

Royal Marriage 181

Chapter 181: Approaching Labor

Li Yuanyuan had been trying to find an opportunity, but after waiting for so long, Jiang Ning seemed like a hard-shelled turtle. Ever since she had a big quarrel with the Prince of Yu, she had not left the Crystal Clear Manor.

The door of the Crystal Clear Manor was tightly guarded, and apart from Huang Ying and a few senior maids like Xiaoman, no one else was allowed to enter or exit.

Not to mention anyone else, but even Li Hongyuan had not been inside.

However, whether it was because he didn't want to go in or couldn't get in, no one really knew.

In short, Li Yuanyuan and Nanny Mo's plans fell through completely.

Huang Ying and Chunlai, along with the other maids, were dowries brought by Jiang Ning from Jiang Family, and they were deeply loyal to her, so it would be impossible for them to be instigated by others. As for Xiaoman, although she was not very clever, she was single-minded and only cared about Jiang Ning, so she would not pay attention to others' words.

This made it impossible for Li Yuanyuan to find an opportunity to strike.

It wasn't until the first snowfall in Chang'an City in December that Jiang Ning, having eaten breakfast that morning, heard Xiaoman say that it was snowing outside and asked someone to push her out to take a look.

Her belly was already very big, abnormally so.

But everyone's pregnancy is different. Some people don't show much, with small bellies, while others show a lot and have very large bellies.

As long as the baby is fine, there is nothing wrong with it.

Jiang Ning stretched out her hand and caught a snowflake, watching the delicate white flake melt in her palm.

Having been confined in the courtyard for more than two months, she was initially very uncomfortable, but now she was almost calm.

"Your Highness, it's cold outside. Let's go back to the room after looking for a while," Huang Ying gently said as she draped Jiang Ning with a cloak.

"The New Year is almost here," Jiang Ning said as she watched the snow.

"Yes, there are just over twenty days left." Huang Ying smiled and said, "The Prime Minister's Mansion must miss you dearly. They keep sending people to inquire about you, especially the Madam. The Third Master has also sent gifts several times. Nowadays, the Third Master is working in the Imperial Academy and will surely be as successful as the Prime Minister."

"I know they miss me, and I miss them too. But... let's take care of the baby inside me first. I don't want to experience another assassination attempt," Jiang Ning said before suddenly feeling a pain in her stomach.

She frowned and reached out to grasp Huang Ying's hand, "Huang Ying, my stomach hurts."

Huang Ying hurriedly called, "Chunlai, come quickly!"

A few maids rushed out.

"What's wrong?" Xiachu asked.

"Her Highness has stomach pain," Huang Ying said. "Xiachu, you're fast on your feet. Hurry to Misty Cloud Pavilion and ask the Prince to summon the Imperial Physician. Dongxie, go call the midwife."

Chunlai was a little flustered, "It's not time yet, how can she give birth?"

"There's no fixed time for childbirth. Sometimes it's a few days early, sometimes a few days late," Huang Ying urged. "You go inside and prepare, make the bed ready. Xiaoman, come and help me get the Princess Consort back."

Xiaoman immediately came forward to help and supported Jiang Ning to the birthing room they had already prepared.

Jiang Ning lay on the bed and said, "Don't panic, everyone. It won't happen so soon."

Although she had never given birth before, she still knew some basic knowledge. She had to wait for regular contractions and intensifying pains before the actual delivery began.

As expected, the pain was only occasional at first.

She didn't stay in bed after that but got up and walked around.

Walking more would make the birth faster.

Huang Ying brought her honey water to drink.

She also gave Jiang Ning eggs to eat, saying that eating more would give her strength for the delivery.

While Jiang Ning looked calm on the outside, she was extremely anxious on the inside. This was her first time giving birth, and she didn't know what to expect. It was impossible not to be scared and worried.

Her mind was extremely tense, and she couldn't eat anything at all..

Chapter 182: Approaching Labor 2

Soon, there were chaotic footsteps outside.

Xiachu came in and said, "The Prince is here."

Huang Ying frowned: "I asked you to invite the Imperial Physician, why did you invite the Prince?"

"I have already sent someone to invite Imperial Physician Dong," Li Hongyuan's voice came in.

Jiang Ning looked up and saw him walking in.

Two old women at the door wanted to stop him, but they hesitated, unsure of what to do.

Jiang Ning was enduring another wave of labor pain, lying on her side, curling up her body, her brows tightly furrowed, and her face pale.

They hadn't seen each other since their last quarrel.

Seeing the pain on her beautiful face, Li Hongyuan's heart inexplicably ached.

He couldn't help but walk over, his voice softer: "How are you?"

Jiang Ning didn't want to see him at all, and hearing him speak only annoyed her.

Because the pain she was going through now was all his fault!

He was standing there comfortably, while she had to endure the suffering of pregnancy, lack of sleep due to back pain, shortness of breath in the later stages of pregnancy, and the inability to breathe.

Now she had to lie on the bed like a wounded pig, moaning in pain, being watched by others, with no dignity at all.

Why?

As for Li Hongyuan's caring words, Jiang Ning not only didn't want to respond, but she also wished for him to disappear immediately.

But she was enduring a more intense wave of pain, her mind blank, unable to respond at all.

Zhao Shu saw her face wrinkled in pain and couldn't help but get anxious: "What's going on? Where's the doctor?"

Two midwives hurriedly ran in, panting, and said: "We thought there was still some time left, but why is she about to give birth now?"

"Childbirth always has its time, and there is no fixed schedule. How could you two be so careless!" Huang Ying frowned, "Quickly come over and check on the Princess Consort."

The two midwives hurried over to examine Jiang Ning.

But Li Hongyuan was still in the room.

"Your Highness, please wait outside. Men shouldn't be in this place," said the midwife.

Li Hongyuan recalled what his concubine mother had said, that during childbirth women were in the most pain, vulnerable, and needed the man by their side.

Everything about the delivery room being unclean and inauspicious was nonsense.

Didn't every man come from the delivery room?

Influenced by his concubine mother, he had never felt that the delivery room was unclean, nor did he feel that he needed to avoid it.

Why should he avoid it?

As the child's father, he wanted to see the child with his own eyes.

"You go ahead and examine her!" he said, "I will stay here with the Princess Consort."

Jiang Ning grabbed a pillow from the bedside and threw it at him, yelling: "Get out, who wants you to watch!"

She didn't have much strength, so the pillow floated softly out.

Li Hongyuan picked up the pillow, walked to her bedside, and tried to make his voice gentle: "I know you're in pain and afraid now. It's okay, I'll be with you..."

"It's okay, your head! Hurry up and get out! Don't be an eyesore!" Jiang Ning yelled angrily, "Li Hongyuan, what do you have in mind, staying here and not letting my child be born?"

Li Hongyuan was taken aback: "Don't all women want men to be with them?"

"You're overthinking it. Just seeing you makes me angrier! Hiss..." Jiang Ning's eyebrows twisted together, "Get out!"

Li Hongyuan glanced at her stomach and left the room in a disgraceful manner. What was going on?

What his concubine mother said wasn't accurate.

Or maybe this woman was abnormal and different from other women.

Li Hongyuan stood at the door, listening to the faint sounds of moans from inside, and his heart ached little by little..

Chapter 183: The Princess Consort Gave Birth to a Young Gentleman

No matter what, the woman inside was giving birth to his child.

She was enduring extreme pain.

Thinking of her pale, sweaty face, Li Hongyuan's usually stony heart softened a bit.

He stood at the door, motionless, his expression calm, not revealing any anger. But the anxiety in his heart tightened bit by bit as Jiang Ning's pained cries intensified.

Imperial Physician Dong hurried in.

Li Hongyuan's voice was murderous: "You finally came!"

Imperial Physician Dong quickly said: "Your Highness, please don't worry. This is Princess Consort's first child, it won't be that quick. Moreover, based on previous diagnoses, the Princess Consort's fetal image is good, and the fetal position is also correct, there shouldn't be any problems with the delivery. Your Highness, please stay calm."

But how could he not worry?

The woman's voice inside sounded painful.

How could she be so delicate? He really wished he could take the pain for her.

Li Hongyuan frowned and glanced inside, then realized what he was thinking about, and couldn't help but frown.

Why did he have such thoughts?

Isn't it natural for a woman to experience pain during childbirth?

Hadn't he known that already? He had mentally prepared himself for it long ago.

But now, hearing the woman's voice, he felt anxious, irritable, and couldn't help but want to kick the door open to see what was going on.

He had never experienced this feeling before.

He couldn't hold back any longer, he couldn't maintain his calm, and began pacing back and forth outside the door.

One hour, two hours passed.

The woman's voice inside went hoarse.

It was already past noon, and the baby still hadn't come out.

Li Hongyuan's palms started to sweat.

“Dong Chaofeng, what’s going on?” he questioned Imperial Physician Dong. “It’s been half a day, and she still hasn’t given birth!”

Imperial Physician Dong smiled and said, “Your Highness, please stay calm, half a day is not long... some people take two or three days.”

“Two or three days?” Li Hongyuan was taken aback, his voice raised, “Did you hear that? Can you hear her? She’s in so much pain already, can you bear that? Hurry up and make her deliver faster!”

Dong Chaofeng said with a bitter smile, “How can we force the speed of childbirth?”

“Medicine!”

“This official has already prepared a prescription for inducing labor. It will work soon.”

After the inducing labor soup was taken in, Jiang Ning’s clothes were all soaked with sweat, her hair also soaked, and her face as pale as paper.

She knew childbirth was painful, but she hadn’t expected it to be so painful.

The contractions were already very close together; before she could recover from one, another one arrived.

After drinking the inducing labor soup, the midwife let Huang Ying give her a piece of ginseng to regain her strength.

Outside Crystal Clear Manor, Li Yuanyuan and Maid Fang came over to visit.

However, they couldn’t go in.

Xiaoman was guarding the door like a door god, staring intently.

They were helpless.

There was no one in the manor who could beat her.

As they watched another hour pass, Jiang Ning drank the second bowl of inducing labor soup, and finally, there was some effect.

After another half-hour, a baby's cry finally came from inside the room.

Li Hongyuan, who was almost squeezing his fist to pieces, suddenly stiffened and turned abruptly to look inside.

The baby's cry was loud and clear.

"It's born," Imperial Physician Dong wiped the sweat off his face. "It was a close call, but congratulations, Your Highness."

Li Hongyuan stared intently at the door until the midwife came out with the swaddled baby.

"Your Highness, congratulations! The Princess Consort has given birth to a young son." The midwife was all smiles.

Everyone in the courtyard cheered at the news.

It's a boy!

It really is a boy!

Li Hongyuan finally got the child he had been longing for, but instead of being as happy as he had expected, he frowned and asked, "How is she?"

"Oh, the Princess Consort is safe and sound, both mother and child are fine," the midwife quickly said.

But just as she finished speaking, a scream came from inside the room: "Oh my god, there's another baby in the Princess Consort's womb!"

Chapter 184: The Auspicious Dragon and Phoenix

Everyone was taken aback by these words.

"Oh my goodness!"

The midwife exclaimed and quickly handed the baby to a maid, running back inside.

Li Hongyuan was rooted to the spot.

"Another one?", Imperial Physician Dong smacked his forehead, "Did I not mention it?"

Li Hongyuan looked at him, "You didn't mention what?"

"When I checked the Princess Consort's pulse last time, I detected two babies."

"Who did you tell?"

"Did I not mention it?" Dong Chaofeng scratched his face, "Was I thinking of something else at the time and forgot about it?"

“You have the gall to forget this kind of thing?!”

Li Hongyuan, infuriated, kicked him out and exclaimed, “You quack, get lost! As soon as this matter is settled, I am going to petition the Emperor Father to dismiss you, you old and blind quack!”

Dong Chaofeng, knowing that he was at fault, dared not make a sound or leave and just stood at the door.

Inside, the labor was still underway.

Although the Prince of Yu was telling him to leave now, if anything were to happen later and he could not be found, the Prince of Yu would twist his neck immediately.

Luckily, having already given birth to one, the second baby should be smoother.

Half a stick of incense’s time later, a baby’s cry was heard from inside the room again, but it was not as loud as the first one.

Apparently weaker.

Li Hongyuan’s heart was pounding as his eyes were fixed on the birthing room’s door.

The midwife came out, beaming with joy, continuously saying, “Great joy, great joy. The Princess Consort has given birth to another child! They are a pair of dragon and phoenix twins!”

The servants all rejoiced.

Li Hongyuan slowly let out a sigh of relief, finally feeling a bit weak due to the intense tension.

He looked down at the tiny baby in the midwife’s arms, a tiny person wrapped in swaddling clothes, with black hair on her head, her skin pinkish, eyes closed, her mouth open, crying loudly.

“Your Highness, look how adorable the twins are.” The midwife said with joy.

Li Hongyuan frowned, withdrew his gaze, looked at the birthing room, and asked, “Where is the Princess Consort?”

“Your Highness, don’t worry. The Princess Consort is exhausted after giving birth and has fallen asleep. Let her rest,” the midwife smiled.

Xiachu came over to take the baby and said, “Initially, we didn’t know that the Princess Consort was pregnant with twins, so we only prepared two wet nurses. I’m afraid that might not be enough. We need to find two more clean ones.”

Li Hongyuan nodded and ordered the stewardess to take care of it.

He himself walked to the birthing room’s door. The maids and midwives had already tidied up the room. They had changed Jiang Ning’s clothes, the beddings, and made her more comfortable.

This time, no one stopped him from going in.

The only person who could forbid him, was now sleeping deeply.

Li Hongyuan approached the bed and looked at Jiang Ning.

She was lying on the bed with a quilt over her. Only her pale little face was exposed. Her hair was disheveled, a few strands of sweat-drenched bangs stuck to her forehead.

Making her face look even paler.

She was sleeping deeply, looking tired.

It was relaxation after enduring great pain.

Li Hongyuan quietly watched her for a while. He took out his handkerchief, bent down to wipe her forehead, and gently smoothed the hair on her forehead away.

Huang Ying came over with the soup.

Li Hongyuan said, "Move her to the bedroom and you stay and look after her. Everyone else, leave. The children should be taken to the farther chamber to be nursed, so as not to disturb her rest."

At the Prince's order, Jiang Ning was shortly moved to a warmer and more comfortable bedroom. Apart from Huang Ying and Chunlai who stayed by her side, everyone else left, fussing over the newly born twins..

Chapter 185: If this prince could give birth, why would I let you suffer

Li Hongyuan should have gone to the palace to report the good news.

He had planned to do so beforehand.

But, at the last moment, seeing the two newly born little pink bundles, Li Hongyuan didn't really want to enter the palace.

He thought for a moment and sent Chashan to report the good news.

Chashan said, "Master, the Princess Consort has given birth to a boy and a girl twin. This is an auspicious sign, a great joy. If you personally go to report the good news to His Majesty, his face will surely light up in delight."

"This prince is a bit tired now, I will go later, you go and report the news first."

“Tired?”

Although puzzled, Chashan didn’t dare to ask any more questions and quickly went to prepare the horse.

Li Hongyuan walked around Crystal Clear Manor twice.

He visited the babies in their side room first.

There were a large group of maids and wet nurses surrounding them, so he didn’t need to worry at all.

The wet nurses had been prepared early on, all of them clean women who had just given birth a few months ago, and their milk was abundant, so they could feed the babies right away.

Newborn babies don’t eat much; they sleep once they’re full, and it is easy to look after them.

After seeing the children, Li Hongyuan still felt a sense of suffocation in his heart.

He didn’t understand why.

He originally thought it would just be a boy, but now it turns out to be a boy and a girl twin, which is a huge surprise. He should be happy that he suddenly has both a son and a daughter.

But, he wasn’t particularly happy.

He frowned, raised his head, and realized that he had unknowingly walked to Jiang Ning’s bedroom door.

Chunlai came out carrying water and saw him standing at the door. She was startled and quickly bowed, "This servant greets Your Highness."

Li Hongyuan looked inside, and even through the curtains and folding screens, he couldn't see anything, but he still asked, "Is she awake?"

Chunlai knew he was asking about the Princess Consort and answered, "Your Highness, the Princess Consort is awake."

"Awake?"

Li Hongyuan immediately walked inside, stopping before the curtain, remembering the previous scene of her with tears in her eyes telling him to leave.

"Who's outside, standing there?" Huang Ying's voice came.

Li Hongyuan just pulled the curtain and went in.

He is the Prince of Yu, the master of this house, and he is not a thief. There's no need to hesitate.

Huang Ying was wiping Jiang Ning's face and hands with a towel. Seeing him enter, she got up and bowed.

Li Hongyuan raised his hand to let her go and looked at Jiang Ning on the bed.

She looked very weak, listless, and lying on her side without moving.

She didn't react even though she knew he had come.

Li Hongyuan looked at her lifeless appearance and frowned, "What's wrong with you?"

Jiang Ning ignored him.

“Does it still hurt?” Li Hongyuan asked again.

He did not get a response.

“Why don’t you talk?”

“You’re very noisy.”

Her voice was very weak and hoarse.

Li Hongyuan sat down next to the bed, looked at her face and softened his voice, “Does it hurt badly?”

“Nonsense, why don’t you try giving birth?”

“If this prince could give birth, there would be no need for you.”

” ” Although Jiang Ning had always been impatient with him, she couldn’t

help but look at him after hearing those words.

Did he really say that?

His voice was no longer cold and aloof, nor sarcastic, but a gentle and deep tone instead.

Li Hongyuan saw that her face seemed to regain a bit of color and continued, “You’ve given birth to a pair of boy and girl twins.”

"I know."

Mentioning this, Jiang Ning was annoyed.

Struggling all day to give birth, she finally had her baby and thought she would be free, but her stomach still hurt terribly, and she didn't feel the peacefulness others described at all.

The midwife touched her belly and shouted out.

There was another one in her belly!

At that moment, Jiang Ning's vision darkened and she almost fainted.

No wonder her belly had been so frighteningly big. It wasn't because she was carrying a giant baby, but because there were two..

Chapter 186: The Breeding Boar

"How could that quack, Dong Chaofeng, have examined you several times and not discovered this?"

"He said he had forgotten to tell me."

"..." Jiang Ning didn't know where to begin her complaints, so she just gave a bitter smile.

Did he really forget?

That fat old man in the palace had a mind full of tricks, just like a beehive, who knew if he was the one sabotaging things again?

Jiang Ning felt that the Emperor was too cunning and ruthless.

His sons simply couldn't play him.

Li Hongyuan said, "I have seen the two children; they were both born healthy. You've worked hard."

"You're too kind." Jiang Ning replied coldly.

"Do you feel any discomfort now?" he asked again.

"If you weren't here, pestering me, I could rest quietly and sleep, which would be better." Jiang Ning said indifferently, "Isn't it true that you just want children? Now you have a son and a daughter, congratulations on achieving your goal."

"This Prince is asking you if you still feel any discomfort."

"No!" Jiang Ning frowned, "Is it that you just can't stand to see me doing well? Are you here to see if I'm dead or alive so that you can promote your favorite concubine and let her raise a pair of children for you?"

"You —" Li Hongyuan's face changed, and he stood up, inhaling deeply, "You are weak now, this Prince won't argue with you."

Jiang Ning turned her body away from him, facing the inside of the bed, not bothered to look at him.

Li Hongyuan said, "Since the children are born, you should behave and stay in the backyard from now on."

"What if I don't comply?"

“Then you might not be able to raise the children.”

“These children are mine!” Jiang Ning suddenly sat up, “No one is allowed to take them away!”

“I am the father of the children; they bear the surname Li,” Li Hongyuan said, “If you want to raise them, behave properly as the Princess Consort of Yu. If you don’t want to, you can leave; there are plenty of people who can raise them.”

“What? You want to drive me away right after I’ve given birth?” Jiang Ning said coldly, “If I go, I’ll take the children with me.”

“That’s impossible. The children are half mine.”

“How ludicrous.” Jiang Ning sneered, “You have the gall to say that. Do you even know when you had these children? If it weren’t for your Emperor Father, you wouldn’t know anything at all. What’s the difference between you and a breeding boar?”

Li Hongyuan was furious, grabbing her chin firmly and saying word by word, “Dare to say that again? Do you think this Prince won’t kill you?”

Almost crushing her chin.

Jiang Ning was in so much pain that cold sweat broke out.

Then, she fainted.

Li Hongyuan, seeing her fall back, panicked and quickly released his grip.

She landed on the pillow.

“Jiang Ning!” Li Hongyuan regretted his actions and immediately called for Imperial Physician Dong.

Imperial Physician Dong examined her and frowned, "Your Highness, the Princess Consort's body is extremely weak, you must let her rest well. If it leads to severe bleeding, it will be too late."

"Give me the best medicine!"

"Your Highness, this is not about medicine, the Princess Consort is weak after childbirth, she needs to recuperate in peace, and you mustn't upset her."

"This Prince understands."

"Allow me to wake the Princess Consort, then I will prescribe a remedy to nourish her."

Imperial Physician Dong took out his silver needles and pricked several points on Jiang Ning's head.

Jiang Ning woke up, but she didn't want to see Li Hongyuan.

"You should rest well."

Li Hongyuan turned to leave.

Jiang Ning called out weakly, "Li Hongyuan, let's talk."

Li Hongyuan stopped, "Let's talk when you're better; I don't want to see you like this."

"We have to talk now."

"What is it you want to talk about?" Li Hongyuan turned back.

"We shouldn't be together at all. Constantly despising each other and torturing each other, it's just tiresome." Jiang Ning spoke hoarsely, "It's better for us to part ways now. You want a son, so keep the son. As for the daughter, I want to take her with me.."

Chapter 187: Something's Wrong with Her

Li Hongyuan looked at her haggard and pale face, and at her saddened expression when she said those words.

"Can you bear to leave your son?"

"I know I won't be able to take him. He is the imperial grandson and your son, born noble. With or without me, he won't suffer at all. I have nothing to worry about." Jiang Ning spoke softly, "Do you agree?"

Li Hongyuan's voice turned cold: "Are you sure about this?"

"Yes."

"Fine, I will grant you this. After all, if you stay here, your heart won't be here anyway. It's better for you to leave instead of everyone suffering." Li Hongyuan said, "As for the children..."

"Just treat it as if I only gave birth to a boy. That was what everyone thought anyway. The daughter was a gift from the heavens for me. Please consider the toll that bearing and giving birth to children has taken on me."

Li Hongyuan stared at her for a moment, and squeezed out a word through his teeth: "Fine."

He turned and left.

Without looking back.

She was too weak to leave now.

At least she would have to wait until the end of her confinement period.

After talking about this, Jiang Ning felt much more relieved. She asked someone to bring the two children to her. However, seeing their delicate little faces and hearing their cries made her milk come in.

It was unbearable.

When the children were hungry, there were wet nurses to feed them.

Four wet nurses at that, the children would never go hungry.

As she watched the two little babies being taken away, Jiang Ning's chest felt even more uncomfortable.

In aristocratic families, the mothers wouldn't breastfeed their own children, leaving it to the wet nurses.

As for postpartum women having an oversupply of milk, there were ways to solve this problem.

Nanny brought a bowl of medicine, handed it to Huang Ying, and urged her to ask the Princess Consort to drink it, which would ease the engorgement.

Jiang Ning refused, and because of the pain and her inability to get out of bed, her temper flared and she smashed the medicine bowl.

Nanny was frightened, so she went to look for Li Hongyuan, saying that the Princess Consort was stubborn and unwilling to drink the medicine. The maids and servants in the courtyard didn't know what to do.

Li Hongyuan immediately came over.

As soon as he entered the room, he heard Jiang Ning smashing things.

“Take these medicines away, I won’t drink them. Get out!” She sat on the bed, smashing things around her and crying from the pain.

Li Hongyuan looked at her sobbing, frowned, and said: “You are uncomfortable, and refuse to take the medicine. What do you want? Do you have to torment yourself like this?”

“Bring my second child here!”

“The children have wet nurses to take care of them. You don’t need to worry about them, just rest.”

“I gave birth to the child, why won’t you let me see them?” Jiang Ning threw a pillow at his face, yelling, “Go and bring the child to me!”

Li Hongyuan caught the pillow and yelled angrily, “Are you done? Your temper is getting worse after giving birth! You’re weak, so we don’t have the children in your room to let you rest properly! What are you making a fuss about?”

Jiang Ning yelled: “Get out of here, I don’t want to see you!”

“Shrew!”

Angry, Li Hongyuan turned around and left.

Jiang Ning, furious, got up with the help of the bed, grabbed a vase from the table, and threw it at him.

Bang!

The vase hit Li Hongyuan's shoulder right on and shattered on the floor.

Li Hongyuan turned back and saw her haggard face and swollen eyes. The anger in his heart couldn't find a way out.

"I can't be bothered with you."

He stormed out of the room.

Back in the courtyard, his shoulder was still aching. He took off his clothes and saw that the vase had left a large gash on his shoulder.

"Call Dong Chaofeng." He ordered the housekeeper, "Have him examine the Princess Consort to find out what's wrong with her."

He felt that something was off with her..

Chapter 188: The Prince is Annoyed and Confused by Crying

Dong Chaofeng hurriedly rushed over, wiping his sweat and asking, "What's wrong with the Princess Consort?"

"Go see for yourself." Li Hongyuan said with a stern face.

Dong Chaofeng hurried to the Crystal Clear Manor, and as soon as he entered, he heard her smashing things inside.

He quickly went in, "Princess Consort, I heard that you're not feeling well, let me take your pulse."

“Get lost!”

“Princess Consort, don’t shun medical advice.”

“Princess Consort, let the Imperial Physician take a look.” Huang Ying and Xiachu both anxiously urged.

Xiaoman came forward, forcibly taking Jiang Ning’s hand and letting Dong Chaofeng diagnose her.

Dong Chaofeng pondered carefully for a moment, then cautiously asked, “Are you having a fever, Princess Consort?”

Huang Ying reached out to touch her forehead, which was burning hot.

“She was fine yesterday, how could she suddenly have a fever?”

“Sigh.” Dong Chaofeng sighed, “The princess consort should have taken her medicine yesterday.”

In plain terms, her breasts were engorged, and neither timely emptying nor medication was given, leading to inflammation.

Now Jiang Ning’s chest was swollen like two boulders, hard and painful, a simple touch would make her heart wrench in pain.

Moreover, since she just gave birth, her hormone fluctuations were immense, causing not only illness but also emotional depression. It’s no wonder that she is cranky.

Huang Ying was worried, “What should we do now?”

“I’ll prescribe some medicine to reduce her fever now. Also, call in two experienced midwives.”

They had to squeeze out the blocked milk, the process would be extremely painful, to say the least.

Dong Chaofeng went out to write the prescription.

Li Hongyuan found out very quickly too.

When he came over, the midwives had just arrived and were helping her to unclog the blocked ducts.

From behind the screen, he could hear her crying.

It sounded even more painful than when she was giving birth.

After the unclogging was done and the midwives had left, Li Hongyuan walked in and saw her lying on the bed, crying silently, with red eyes and nose.

Huang Ying and a few other maids paid their respects and then left the room.

Li Hongyuan sat down by the bedside and looked at her.

She raised her sleeve to wipe her tears.

Li Hongyuan handed her his own handkerchief and spoke softly, "Don't cry.

Seeing you like this makes my heart restless."

Jiang Ning ignored him.

She was indeed feeling depressed and tormented.

Li Hongyuan said, "If you knew it would be so painful, why didn't you take the medicine the day before? It wouldn't have come to this."

He thought she would not respond, but she said with a sob, "I didn't know, nobody taught me. I thought that if I didn't take the medicine, I would still have milk, and after leaving here, I could feed my second child by myself."

These words stirred a mix of emotions in Li Hongyuan's heart.

He knew that although she was the legitimate daughter of the Prime Minister's Mansion, she was abducted when she was young and had never had a good life. Her foster parents died early, and when she was brought back to the mansion, her birth mother Lin Zizi was in poor mental health; she got married hastily, and there had not been enough time to pay attention to all aspects of her life.

In the end, she was just a poor, pitiable girl who was not in control of her own fate.

Li Hongyuan took the handkerchief to wipe her tears himself and spoke softly, "It's my fault; I should have found Nanny to teach you earlier."

It's not that he hadn't thought about it, but she had always been stubborn, and their encounters had always been unpleasant, so he didn't really want to deal with her so much.

He didn't expect that she would suffer so much because of it.

"If you want to nurse your daughter yourself, I can have her brought here. There's no need for tears."

"It's easy for you to say."

"If you were in pain, why didn't you tell me?"

Jiang Ning didn't respond this time.

Li Hongyuan seemed to remember something and felt somewhat embarrassed.

Although they already had a child together, they were essentially like strangers, not remembering the events they had previously experienced together.

So, it was hard for her to say that her breasts were engorged and her chest hurt unbearably..

Chapter 189: Reluctance

Li Hongyuan took back the hand he had used to wipe her tears, stood up, and said, "Don't be so stubborn anymore. Be good and drink your medicine. I will have someone bring the children over."

He turned and left.

Soon after, the wet nurse arrived, holding the boy and girl twins.

The delicate little ones, wrapped in swaddling clothes, slept sweetly.

Jiang Ning was so fond of them, playing with the two treasures.

Just as she was enjoying herself, Li Hongyuan came back.

Jiang Ning was annoyed with him, "What are you doing here again?"

"These are the names Emperor Father gave to the children. Take a look and choose two." He handed her a piece of paper.

Although Jiang Ning did not want to deal with him, she looked at it since it concerned the children's names, "Wenzan, Lingzi, these two are not bad."

"Good, the elder brother is named Wenzan, the younger sister is called Lingzi."

"Can you name them like this in the royal family?"

"It is rare, but since they are boy and girl twins, they symbolize good fortune and prosperity. Emperor Father specially allowed it, so you can pick the ones you like."

Jiang Ning nodded and did not say anything more.

Seeing her playing with the children, smiling, Li Hongyuan felt relieved and left.

Taking the medicine on time every day and having a good mood from watching the children, Jiang Ning quickly recovered, her spirits being restored day by day.

On the twelfth day after the birth, the Jiang family sent gifts.

It was Jiang Yi who came.

These were traditional gifts for a newborn, naturally all had to be given. For the Jiang family, the main concern was still Jiang Ning and the two children.

Jiang Yi first looked at the two little nephews and was very fond of them.

Then he looked at Jiang Ning, frowning, "How did you lose so much weight? Did the Prince of Yu's residence not feed you properly? Before I came, father and mother repeatedly told me that you must take good care of yourself, not to damage yourself and leave any hidden illness for the future."

"I know, I just don't have much appetite."

Jiang Ning laughed.

She didn't need to breastfeed or eat extravagantly anyway, she only consumed the extra fat she gained during pregnancy.

Jiang Yi brought a lot of precious medicinal ingredients and supplements, telling her to eat them on time.

He also said that everyone in the family would come back for the full moon banquet.

When there was no one else in the room, Jiang Ning told him her plan of going back to the Prime Minister's Mansion with Lingzi after the full moon, and severing ties with the Prince of Yu's residence.

Jiang Yi said, "If you want to come back, just come back. Our parents could not bear to part from you in the first place. However, would the Prince of Yu agree?"

"He will. I will leave the first child with him and take the second child with me."

"Really? That's quite rare for the Prince of Yu." Jiang Yi said sincerely.

Even if it were anyone else, even himself, it would be unlikely to allow a woman to take away the child.

After all, the child bears Li's last name.

That the Prince of Yu could agree showed that Jiang Yi's view of him had changed a lot.

Jiang Ning laughed, "He too was pestered by me to the point that he could not stand it anymore. The entire Prince of Yu's residence couldn't wait for me to leave immediately. As for the others... after all, he only cares about the first child. It doesn't matter whether I and the second child stay or not."

“They may not value you, but our Jiang family does! Come back then, and I will take care of you and your little niece.” Jiang Yi laughed.

Jiang Ning was moved.

Her family was truly indulgent and affectionate towards her.

Because she was in a good mood, her confinement went by quickly.

When it was time for the one-month celebration, Jiang Ning asked Huang Ying and the others to pack up their things early.

For her, leaving the Prince of Yu’s residence was something to be happy about,

But when she looked at her first child, her heart was filled with reluctance.

Li Hongyuan stood outside the door, watching her holding the first child, tears falling down..

Chapter 190: Don’t touch me!

“You don’t have to go.” Li Hongyuan enters the room, “How could you be so cruel as to separate a mother from her child?”

Jiang Ning wipes away her tears, transfers the first child to the wet nurse, and says indifferently: “I don’t want to be your obedient Princess Consort of Yu in your heart.”

“Others can do it, why can’t you?”

“Because I’m not them.”

Jiang Ning, leaning on a cane, stands up and walks past him.

Li Hongyuan gazes at her back, frowning.

In the end, she still leaves.

Four wet nurses are present; two stay behind with the first child, and two leave with Jiang Ning.

It's not that the Jiang family can't find good wet nurses, but they worry that the young girl won't acclimate to a sudden change.

The wet nurse carries the second child in the carriage to the rear while Jiang Ning and Huang Ying sit in the front carriage.

The journey from the Prince of Yu's Mansion to the Jiang family's residence goes through several markets, and some relatively secluded places. Jiang Ning is dozing off when she suddenly hears a chorus of dog barks.

Startled awake, she sits up and asks, "What's happening?"

Huang Ying rushes to lift the carriage curtain and exclaims in fright, "Princess, look outside! Why are there so many dogs?"

"Dogs?"

Jiang Ning looks out and indeed sees twenty or thirty stray dogs approaching the carriage.

Xiaoman also shivers: "I'm most scared of dogs..."

“Why did so many dogs suddenly surround us? There’s no meat smell in the carriage to attract them.” Jiang Ning is puzzled when all of a sudden, the swarm of dogs lunges at the horses, biting them.

Frightened, the horses bolt forward.

Jiang Ning nearly gets thrown out.

She clings onto the carriage and looks back, yelling, “Xiaoman, Xiaoman, go to Lingzi’s carriage to protect her!”

Although Xiaoman is afraid of dogs, she still has great strength. Hearing this, she immediately jumps onto the rear carriage.

Jiang Ning’s carriage crazily veers off course, quickly leaving the trailing carriages behind, and finally stops in a desolate area.

The coachman has long since disappeared.

Jiang Ning is battered and sees stars before her eyes.

Huang Ying has already passed out, and Jiang Ning doesn’t know if she’s injured. She calls her name twice but receives no response.

The carriage curtain is suddenly lifted.

Jiang Ning looks up to see several black-clothed, masked men armed with knives standing outside.

Her heart sinks in surprise.

Assassins again?

The memory of the last assassination attempt is still fresh in her mind.

Why are they back?

What reason do they have to assassinate her now that she has given birth?

“Come out!” The masked man coldly orders.

Jiang Ning has no choice but to brace herself and carefully step out of the carriage.

“Who are you?” She asks.

“Don’t you know who we are?” The man in black sneers, “Last time, the Princess Consort of Yu got lucky and survived. If you had stayed put in the Prince of Yu’s Mansion, we wouldn’t have anything on you. But you’ve got guts coming out like this.”

Jiang Ning calmly says, “I’ve already given birth to the child. There’s no point in killing me now.”

“Not kill you? Why don’t we make a deal? You take care of us, and we’ll let you live.”

Several assassins burst out with lewd laughter.

One even reaches out to touch Jiang Ning’s face.

“Don’t touch me!” Jiang Ning slaps his hand away, furious, “You disgusting and shameless creature! Do you have no respect for women? Don’t you have mothers and sisters? If you’re a real man, kill me now!”

One of the assassins coldly scoffs: “Quite a temper you have there. You’re not even afraid of death. Do you never think of your daughter?”

“My second child...” Jiang Ning’s heart sinks slightly.

Could it be that her daughter has already fallen into their hands?