

Royal Marriage 151

Chapter 151: You Should Go Back to Your Parents' Home

“Jiang Ning, don’t rely on being pregnant to act recklessly and arrogantly.”

“Do you regret choosing me as your Princess Consort now?”

Prince of Yu didn’t reply.

In his heart, he desperately told himself not to argue with her and just pretend she didn’t exist.

When did he, Li Hongyuan, ever waste time on a woman and get annoyed like this?

If he found her annoying, he’d toss her away.

That was indeed what he’d done before.

But now she was carrying his child.

And this child was the key to his competition for the Crown Prince’s position.

In other words, what he should do now was to comply with Emperor Father’s wishes, pamper Jiang Ning, cater to her, and let her give birth to the child obediently.

But for some reason, whenever he saw her disdainful look at him and her indifferent attitude, he would feel angry.

After holding back for a while, he said, "I must have owed you in my previous life. Jiang Ning, I can ignore you, but could you please behave a little and live a peaceful life, take care of the baby? Don't do these outrageous things?"

"What did I do?"

"What was going on outside? What did you do to Ms. Li?"

"I was just bored and asked them to play with me. Look, everyone is having fun," Jiang Ning innocently said. "As for Ms. Li, she can dance. It would be a waste not to showcase such a talent."

"You made her dance for you?"

"Yes."

"You—"

"It's just a dance, why are you so distressed?" Jiang Ning said. "I didn't let her dance for free, I paid her."

Li Hongyuan took a deep breath: "Can you stop this nonsense?"

"Then just let me go back to the Prime Minister's Mansion."

"Why didn't you make such a fuss at the Prime Minister's Mansion?"

"Because I like the Prime Minister's Mansion. The people there love me."

"You are a Princess Consort here, who dares to defy you?"

"Didn't you just casually throw away my fan?"

"You know, if someone else threw a teacup at me, what would be their fate?"

"Just think of it as your son throwing it. After all, what you care about is this kid." Jiang Ning leisurely fanned herself.

Li Hongyuan glanced at her: "How do you know it's a boy?"

"I'm not blind. If it weren't a boy, would His Majesty give so many gifts?"

"Since you know, just take good care of yourself during pregnancy. Don't cause any trouble."

"As long as you don't show up in front of me, I'll be in a good mood every day."

II II

Li Hongyuan calmed down, "Or, you can go back to your parents' house for some time."

"No."

"What exactly do you want?" Li Hongyuan was a bit frustrated.

What was going on inside this woman's head?

"I can't bear to make trouble for the people in the Prime Minister's Mansion. Anyway, I don't care about the people here."

"Are you deliberately trying to go against me?"

“Yes.” Jiang Ning smiled, “If you put yourself in my shoes, would you have any good feelings for someone who treats you as a mere tool to give birth?”

Li Hongyuan sneered, “Do you really think that only you can give birth to children in this world?”

“Oh, that’s true. But who let Lin Zizi have only one daughter like me? Perhaps your Emperor Father would be willing to let Lin Zizi’s daughter be his daughter-in-law?”

“You—”

“Moreover, I heard that it’s been more than a year since you’ve built your residence outside the palace, but none of the three women in your backyard have become pregnant?” Jiang Ning said, “Didn’t you say that every woman can give you a child? I’ve heard that the King of Chen and Prince of Huai have many children.. Isn’t your Emperor Father scheming against you because you have some problem?”

Chapter 152: Stirring One’s Heartstrings

Li Hongyuan was going to be pissed to death by her.

At this moment, Li Yuanyuan walked to the door, her eyes filled with tears, “Princess Consort, I have finished the dance. Can I go back now?”

Li Hongyuan turned to look at her.

She stood at the entrance, shrinking her neck, looking pitiful.

“From now on, you are not allowed to order her around at will.” After saying this to Jiang Ning, Li Hongyuan went over and took Li Yuanyuan’s hand to leave.

Huang Ying sighed, “Miss, you went a bit too far this time. His Highness’s hand was burned so badly that he probably won’t be able to write tomorrow. The Prince is not one to be trifled with.”

Jiang Ning said, "Whose side are you on? How dare you lecture me?"

"As your servant, I naturally want the best for you, which is why I'm saying this." Huang Ying advised, "By tormenting Li Teng's people, aren't you making His Highness pity her even more and dislike you even more?"

"I just can't stand him or his father even more." Jiang Ning sneered.

That short, fat, greedy old man, she kindly took him in and gave him food, but he turned against her, scheming against her. Even now, he doesn't dare to face her.

Isn't that guilt?

If she ever had the chance, she would send a few stunningly beautiful vixens into the palace to bewitch the short, fat, greedy old man and ruin his empire.

For the damn Imperial Throne, the royal father and sons have absolutely no integrity at all.

Huang Ying said, "No matter what you do now, His Highness will naturally have to go along with you. But have you ever thought about what you'll do when the child is born and the Prince takes the child away to be raised by someone else?"

"With the properties in my dowry, I can live a carefree life." Jiang Ning said.

"You don't want the child?"

"This brat inherits Li Hongyuan's genes. What good do you think can come from that? When he grows up, he will fight for power and have multiple concubines."

Huang Ying was left speechless.

When she thought about it, it was true.

If the Princess Consort didn't like the Prince, she probably wouldn't like the child born from him either.

After all, the royal family wouldn't mistreat the child.

"Tell them all to leave. The noise is giving me a headache." Jiang Ning said.

Huang Ying laughed, "You called them here, but now you find them annoying. Rather than seeking happiness, you're clearly trying to provoke His Highness and make him angry."

"I'd love it if he dropped dead from anger."

"Whether or not he gets angry is none of my concern. As long as you don't get angry." Huang Ying laughed, "At least consider the little prince in your belly. Are you still going out?"

"Yes."

"Then I'll have them prepare the carriage."

As Li Hongyuan led Li Yuanyuan away from the Crystal Clear Manor, she looked down at the wrist he had grabbed, her heart pounding. She wished that the road would never end.

But who would have thought that just after leaving the gate of Crystal Clear Manor, Li Hongyuan let go of her hand, coldly saying only one sentence: "Go back by yourself," before turning to leave.

"Your Highness!" Li Yuanyuan grabbed him, "What happened to your hand? This is a large area of redness from the burn, it must hurt so much? Let me put some medicine on it."

“No need.”

“But Your Highness, seeing your hand injured like this really breaks my heart.” Li Yuanyuan gently tugged at his sleeve, shaking it, “Why don’t you come to my place? I have excellent burn ointment. Once you apply it, it won’t hurt anymore. Hmm?”

Her voice quivered at the end, touching the heart.

However, Li Hongyuan felt annoyed, and his mind was full of Jiang Ning’s casual and seemingly smiling appearance.

“Your Highness, what’s wrong with you?” Li Yuanyuan looked at him pitifully, “You just pitied me and didn’t let me go to the Princess Consort again. Did the conflict just happen because of this? I’m willing to serve the Princess Consort, so please don’t be angry with her for the sake of a servant, especially since she’s still pregnant with our child...”

“I’m just doing this to provoke her.” Li Hongyuan’s eyes were indifferent, “You’re overthinking it..”

Chapter 153 – Becoming a Concubine is a Bit

Annoying

Li Yuanyuan watched Prince of Yu leave with a flick of his sleeve, standing in the original place, frowning her beautiful eyebrows.

Now, the little maid dared to come over to support her: “Miss Teng, what’s wrong with His Highness?”

Li Yuanyuan shook her head: “I really don’t understand what His Highness is thinking. He obviously hates and loathes the Princess Consort so much, but he still has to tolerate her and give her way.”

“Isn’t it because of the power of the Princess Consort’s family and the child in her womb?”

“Yes, she has good fortune.”

“It would be nice if Miss Teng could also become pregnant.” The maid said.

Li Yuanyuan shook her head: “Everyone says that the Prince loathes the Princess Consort, but... sometimes, I feel that the Prince cares about her especially.”

“Where does he care?” The little maid laughed, “The Prince’s favorite is still you.”

“Is it?” Li Yuanyuan thought, although she had been with the Prince for the longest time, the Prince still had not consummated with her.

On the surface, he seemed to treat her well indeed.

But, if he really cared for her, why wouldn’t he give her a child?

It was said that it was to let the main wife conceive first before they would consummate, but now that the Princess Consort has conceived, the Prince still didn’t spend the night in her room.

Is this being loved?

Li Yuanyuan was also quite puzzled.

The maid said: “His Highness has been in a bad mood lately because of the Princess Consort’s constant nagging. Why don’t we make something to cheer him up? Once the Prince is happy, he will be able to come to our room again. Won’t that be nice?”

“Do you have any ideas?”

“Doesn’t the Prince like watching Miss Teng dance?”

“I danced for half of the day at the Princess Consort’s place today, it’s exhausting.”

“Miss Teng should at least think about the child.”

“Sigh, I know.”

Li Yuanyuan felt that it was quite pitiful for a woman to be like the Princess Consort – not liked by her husband. But being a concubine was even worse.

She had to please the man while also serving the main wife.

Anyway, it’s all annoying.

Li Hongyuan saw Jiang Ning when he was riding his horse into the palace.

She was with Huang Ying, eating small steamed buns at a roadside stall, and on the other side was a man with a literary and gentle appearance, sitting upright and smiling at Jiang Ning.

It was Thirteen.

Li Hongyuan sneered.

He said that he was bored at home and wanted to go out for a walk, but it turned out that it was just to meet other men.

Chashan saw her too, “Master, isn’t that our Princess Consort? She is with Thirteen...”

“Do you have eyes only?” Li Hongyuan said indifferently, “Let her be, as long as she doesn’t do anything disgraceful and acts unfaithfully, there is no need to bother with her.”

Chashan thought that even His Highness was afraid of the Princess Consort and just didn’t care.

But could His Highness really bear it?

No matter if he liked her or not, Jiang Seventh Miss had married into the Prince of Yu’s residence, and became the Princess Consort of Yu.

What man could tolerate his wife getting close to other men?

Soon, Chashan knew the answer.

That was, absolutely intolerable.

Usually, when His Highness enters the palace, he would stay until the evening after having a meal, and only leave the palace after the lamps were lit.

But this time, after discussing with the officials of the Ministry of Works, His Highness immediately rode his horse out of the palace. When passing by the bun shop, he gave the shop owner two hundred taels of silver and told him to close the shop and leave.

The bun shop owner was so happy that he closed the door quickly.

He took such a large sum of money, and intended to open another shop elsewhere.

When Jiang Ning went out for a walk and wanted to eat crab soup dumplings the next day, she found that the bun shop was empty.

What happened?

Huang Ying pushed her, looked at the empty bun shop, and her face was filled with confusion.

Until a voice came over, "Xiao Ning, what are you doing here?"

Jiang Ning turned back, it turned out to be He Tang.

He Tang held a pile of books, looking at her in surprise and delight.

Soon, the two sat down in the noodle shop next to the bun shop, ordered a bowl of noodles each, and ate.

From He Tang's mouth, Jiang Ning found out that the Autumn Examination was approaching, and he went to visit his mentor for some advice on his studies.

After Li Hongyuan heard, he sneered, "One man a day, at least she doesn't repeat.."

Chapter 154: All Sold Out

Chashan looked up at the prince's expression and said, "This servant knows."

Li Hongyuan was taken aback, "What do you know?"

"The prince doesn't need to say anything, this servant understands."

He happily went out.

Jiang Ning and He Tang were eating when they saw Chashan enter and call out the noodle shop owner.

Jiang Ning watched them.

He Tang asked, "Do you know him?"

"I've seen him before." I always felt that he looked familiar, but where have I met him before?

Huang Ying leaned in to remind her, "That is the prince's attendant, called Chashan."

Jiang Ning remembered.

In a little while, the noodle shop owner came in beaming and announced on the spot: "The noodle shop is closing. Today, everyone's noodles are on the house, free!"

In the noodle shop, besides Jiang Ning's table, there were only a few people.

Everyone had almost finished their meals, and hearing the announcement of the shop closing and offering free noodles, they were naturally happy and quickly got up and left.

He Tang was unhappy, saying, "We haven't finished yet."

"Hey, I'm not even charging you, and you're still not leaving?" The noodle shop owner saw that He Tang was wearing a robe and looked like a scholar, so he spoke politely, "You can go elsewhere to eat."

He Tang took out a copper coin and placed it on the table, saying, "I'll pay. I want to finish my noodles here. As the owner, you can't be unreasonable, right? Who chases their customers out halfway through a meal? Do you still want this shop sign?"

"I don't!" The owner was annoyed, "I have something going on at home and need to close early. You, a scholar, are so unreasonable!"

Seeing that a quarrel was about to start, Jiang Ning quickly said, "Forget it, why are you arguing with him? Everyone has their difficulties."

"This young lady here is reasonable."

"It's because of too many dishonest merchants like you that the world is getting worse!" Although He Tang was dissatisfied, he had to leave with Jiang Ning due to her intervention.

He Tang said, "I promised to treat you, but it ended like this. I'm sorry."

After coming out, He Tang apologized.

Jiang Ning laughed, "I'm already full."

He Tang pushed Jiang Ning along the street and suddenly said, "There's a shop selling osmanthus cake up ahead. You love it so much, I'll go buy some for you to take with you."

He went over to ask the shopkeeper to pack some, but as soon as the shopkeeper saw He Tang, he refused directly, "Sorry, they are sold out."

He Tang frowned, "But you still have so many here?"

"These are reserved for other customers."

"Who?"

"Other guests."

"I'll just buy two pieces."

“Not even one,” the shopkeeper said, “You can try elsewhere.”

“You... forget it.”

He saw a candied hawthorn stall nearby and went over, “Give me one.”

“Sold out.”

“What?” He Tang suddenly roared, “There are so many left. Are you saying I’m blind?”

“They’ve all been bought by others. I’m really sorry, you can try elsewhere.” The old man selling candied hawthorns was shaking and looked like he could be blown away by a louder voice.

He Tang was angry and helpless.

Jiang Ning pushed the wheelchair over, “What’s wrong?”

“Today is really strange, everything I want to buy is sold out.” He frowned, “I pass by here every day, and it’s never been like this.”

Jiang Ning looked at the stall owners.

They all seemed to have guilty expressions.

Thinking of Chashan they met at the noodle shop...

Jiang Ning laughed, “It’s just some snacks. If they’re sold out, they’re sold out. Is it worth getting angry about?”

“You used to love osmanthus cakes and candied hawthorns the most. Whenever I had some spare change, I would buy them for you.” He Tang’s voice became softer as he spoke, “You even said that you would let me buy osmanthus cakes for you for a lifetime..”

Chapter 155:1 Will Remember Your Words Forever

Jiang Ning looked up at him.

The young man’s eyes were a bit red.

Jiang Ning secretly sighed in her heart.

The original host and He Tang were childhood friends, two innocent little ones. Maybe they admired each other when they grew up, and maybe they even made vows of eternal love.

But, she is not the original host.

She can’t remember any of their past interactions, and it’s difficult for her to respond to his deep feelings.

Seeing him teary-eyed, Jiang Ning said, “Buying pastries is always best when you do it yourself. Xiaoman, your lady is hungry and wants to eat osmanthus cake.”

Xiaoman had been following behind. Hearing this, she immediately stepped forward, bang, and stood in front of the osmanthus cake stall, slapping a copper coin in front of the owner: “Give me two!”

The owner glanced over a few times, obediently gave the osmanthus cake to Xiaoman.

Xiaoman held the osmanthus cake and returned as if she had accomplished a great feat: “My lady.”

Jiang Ning took it into her arms and laughed, “You see, I can have it whenever I want. Even if you’re not here, I can still get it. He Tang, thank you for your concern.”

He Tang said, “I once promised you that I would work hard, pass the examinations, and serve the Imperial Court. Rest assured, I will always remember your words and let you see the day when I top the honor roll!”

Having said that, he left with his books.

Jiang Ning thought to herself, she didn’t expect the original host to have such a positive influence.

She had stirred this young man’s blood and determination.

It’s just a pity that the little girl he loved is already dead and can no longer witness the day when his name is on the honour roll.

Huang Ying asked, “My lady, do you want to continue wandering around?”

“Go get the candied hawthorn.”

“Take it?”

“Yes, take them all.”

Huang Ying was puzzled but still instructed Xiaoman to go.

Xiaoman thought they were going to snatch them and was quite excited.

But when she approached the old man, he quickly handed her the entire candied hawthorn stick.

Xiaoman:“??”

Is robbery really this easy?

She carried the stick back.

Huang Ying burst into laughter and picked a string to give to Jiang Ning, “It’s not easy for the old man. Is it really okay for us to take them without paying? If word gets out, people will say that the Jiang Family’s daughter is bullying the weak.”

“Do you think the old man is stupid? If no one gave him money, would he give you the candied hawthorn? Someone has already paid for them.”

“Who?”

“You’ll know when we get back.”

Jiang Ning told Xiaoman, “Carry the candied hawthorn, everyone at Crystal

Clear Manor gets a share.”

“This servant understands!”

Xiaoman carried the candied hawthorn like a victorious general, attracting countless gazes from the front courtyard to the central gate, and then to the back courtyard.

When someone asked her for some, she said, “Only people of Crystal Clear

Manor can eat this, are you one of them?”

“Did the Princess Consort buy it especially for you to eat?”

“No, the Princess Consort snatched it for us to eat.”

Xiaoman proudly told the “truth”.

People’s eyes were filled with various expressions.

Although the Princess Consort acted strangely, she treated the servants of Crystal Clear Manor really well.

In contrast, the Palace Maids and Attendants in their courtyard appeared gentle and soft-spoken, but were actually harsh.

Xiaoman distributed the candied hawthorns to everyone in Crystal Clear Manor, and the bamboo stick that held the hawthorns was re-inserted after they were eaten.

She asked Yun Dai, “What do we do with this wooden stake?”

“Return it to its original owner, send it to Misty Cloud Pavilion.”

Xiaoman was a bit single-minded and strictly followed her lady’s words without deviation.

So, she really took the wooden stake to Misty Cloud Pavilion.

People in Misty Cloud Pavilion knew her as the strong and sturdy maid by the Princess Consort’s side, who not only had great strength but also a not very smart head.

Aside from the Princess Consort’s words, she wouldn’t listen to anyone else.

Therefore, the rest of the people in the residence tried their best not to provoke her.

Who would reason with a fool? Besides, she had such great strength and high martial skills.

Xiaoman had no trouble along the way, and she stuck the wooden stake right in the middle of Misty Cloud Pavilion's courtyard..

Chapter 156: Isn't the Prince Jealous of the Princess Consort?

Li Hongyuan saw everything as soon as he came out.

"Chashan, what's going on?"

"In response to your Highness, I acted according to your wish and have acquired all the food stalls along the road, forbidding them from selling anything to that pedantic scholar He Tang," replied Chashan, "Including this candied hawthorn."

Li Hongyuan was so amused that he burst into laughter. "Is this what you understood from my instructions?"

"Yes it is. Aren't you feeling jealous over the Princess Consort?"

"Me, jealous?" Li Hongyuan scoffed. "I just can't stand Jiang Ning's lack of decency. She is a married woman, pregnant no less, yet she roams around all day, openly eating, drinking, and laughing with different men. It's utterly... disgraceful!"

Chashan: "That's why your servant did as I did. In the end, that pedantic scholar slunk away, and the Princess Consort had to pay for her own osmanthus cake. However..."

"However, what?"

“The candied hawthorn, it doesn’t seem like it was paid for. It appeared that the Princess Consort had Xiaoman snatch it... strange, the Princess Consort doesn’t seem like the kind of person who cares about small change...”

“Idiot.” Li Hongyuan said coldly. “She must’ve already guessed that I was the one pulling the strings behind the scenes, that’s why she acted the way she did.”

“It wasn’t your Highness, it was all my decision...”

“If you do it, isn’t that the same as me doing it?”

“...Your servant has made another mistake.” Chashan bowed his head in shame.

“Leave.”

Li Hongyuan went over and kicked down the wooden stake.

The Grand Court Assembly was scheduled for the next day, where all the scholars and ministers would gather at the palace for the morning court.

As it was before the crack of dawn, Li Hongyuan got up, washed, changed, and as per his habit did not eat breakfast before heading to the palace in his palanquin.

After the morning court ended, the ministers, all of whom were starving, scattered to find a place to eat.

Normally, Li Hongyuan would dine at the Splendid Palace, but today he was not in the mood and decided to leave the palace directly.

Just as he reached the main gate of his manor, Jiang Ning, along with Huang Ying and Xiaoman, casually strolled out.

They were going out again.

With a cold expression on his face, Li Hongyuan walked straight in.

Jiang Ning disregarded him as if she hadn't seen him, and they passed each other by.

Although he really wanted to hold her wheelchair and throw her back into the Crystal Clear Manor, thinking of all the tricks she could play, Li Hongyuan quickly discarded the idea.

"Where are you going this time?" He suddenly asked as they crossed paths.

"Just for a stroll."

"You love going out so much."

"After all, there are people in the manor who don't appreciate me." Jiang Ning, leaning back lazily in her wheelchair, squinting with an indolent air, looked up at him.

Seeing her in this lax attitude, Li Hongyuan was inexplicably irritated.

"By the way, don't forget to return the candied hawthorn stick. After all, it's someone's livelihood." Jiang Ning said, "The eatery I want to visit today might be expensive, you better prepare more money."

"You got your advantage and now act so smug!"

Li Hongyuan did not bother to explain that the matter had nothing to do with him and that it was Chashan acting on his own. He simply walked straight in.

Jiang Ning was indeed just going for a casual stroll.

She is not some spoiled daughter of a rich family who wouldn't step outside of their second gate. Cooped up in the house every day could lead to depression.

Now in her second trimester, which was the most comfortable period of pregnancy, she had to seize the opportunity to go out and have fun. Once it was late pregnancy, or after the birth of the child, she wouldn't be able to go out anymore.

They hadn't walked very far when they saw Xiaoqian darting about like a little emperor surrounded by attendants.

She grabbed hold of the young emperor's collar. "Hey, little rascal, what are you doing?"

Li Tingqian was delighted to see her. "Aunt! I missed you!"

"If you missed me, why didn't you come visit?"

"Grandpa Emperor doesn't allow me to go. He says I'm too naughty and would give you a headache because there's a baby in your belly." Li Tingqian innocently replied..

Chapter 157: The Princess Consort Went Out to Eat with Another Man Again

Jiang Ning laughed, "Auntie has a baby in her belly, but that won't stop her from playing with you."

Huang Ying beside her then asked with a smile, "Your Highness, do you think the baby in the Princess Consort's belly is a brother or a sister?"

Li Tingqian bit his finger and took a few glances at Jiang Ning's belly: "Um... Brother and sister."

"Is it a brother or a sister?"

“Brother and sister.”

“Huang Ying, don’t ask anymore. He is still young and won’t understand what you’re saying.” Jiang Ning held Xiaoqian’s hand, “Where are you going?”

“Today is Father’s death anniversary, and I’ve paid my respects to him. Grandfather allowed me to go out and play.” Xiaoqian replied.

Seeing the innocent and childlike face, Jiang Ning smiled and said, “Little Auntie is hungry and wants to eat something. Does Xiaoqian know where the delicious food is?”

“I know, there’s a bun shop that’s especially delicious!” Xiaoqian volunteered enthusiastically, “Little Auntie, the shop is not far from here, let me push you there.”

He stood on his tiptoes, grabbed the wheelchair, and his eyes were blocked.

Huang Ying was amused and quickly took over the wheelchair.

The child looked a little disappointed.

Jiang Ning smiled and said, “Xiaoqian is a gentle and considerate child. The girl who marries you in the future will be very blessed.”

Xiaoqian’s cheeks turned red.

“You’re still too young. You should eat well and sleep well. When you grow up, you’ll be able to push Little Auntie’s wheelchair all by yourself.” Jiang Ning moved a little to the side, “Come, sit beside Little Auntie, and we’ll stroll around together.”

The wheelchair was wide, Jiang Ning was slender, and Xiaoqian was young and small.

The two of them could just about fit.

It was Xiaoqian's first time wandering around in a wheelchair, and he was with his favorite Little Auntie. He found it very , embracing Little Auntie's arm and looking around. Whenever he saw something he liked, he would point with his little hand.

Behind them, a large group of eunuchs and imperial guards followed. Whenever Xiaoqian pointed at something, someone would immediately go up and buy it for him.

In a short while, Xiaoqian was holding a bunch of food and toys. Jiang Ning also received a set of jewelry in the process.

Finally, they arrived at the bun shop Xiaoqian mentioned. After they entered, they ordered soup dumplings, placed them in a small plate, punctured the skin with chopsticks, sucked the soup, and then ate the deflated skin and filling together in one bite.

It was so delicious that their mouths were full of flavor.

Xiaoqian ate half of the dumplings in one go. Jiang Ning, fearing that he might overeat and have digestion problems, didn't allow him to eat more.

The leftover dumplings were given to Huang Ying and Xiaoman.

In the Prince of Yu Residence, even though Li Hongyuan appeared indifferent, Chashan believed that as the most loyal and intimate follower of his master, he must understand his master's true thoughts.

His master surely wanted to know who Jiang Ning met with this time.

So Chashan had someone follow them and report back.

After waiting for a long time, the person who shadowed them finally returned.

Chashan pulled him into a corner and asked, "Where is the Princess Consort?"

"In a bun shop, eating buns."

"Eating again... How many people?"

"Four people."

"Who else, apart from the Princess Consort and her two maids? Was it a man?" Chashan frowned.

"Yes... Kind of, but..."

"Isn't it someone from our residence?"

"No, it's not."

"Isn't it from the Gu Family?"

"Of course not."

"Wenren Thirteen?"

"No."

"A poor and ordinary scholar?"

"No, actually it's..."

“I got it. You keep following!”

“But Master Chashan, I haven’t finished yet—”

The person had already walked away.

He scratched his head, thinking his response wasn’t problematic.

After all, the emperor’s eldest grandson was indeed male, not from the prince’s residence, and certainly not from the Gu Family..

Chapter 158: Arrows Coming from Afar

After all, he didn’t say anything wrong.

With that thought, the person following them felt justified and left.

Chashan quickly went to the study to report this matter to the Prince.

“Prince, your foresight is truly amazing. Today, the Princess Consort has gone out to meet other men again!” Chashan exclaimed. “At this rate, won’t the King of Chen and Prince of Huai have a chance to ridicule us?”

“What’s there to mock?” Li Hongyuan said indifferently.

“After all, our Princess Consort... doesn’t adhere to the rules,” Chashan said. “The Main Consorts of the other lords are much more restrained, never setting foot outside their palaces.”

“Well, that’s only because they married boring women.”

“Prince, aren’t you also annoyed by the Princess Consort’s behavior? Why do you think she’s interesting now?”

“After all, only my Princess Consort can bear a son,” Li Hongyuan said calmly. “No matter how proper and well-behaved their Princess Consorts are, they won’t be able to produce an heir.”

Chashan laughed, “That’s true. It won’t be long before Prince of Yu’s palace has a legitimate heir. This is a great joy.”

Li Hongyuan asked, “What did you just say?”

“Ah? Oh, right, I just said that the Princess Consort is eating with an unrelated man outside again,” replied Chashan.

“Another man?”

Li Hongyuan’s brush in his hand snapped with a crack.

“It seems that she really doesn’t know what being a wife means if you don’t discipline her. Chashan, prepare the horses!”

“At your command!”

Chashan happily followed him out the door.

The steamed bun shop.

Jiang Ning had eaten her fill and felt the baby in her belly moving lively, so she lazily didn’t want to move. It seemed like Xiaoqian was tired of playing as well, and leaned against her arm, quietly playing with a clay figurine.

After Huang Ying and Xiaoman finished eating, they paid the bill and said, "Miss, you must be tired, let's go back and take a midday rest. It seems that the little prince is tired from playing too."

Jiang Ning looked at the little boy in her arms, his soft, tender and fair face laying trustingly and dependently against her.

She touched his forehead and softly asked, "Xiaoqian, do you want to go home with Auntie?"

The child yawned, showing that he was indeed sleepy.

Jiang Ning let him sit on her intact left leg and embraced him.

She then asked Huang Ying to push the wheelchair.

The imperial guards were waiting at the entrance.

As soon as the wheelchair appeared, before they could walk over, Jiang Ning suddenly felt an intense chill down her spine, as if disaster was about to strike.

"Huang Ying, go back to the shop!"

Just as she shouted, dozens of arrows shot towards them from the opposite side.

Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

One arrow was aimed straight at Jiang Ning and Xiaoqian's wheelchair.

Without a thought, Jiang Ning hugged Xiaoqian tightly, protecting him in her embrace.

The arrow grazed Jiang Ning's arm and flew by.

A wave of pain hit her.

Jiang Ning was filled with fear.

She wasn't afraid of the arrow, nor was she afraid because she was injured.

She was terrified that one of the arrows might have hit Xiaoqian's body!

She was so scared that she didn't dare to look down and check Xiaoqian's condition, she just held him tightly.

Xiaoqian's guards reacted quickly, and with Li Hongyuan and his followers rushing to the scene on horseback, they quickly captured those assassins.

However, those assassins were all men prepared to die, and they didn't expect to have a chance to fire a second wave of arrows. They only had one opportunity.

If they failed, they knew they would face hell.

When they were captured, they swallowed poison to commit suicide.

Li Hongyuan, with his sword in hand and a cold look on his face, demanded, "Chashan, investigate who these people are and who sent them!"

Chapter 159: She May Have Had a Miscarriage

"Affirmative!" Chashan promptly went to inspect the bodies.

A cry from Huang Ying was heard at this moment.

“Miss, are you alright?”

“Is the emperor’s eldest grandson okay?” asked several eunuchs in a panicky voice.

Li Hongyuan’s heart thumped, he immediately dropped his sword, pushed away the eunuchs and imperial guards, and rushed to Jiang Ning’s side.

The scene before him made his pupils constrict, as if a bucket of cold water had been poured over his head.

Jiang Ning was lying on her side, tightly holding a small child.

Her usually white dress was soaked with blood.

Some of it dripped onto the ground, and some was on the child as well.

No one knew whose blood it was that was flowing so freely.

Xiaoqian’s personal eunuch was almost out of his mind with fear, “What... What do we do now? My Lord, look...”

A desperate shrill cry.

“Shut up, go away!” growled Li Hongyuan.

He then crouched down and gently picked up Xiaoqian from her arms.

“Xiaoqian, is anywhere hurting?”

“No.” Xiaoqian, having been protected by Jiang Ning all the while, was oblivious to what had happened. Seeing Li Hongyuan’s question, he blankly shook his head and then wailed when he saw Jiang Ning covered in blood, “What happened to Auntie, Auntie?”

“It’s okay, it’s okay. Your auntie is alright.”

Li Hongyuan handed Xiaoqian to a eunuch and turned to look at Jiang Ning.

Between sobs, Huang Ying said, “The Miss seems to have fainted...”

“I... I didn’t.” Jiang Ning frowned, slowly lifting her head, “Just moved too abruptly, and my neck is a bit twisted. Ouch—”

Her arm hurt terribly!

Everyone was watching her in fear.

There were no arrows on her body, so they had no idea where she was injured.

Could it be... inside her womb?

Li Hongyuan scooped her up and rushed towards the nearest medical clinic.

“Slow down!” shouted Jiang Ning.

“Shut up!” Li Hongyuan barked, “If you can yell that loud, it means you won’t die!”

“You’re crushing my arm, it hurts!” In agony and urgency, Jiang Ning smacked him across the face, shouting, “Put me down!”

The feeling of a fresh wound being squished was unbearable.

Jiang Ning was furious enough to kill him.

They were already at the door of the medical clinic.

Caught off guard by the slap, Li Hongyuan inhaled deeply, suppressing his anger.

Watching all this, Chashan was so scared he almost stopped breathing.

Good lord.

The Princess Consort had slapped the Prince’s face!

The Prince was murderous as it was.

But Li Hongyuan showed no reaction, he gently put Jiang Ning down on a bed at the clinic and instructed the doctor to tend to her wounds.

Seeing a handsome man bringing in a bloody woman, the doctor didn’t dare dawdle, he immediately rushed over, “Where is the lady injured?”

“She might have miscarried.” Li Hongyuan said.

“Oh, oh, oh, let me see.” The doctor hurriedly checked Jiang Ning’s pulse. “Does your abdomen hurt?”

Jiang Ning glared at Li Hongyuan.

That jerk! Just because she hit him out of pain did he curse her with a miscarriage?

Such a petty man!

She bluntly told the doctor, "My abdomen doesn't hurt. I was wounded in the arm, it seems to have been grazed by an arrow."

The doctor finally understood and quickly began treating her arm injury.

He cut off the blood-soaked sleeve with scissors.

Indeed, there was a lengthy wound grazed by an arrow on the outer side of her upper right arm that nearly scraped off a layer of flesh.

That explained the excessive bleeding.

After an inspection, the doctor sighed in relief, "There's no serious harm. It's just a skin wound, no bones were hit. But since the lady is pregnant and has lost some blood, care should still be taken. I'll prescribe a tonic for replenishing blood and nourishing the fetus. You can take it as per the instructions. Rest for a month and you'll be fine.."

Chapter 160: What Are You Shaking For?

The old doctor went to write the prescription himself and called in an elder lady doctor, saying that she was his wife, to treat Jiang Ning's wounds.

Although the lady doctor was old, she was neat and efficient. She comforted Jiang Ning a few words, then took out water, gauze, and medicine to treat her wounds.

As her wound was being cleaned, Jiang Ning couldn't help trembling in pain, and the baby in her belly kept fidgeting.

Li Hongyuan, standing nearby, saw her left hand tightly gripping the bedsheet, and her lower lip bitten to whiteness.

He hesitated for a moment, and patted her left hand, "Why are you shaking?"

Jiang Ning glared at him and unceremoniously grabbed his hand.

Her sharp nails painfully scraped the back of his hand.

Li Hongyuan furrowed his brows but endured it without pulling his hand back.

To divert her attention, Jiang Ning held his hand and asked with a smile through clenched teeth, "Why couldn't the doctor just now bandage me?"

"Men and women should not touch," the lady doctor gently replied with a smile.

"Do doctors also differentiate between men and women?"

The lady doctor looked at her with some surprise and smiled, "In a doctor's eyes, there is no difference of course, but in the eyes of the patients and their families, there is."

Jiang Ning nodded, "I understand."

After all, it was ancient times, and even the most enlightened customs could not tolerate a strange man touching a woman's body.

Medicine-seeking trouble could occur in any moment.

Because of this, many women would rather endure their illness than seek medical treatment. Some medical clinics simply refused to treat women's external injuries or gynecological diseases.

There was no other choice.

Some men would rather let their wives suffer or die from the illness than allow a male doctor to treat them.

Others caused a scene and tried to extort after the treatment, accusing the clinic's doctor of disgraceful behavior towards their family's women.

In short, when the woods are big enough, there are all kinds of birds.

Presumably, this Medical Clinic had suffered from such troubles before as well.

Jiang Ning expressed her understanding.

"It will hurt a bit, just try to bear with it," the lady doctor said gently, and she quickly applied medicine to the cleaned wound and wrapped it in gauze.

Jiang Ning clenched Li Hongyuan's hand tightly in pain.

Li Hongyuan frowned, but remained silent.

He looked at Jiang Ning's belly and suddenly noticed a small bump in one area.

Huh.

He was a bit surprised and instinctively extended his hand to poke the bump gently.

The small bump immediately disappeared.

Jiang Ning glared at him, "What are you doing?"

"Ahem." Li Hongyuan looked away, "Your belly just moved."

"It's my son kicking my belly! Stop acting so surprised!"

"Is his strength that great?" Li Hongyuan was extremely curious.

"What did you think?"

Li Hongyuan silently watched her belly, imagining a tiny person inside, waving little hands and feet, poking in one place and kicking in another.

Her belly must be very painful, right?

No wonder she was always irritable, always wanting to do something, to make a fuss.

If it were him, he would be even more bothered by such a naughty and mischievous thing in his belly.

After the wound was treated, a medical clinic apprentice brought a bowl of freshly decocted medicine, saying that it not only helped the healing of the wound but also nourished the fetus.

After drinking the warm concoction, her wound really felt less painful.

At that moment, Huang Ying hurried in, holding a set of brand-new clothes.

“When did you go buy clothes?” Jiang Ning looked at her.

“The Prince ordered Chashan to take me back to the mansion to fetch them; I couldn’t let you go home in such dirty and sullied clothes.” Huang Ying panted, “Are you alright, Miss?”

“It’s just a flesh wound, no big deal. I’ll be fine after a few days of rest.”

“Amitabha, that’s good, that’s good. You really scared my soul away.” Huang Ying patted her chest, thanked the lady doctor, and asked Li Hongyuan to step aside..”