those in the Marquis of Yuandong's mansion."

"Don't worry, Seventh Sister. Our Jiang Family is not like the Marquis of Yuandong's," Jiang Fourth Son laughed, "Your father is the Prime Minister, and your Uncle is the General of the Southern Territory. One civil, one military, who can shake us? Let's stop talking about this. Once this matter is over, I'm still waiting for your cooking, Seventh Sister."

"No problem."

Jiang Ning laughed.

After leaving the court, Jiang Ruobai was all smiles and even walked with a bit more spring in his step.

“Father, what’s making you so happy?” Jiang Ning asked.

“Hahaha, even that old bastard, the Marquis of Yuandong has his day! He’s finished now!”

Jiang Yuan came in her wheelchair, her face excited, “I heard that Princess Ling’an was beaten up and her brother was arrested too? What the heck happened? Did father deliberately take revenge for me?”

“Ah, well...” Jiang Ruobai coughed lightly.

He had no idea what had happened.

Jiang Yan covered her mouth and laughed, “Fifth Sister, you’ve misunderstood father.”

“What?”

“It has nothing to do with father.”

“Then what happened to the Marquis of Yuandong’s mansion?”

Chapter 139: Feelings That Shouldn’t Be Present

Jiang Yan laughed, “Seventh Sister did all this.”

“Huh?”

“What?”

Jiang Ruobai and Jiang Yuan both looked at Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning was sitting in a wheelchair, making dough with Huang Ying. Hearing this, she looked over innocently, “I’m weak and gentle. How could I harm anyone?”

Jiang Yan laughed.

If she hadn’t experienced it herself, it would be hard to believe.

Jiang Yuan asked, “Is this true? Sixth Sister, tell us what happened.”

Jiang Yan then told the whole story in front of their father.

Jiang Ruobai was dumbfounded.

Jiang Yuan’s expression was complicated, “You came back this time to avenge me?”

“Don’t be too touched.”

“Who said I was touched?” Jiang Yuan snorted and turned her face away.

Jiang Yan laughed, “Last time I sent someone to deliver a letter to Prince of Yu’s mansion, there was no response for two days. I thought Seventh Sister wouldn’t care about this. I didn’t expect that in just two days, Seventh Sister had investigated the entire family of Marquis of Yuandong’s princess and crown prince. Yesterday, watching Third Brother and the others work was so satisfying!”

“What, the people from the main family were also involved?”

“Yes.” Jiang Yan laughed, “Seventh Sister said that since Third Brother wasn’t home and we were both weak, it would be better to involve all the brothers and sisters of Uncle’s family.”

Jiang Ruobai stomped his foot, “You’re quite capable. You don’t know, before your uncle left, he specifically told me to watch over his children and not let them cause trouble because they know martial arts. Instead, you led them to make trouble.”

Jiang Ning laughed, “This isn’t trouble, this is removing evil for the people.”

“You always have an excuse.” Jiang Ruobai was both amused and helpless, but he was happy in his heart.

He was naturally heartbroken when Sixth Sister’s leg was broken.

Because of his dignity, he shouldn’t have intervened in the children’s affairs. But it was stifling.

Unexpectedly, his youngest daughter handled the matter quietly.

Not only did she do it neatly and decisively, but it was also nearly impossible for the Marquis of Yuandong’s family to make a comeback.

He easily eliminated a long-standing enemy and avenged Sixth Sister.

Jiang Ruobai was not only not angry, he wanted to laugh out loud.

He waved his hand on the spot, “Seventh, open my private collection tomorrow, and you can take whatever you like.”

“Thank you, Father. I won’t be polite.”

Jiang Ning's smile was bright.

The next day, she got up early to prepare for a meal with her sisters from the main family.

As she was busy, Prince of Yu arrived.

Seeing Jiang Ning's white skirt and clear, waist-length hair, the feeling he had that day in her room burst out uncontrollably.

It was strange, other women had shiny hair, but her hair was soft and refreshing, strand by strand.

It made him want to touch it.

Li Hongyuan stared for a moment and quickly shook his head to dispel the thought.

He had always been strong-willed and detached from desire.

He hated men who indulge in women and wouldn't allow him to become like that.

But recently, he had been having improper feelings towards Jiang Ning several times, making it unbearable for him.

He said coldly, "You sneaked back the day before yesterday and stayed for a day or two, but it's already been three days. What, apart from the Imperial Edict, nothing can move you?"

Jiang Ning was holding a spatula, and said, "I'll go back tomorrow."

"Go back with me now, I have something to do."

"What's the rush?"

"The Emperor Father sent the Imperial Physician to take your pulse..'

Chapter 140: Left in the Cool Autumn Breeze

Jiang Ning said, "What does it matter?"

"The Imperial Physician is not a big deal, but... do you dare to let the Emperor Father wait?"

"His Majesty has nothing else to do, so he's just waiting for the Imperial Physician's reply?" Jiang Ning asked back.

"You really don't give people a break, do you?" Li Hongyuan sneered, "Don't rely on being pregnant to act lawlessly. Do you really think that others don't know about the things you've done?"

"What does Your Highness know?" A pair of bright eyes looked at him.

"The things you've done in the past couple of days."

"Does Your Highness admire me a lot?"

"...Aren't you afraid at all?"

"Afraid of what?"

Jiang Ning curled her lips, her eyes squinted into two crescent moons.

Li Hongyuan frowned, "I can look into these matters, and so can others. Sooner or later, the Marquis of Yuandong's Mansion will find out that someone is behind these two incidents."

“I think, His Majesty won’t allow anyone to touch his future obedient grandson.”

“Spoiled and arrogant because of your favor.” Li Hongyuan snorted and glanced at her body.

It was early autumn, still a bit hot, and she was wearing rather thin clothes.

It was already visibly apparent that her belly was slightly bulging.

Don’t women who are pregnant usually act delicate?

As if they had to lie in bed for ten months, waiting to be waited upon.

But she’s different.

She can’t stay in the mansion, she has to go out and wander around, and even provoke others.

And now she’s cooking in the kitchen.

This woman...

She looks like she doesn’t belong to this mundane world, but her temperament is full of mortal life.

Jiang Ning handed the spatula to Huang Ying, letting her serve the dish from the pan.

A rich aroma filled the air.

Several elegantly dressed young men walked over, laughing and talking. Seeing Li Hongyuan, they couldn’t help but be surprised.

Li Hongyuan's figure and appearance were dazzling no matter where he was.

Even if they hadn't seen him before, they could guess his identity.

But they had seen him before.

As members of the Jiang family, they were quite worldly people.

Was Prince of Yu also here to freeload a meal?

They were puzzled in their hearts, but didn't stop, coming over to greet him.

Li Hongyuan just nodded, which counted as a response.

He, as the dignified prince, naturally had no need to say more to the members of the gentry families.

Jiang Ning called to them, "The last dish will be done soon. You all go to the Flower Hall first. Dinner will be ready soon." Hearing this, they quickly headed to the Flower Hall.

Smelling the aroma, saliva swallowing, they eagerly went to the Flower Hall.

Having finished the last dish, Jiang Ning came out to wash her hands and pushed her wheelchair to the Flower Hall.

Huang Ying led a few maids to carry the dishes and rice over, only then did the kitchen maids dare to take over the kitchen and clean up the battlefield.

As she passed by Li Hongyuan, Jiang Ning seemed to suddenly remember him and looked up at him, "Is it okay if I leave after I finish eating?"

She couldn't just not let him eat.

Especially since there was a child in her belly.

Li Hongyuan didn't say anything.

Jiang Ning pushed the wheelchair and slid past him...

Sliding past...

Past...

Going...

It wasn't until everything was completely quiet that Li Hongyuan realized he had been utterly ignored.

He, the Fifth Prince of the Royal Family, the Prince of Yu.

At his father-in-law's mansion, he couldn't even get a meal?

The majestic Prince of Yu was left hanging in the cool autumn breeze.

In the Flower Hall.

There were seven or eight plates on the table, steaming and fragrant.

A bowl of white rice in front of each person.

The youngest Jiang Eighth Son sniffed his nose and asked curiously, "What are these? I've never seen them before."

Jiang Ning smiled, "This dish is ribs steamed with glutinous rice. Have a taste."

Jiang Eighth Son immediately picked it up with his chopsticks and took a bite.

The next moment, his eyes lit up.

"Wow, this is so delicious!" He shouted.

Jiang Shan hit him with her chopsticks, "Don't use swear words!"