

Royal Marriage 191

Chapter 191: So it turns out he likes her

“That’s just a girl, and hurting her brings no advantage to your Master’s struggle for the throne!” Jiang Ning said anxiously.

“Alright then, go back and kill the Prince of Yu in exchange for your daughter’s life.”

“That’s impossible.”

“In that case, I’m sorry.” The assassin sneered, “I’m afraid you’ll never see your daughter again.”

“Don’t!” Jiang Ning shouted in panic, “Please don’t hurt her! I can give you money, as much as you want!”

“Now you’re worried? Who asked you to leave the Prince of Yu’s residence, giving us an opportunity?” The assassin stepped forward, “We’re not really interested in your daughter, after all, she’s just a young girl, killing her wouldn’t mean much. But you...”

He reached out—

Jiang Ning dodged back and fell to the ground.

At this moment, Li Hongyuan galloped over on horseback and killed the assassin with a single sword strike.

The remaining assassins looked shocked at the scene.

“Prince Yu, you—”

Before they could finish speaking, Li Hongyuan’s cold blade flashed past.

All the assassins died under his sword.

Jiang Ning stared at him blankly.

Li Hongyuan jumped off his horse, ran to her, and saw her pale complexion and disheveled hair. He frowned, reached out to help her up, and asked, “Are you... alright?”

Jiang Ning just stared at him, motionless.

“Are you hurt anywhere?” Li Hongyuan asked anxiously, pulling her up.

Jiang Ning spoke, “It was you.”

“What?”

“You commanded the dogs to separate my carriage from Lingzi’s, then lured me here. Was all this your doing?” Jiang Ning articulated each word.

“No.”

“You still dare to deny it?” Jiang Ning pointed at the assassins, “They are completely different from the ones who tried to kill me last time! Just now, seeing you, that assassin not only recognized you but also revealed shock instead of fear! If they were sent by other princes, they would target you and the first child, why would they care about me and my daughter!”

“Actually...”

Slap!

Jiang Ning slapped him across the face, "Li Hongyuan, you bastard!"

Li Hongyuan grabbed her, "I just wanted you to stay!"

"There are many ways to make me stay, why do you have to choose the stupidest and worst method?" Jiang Ning's eyes were red, "Li Hongyuan, are you bullying me because I'm crippled, unable to resist or escape in the face of assassins?"

"Jiang Ning, I didn't want to bully you, I just wanted to scare you so you'd stay peacefully with your daughter in the Prince of Yu's residence. How could I bully you?"

Jiang Ning looked at him coldly, shook off his hand, and moved step by step towards the carriage.

But without a wheelchair or crutches, she couldn't walk.

She fell to the ground after just a few steps.

"Jiang Ning!" Li Hongyuan hurried over to help her.

Her hands were scraped raw from the ground.

Li Hongyuan's heart ached.

"You're injured, let me take you back."

"Get lost!" Jiang Ning said coldly, "I never want to see you again in my whole life!"

Watching her struggle towards the carriage, Li Hongyuan's heart was instantly filled with regret.

He suddenly realized something.

He thought he was trying to keep the daughter, but in reality, he was trying to keep Jiang Ning.

He didn't want her to leave.

He didn't want to have nothing to do with her from now on.

He... had fallen for her.

Although he didn't know when this feeling had changed.

But at this moment, the emotions were real and unmistakable.

Why be so stupid?

She had been in the prince's residence for so long, but he hadn't realized it until now, after he had done something to hurt her, after seeing her being bullied, her tears, and her injuries.

Only then did he find out that he actually liked her..

Chapter 192: What do you want me to do to make you stay?

Jiang Ning walked very slowly and with difficulty, but still managed to reach the side of the carriage.

By then, Huang Ying had already woken up and was alarmed by the scene outside, her face turning pale.

She hurriedly jumped down and helped Jiang Ning, asking, "Your Highness, are you all right? Your hand—"

"I'm fine." With Huang Ying's help, Jiang Ning climbed into the carriage.

Li Hongyuan followed her, "Let me take you home."

Jiang Ning seemed to neither see nor hear him.

She asked Huang Ying, "I remember you saying that you can drive a carriage?"

"Yes, my father used to be a coachman, so I grew up sitting in the carriage with him and learned how to drive. But I seldom get the chance to."

"Good, you'll drive, and we'll return to the Jiang Family."

"Your Highness, what about Little Miss? Aren't we going to find her?" Huang Ying was still unaware of what had happened.

Jiang Ning looked at Li Hongyuan, "I believe the child is safe now."

Li Hongyuan, "She's all right..."

"Have someone send the child back to the Jiang residence."

"Jiang Ning, don't go, please?" Li Hongyuan stood beside the carriage, "I was wrong in this matter, and I shouldn't have hurt you in such a way."

"I'm discussing my daughter's matter right now!"

"The child is already back at the prince's mansion, she's fine and wasn't frightened."

"Give her back to me."

"No."

"What do you mean 'no'? Why go back on your word?" Jiang Ning angrily said, "So, you staged this whole scene just to kick me out and take my daughter away?"

Li Hongyuan said, "Not only do I want to take the child back, but I also want you to return."

"What if I refuse to go back?"

"Are you going to abandon both children?"

"Ridiculous to think you can tie me down with the children." Jiang Ning sneered, "If you want to raise the children, then you raise them. If I go back with you, I will write my name in reverse. Huang Ying, let's go."

"Jiang Ning!" Li Hongyuan stepped forward and grabbed her wrist, "What do you want me to do for you to stay?"

"I'm the type of person who can't deal with force." Jiang Ning shook off his hand, "The more you try to force me and use such despicable and shameless methods, the more I despise you. Li Hongyuan, you disgust me. Huang Ying, let's go!"

Huang Ying responded and raised the reins.

The carriage turned around.

Li Hongyuan stood in place, watching the carriage gradually move away, clenching his fists.

He turned around, mounted his horse, and followed them.

But Jiang Ning ignored him completely, showing extreme indifference.

When they arrived at the entrance of the Jiang Family, a servant went in to report, and Jiang Yi quickly came out. Seeing Jiang Ning's appearance, he was startled, "What happened? You're injured?"

He looked at Li Hongyuan, who was following behind, and angrily said, "What have you done to Seventh Sister?!"

"Third Brother, help me." Jiang Ning held out her hand.

Jiang Yi directly went to her and carried her down, asking, "Tell me, what happened? Did the Prince of Yu bully you?"

"Third Brother, I don't feel well. Let's go inside and talk."

At the entrance, there were servants coming and going.

"All right, let's go inside first." Jiang Yi turned his head and asked, "Why are there only you two? Weren't you supposed to bring Lingzi back? Where's the child?"

"The child is at the prince's mansion."

"Why?" Jiang Yi was puzzled.

It had been agreed long ago, and the family had already prepared wet nurses and maids to serve the little girl.

Everyone in the family was looking forward to the arrival of the little girl, so why didn't they bring her back?

Jiang Ning said, "Brother, let's go inside and talk."

She completely ignored Li Hongyuan from beginning to end.

Li Hongyuan said, "Jiang Ning, you are still the Princess Consort of Yu. Do you really plan to leave like this?"

Jiang Ning turned her head, "I want a divorce.."

Chapter 193:1 can't take it anymore!

Li Hongyuan said, "Our marriage was granted by Emperor Father. Without his permission, no one can divorce."

Didn't the divorce letter he sent last time get rejected by the Emperor in one sentence?

"Then let's talk to your Emperor Father."

Jiang Ning supported Jiang Yi and Huang Ying, and without looking back, she walked into the Jiang Family's gate.

Soon, the news of this incident spread, and rumors abounded.

It was supposed to be a joyous occasion when the Princess Consort of Yu gave birth to boy and girl twins, a symbol of auspiciousness, which delighted the Emperor, Empress, and all. However, who would

have expected that as soon as her confinement period was over, the Princess Consort of Yu returned to her mother's house, wounded.

Leaving the two one-month-old children behind.

Where in the world is there a willing mother who abandons her own children?

It must have been something done by the Prince of Yu that had wronged her.

However, some people also said that the Princess Consort of Yu was too domineering, after all, the daughters of the Jiang family are known for being precious and spoiled, which has become a consensus in Chang'an City.

A concubine-born daughter of the Jiang family dared to fight on the street with Princess Ling'an, let alone the doted legitimate daughter?

It must be because the legitimate daughter was domineering, which made the Prince of Yu unhappy, and then made a scene. The Princess Consort of Yu got upset and ran back to her mother's house.

Some people were envious.

A woman with a powerful mother's family's backing is different.

Even though she married into the royal family, she did not have to compromise, and immediately returned to her mother's home. With Jiang Ruobai protecting her, even the Prince of Yu couldn't do anything to her.

The saying that a married daughter is like water thrown out is nothing more than self-comfort for those who cannot protect their married daughters.

When Jiang Ruobai returned, he saw the injury on Jiang Ning's hand and was furious.

Jiang Ning was already asleep, and Lin Zizi dragged him outside to talk.

“Was it really the Prince of Yu who did it?”

“Who else could it be?” Lin Zizi cried with heartache: “What kind of sin did I commit in my past life that the retribution has befallen my daughter? She lost her way as a child and became lame. Now that she’s married to the royal family, she’s not cherished by her husband, and was hurt like this when trying to get her children back... Why did he agree to give her the children in the first place?”

Jiang Ruobai looked at his weeping wife and felt heartache: “Madam, don’t cry,

I will not let Seventh Sister suffer injustice.”

“It’s all your fault!” Lin Zizi hit him and cried, “If you hadn’t stubbornly sent Ningning to enter the palace for the selection, would she have suffered all this? Are you even a father? She gave birth to two children with great difficulty, only to be driven back like this. What do you expect from these children? The royal family is too bullying!”

Jiang Ruobai let her cry and rant, gently comforting her: “Madam, it’s all my fault. Don’t cry your health away.”

“I can’t take it anymore!” Lin Zizi broke down and cried, “My beloved daughter was bullied by outsiders like this! Look at her condition, her leg isn’t good, her body is weak after giving birth, her arm is injured, and now her hand is hurt too. Where in her body is there a good place? Why did you marry her out to suffer like this?”

Jiang Ruobai hugged her, his voice choked: “It’s all my mistakes that caused Seventh Sister to suffer so much. I thought giving her the most honorable husband and making her the Main Consort would be the best compensation for her. Who knew that I was wrong.”

He helped Lin Zizi sit down, “Since things have reached this point, let’s divorce. As for the two children, they are royal blood, let them have them. Our daughter will be better off in peace.”

“Is divorce so easy? Have you forgotten what happened last time?”

Chapter 194: Madam is truly beautiful

The Emperor granted a marriage; who dares to defy it.

Lin Zizi wiped away her tears, fell silent for a moment, and said, “I’ve been muddleheaded for so many years, but now for Ningning’s sake...Old Master, I want to go to the palace.”

“You want to have an audience with the Emperor?”

“Yes.”

“Zizi, I don’t want you to go.”

“Old Master, I don’t want to go either, but for our daughter’s sake, I must.” Lin Zizi was gentle but firm, “I’ve missed out on our daughter’s life for so many years, and we owe her too much.”

Jiang Ruobai sighed deeply, “Alright.”

The next day, Lin Zizi dressed neatly and wore the court attire of a first-class official’s wife.

It was the first time in over a decade that she dressed so grandly.

She was bright, elegant, and highly poised.

It seemed as if her past as the most beautiful woman in Chang’an City had returned.

"Madam is truly beautiful," Jiang Ruobai sincerely praised.

"Wow, Mother looks so beautiful."

Jiang Yi pushed Jiang Ning in, and when they saw her in this state, they all gasped in amazement.

Lin Zizi turned to see Jiang Ning, hurriedly walked over and said, "Ningning, why are you up? You should be lying down and resting more. Let me see, does your hand hurt still?"

"It doesn't hurt anymore."

"Ahh, it would be good if there's no scar." Lin Zizi held her hand and blew on it gently.

Jiang Ning felt a soft warmth in her heart and asked, "Mother, dressed up so beautifully, are you going out?"

"I need to make a trip to the palace."

"To the palace?" Jiang Yi was surprised, "What does Mother need to do?"

"I want to obtain a divorce for your Seventh Sister and the Prince of Yu." Lin Zizi stood up, "Without the Emperor's consent, they will not be able to separate."

"That's true, it was an Imperial Edict that brought them together last time..." Jiang Yi frowned, "But yesterday, I saw that the Prince of Yu didn't want to divorce. The Emperor will surely side with his own son."

"That's why I need an audience with the Emperor."

"Mother, can you take me with you?" Jiang Ning suddenly asked.

Ever since she returned to the Jiang Family, she had not had a proper conversation with Old Man Li. She wondered how that slightly lewd old man reacted to all this?

She thought she would be refused, but surprisingly, Lin Zizi smiled and said, "Alright."

"Are you really taking me with you?"

"As long as it's something my daughter wants to do, I'll make it happen." Lin Zizi smiled, "Come on, let's go."

Jiang Ruobai did not object at all.

So, Lin Zizi brought her daughter to the palace to have an audience with the Emperor in the Eight-Treasure Canopy Carriage.

The Emperor had just finished his morning court session and heard that Concubine Su was sick, so he went to see her.

The eunuch ran to report that Prime Minister Jiang's wife wished to see him, but the Emperor didn't immediately react.

It wasn't until the eunuch said "Lin Zizi" that he suddenly stood up: "Say that again?"

"Prime Minister Jiang's wife, Madam Lin, is seeking an audience."

"Where is she?"

"She is outside the Immortal-view Gate and cannot enter without Your Majesty's permission."

“What are you waiting for, invite her in immediately!”

“Yes, your servant will go right away.”

The Emperor quickly went to greet her, and Concubine Su tried to hold him back.

Concubine Su, in her sickly state, said, “Your Majesty just arrived, why are you leaving so soon? I’m not feeling well.”

“If you are not feeling well, call for the Imperial Physician. I have urgent matters to attend to!”

Leaving Concubine Su behind, the Emperor hurried away without looking back.

Concubine Su called out a few times and wept with anger.

She had waited for several months, and he finally came but didn’t even sit down to warm his chair before leaving.

Does that Lin Zizi really have such a powerful charm?

No matter what she thought, the Emperor ran back excitedly.

Watching Lin Zizi personally pushing Jiang Ning’s wheelchair, the Emperor held his breath.

She was still so beautiful, radiant like a flower.

Just like when they were young..

Chapter 195: Meeting the Dream Lover

"Zizi, you've arrived..." The Emperor couldn't help but stand up, his speech and expression lost some of their composure.

Lin Zizi knelt down and performed a grand ceremony: "Your humble servant Lin Shi greets Your Majesty, wishing you eternal blessings."

"Get up, get up quickly." If not for Jiang Ning nearby, the Emperor would have probably helped her up himself.

Jiang Ning observed coldly, feeling that the Emperor's gaze towards Lin Zizi was indeed different.

There were stars in his eyes.

It seemed that the rumors of Lin Zizi being the Emperor's dream lover were true.

Lin Zizi stood up neither humbly nor arrogantly, and stood beside Jiang Ning, saying, "My daughter is unable to bow to Your Majesty due to her inconvenient legs. I ask for Your Majesty's understanding."

"Don't worry, don't worry." The Emperor glanced at Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning also glanced back at him.

The Emperor chuckled, "Young lady, it's been a long time."

Jiang Ning sneered inwardly, but her face remained unchanged: "Greetings to Your Majesty."

The Emperor ordered a stool for Lin Zizi to sit on, "Zizi, you haven't changed at all after all these years."

"I've aged."

"I have aged, but you are still the same as before." The Emperor's words were full of deep affection.

However, his slightly plump and vulgar appearance made his words seem less sincere.

Lin Zizi didn't want to engage in idle talk about the past and bluntly said, "Your Majesty, today I came to make a request."

"What is it? Tell me."

"I request Your Majesty to allow Ningning to divorce the Prince of Yu."

"What?" The Emperor frowned, "I know they have been having conflicts, but they have a child already. Quarrels and disputes are normal. If she's angry, she can return to her mother's home for a few days. Why have things escalated to the point of requesting a divorce?"

Lin Zizi stared at the Emperor, "Does Your Majesty still remember that you promised to fulfill a wish for me in this lifetime?"

The Emperor's heart skipped a beat as he was stared at by her beautiful eyes, "Of course I remember. How could I forget the promise I made to you?"

Lin Zizi enunciated each word, "Very well, now I ask Your Majesty to fulfill my wish, allowing my daughter and the Prince of Yu to divorce."

"Zizi, are you... sure?"

"I am sure." Lin Zizi knelt down again, "I beg Your Majesty to grant my wish."

The Emperor frowned and looked at Jiang Ning, "Girl, do you really want to separate from the Prince of Yu?"

"In reply to Your Majesty, yes."

"I know the Prince of Yu has wronged you, and I will punish him. But why take it to the point of divorce?"

"How does Your Majesty intend to punish him?"

"Let him kneel in the Ancestral Temple and copy scriptures as penance for a full month!"

Lin Zizi spoke, "I still beg Your Majesty to fulfill my wish."

She didn't care how the Emperor punished his own son.

In the end, it was his own flesh and blood, and his seemingly considerate words were ultimately meant to bind his daughter-in-law to his son.

Lin Zizi was not buying into it.

She continued, "Your Majesty's words are as good as gold, and I trust you won't go back on your promise to me."

"The words I've told you will always count." The Emperor's expression turned solemn, "Zizi, if it weren't for your personal plea today, I would never have agreed."

"Thank you, Your Majesty. This humble servant takes her leave." Lin Zizi bowed again, stood up, and pushed Jiang Ning's wheelchair.

"Zizi, are you leaving now?" The Emperor called out.

"This humble servant takes her leave." Lin Zizi bowed again, and without looking back, she left along with Jiang Ning.

The Emperor looked lost.

At noon, he came to the Splendid Palace.

Concubine Jin was having her meal when she saw him arrive and said indifferently, "Where did you get upset? Your face looks awful."

The Emperor sat across from her, staring intently at her face: "Lin Zizi came to the palace to see me."

"Oh." Concubine Jin's expression remained unchanged.

"Do you know why she came?"

"I do." Concubine Jin picked up a cloth to wipe her lips, "Will you issue a decree for their divorce, Your Majesty? After all, she personally came to ask for it.."

Chapter 196: She Only Pleases Herself

The Emperor didn't speak, his face looking rather unpleasant, unlike his usual cheerful and ingratiating demeanor when he came here.

Concubine Jin didn't bother to pay attention to him either. With his silence, she just leisurely ate her meal.

In fact, she knew in her heart that the reason the Emperor had chosen her to enter the palace all those years ago was solely due to the resemblance between her appearance and that of the number one beauty, Lin Zizi.

All these years, the Emperor had pampered and indulged her, but in reality, he wasn't pampering her.

What he pampered was Lin Zizi.

She, Jin Zhuzhu, was merely a shadow of Lin Zizi.

The more the Emperor doted on her and indulged her, the more it showed that he couldn't forget Lin Zizi.

This point, Concubine Jin had known from the beginning, and therefore, she had never had any expectations of the Emperor.

She didn't love the Emperor, nor did she love her own son.

She only loved herself.

Usually, the Emperor would flatter her and show her affection, but when it came to Lin Zizi, his attitude would change drastically.

It seemed as if only when the real Lin Zizi appeared would the Emperor realize that this Concubine Jin before him was nothing more than a substitute.

After leisurely finishing her meal, the palace maid removed the plates and bowls and replaced them with a pot of Sparrow's Tongue Tea.

Though it was Concubine Jin's favorite tea, it was not the Emperor's favorite.

In order to please the Emperor, other concubines in the harem would only serve his favorite Longjing Tea when the Emperor came, but Concubine Jin never did so.

She only catered to herself.

The Emperor sat sullenly for a while, glanced at her, and said, "It was I who wronged her back then. Since I promised to fulfill one of her wishes, I must honor my word. All these years, she has been living a difficult life, but no matter how hard it was, she never asked me for anything. Now she's here asking for my help for her daughter's sake. How can I refuse her?"

"Well, just agree to it." Concubine Jin sipped her tea, squinted her eyes slightly, and said leisurely.

"The Fifth Prince is your son; don't you have anything to say?"

"So my son can't get a divorce?" Concubine Jin said indifferently, "I've tried to give him advice before, but he's always been proud and ambitious. He probably can't lower his head to a woman."

The Emperor laughed, "As far as I know, yesterday he followed his wife's carriage all the way to the Jiang Family's gate. Who says he doesn't care about women? He just hasn't met a woman who can tame him. Both children are in the Prince of Yu's Mansion now. It seems that his wife is quite heartless."

"When women are strong-hearted, it's because they are pushed to it by men."

"When I first saw Jiang Ning, I thought she looked very much like you, Zhuzhu."

"She resembles her mother, Lin Zizi, more." remarked Concubine Jin lightly, "Your Majesty is the Emperor after all, and your word is like gold. Back then, you let Lin Zizi down, and in exchange, you gained the Imperial Throne with a single promise. So, are you going to break that promise now?"

The Emperor's face became awkward, "Why bring up the past?"

"Your concubine may not mention it, as long as Your Majesty is at ease with it in your heart."

"How could you bear to watch your two grandsons grow up without a loving mother, seeing that the Fifth Prince is your son?"

"I really don't care about these things."

"It's true, all these years, you've never cared about anything." There was sarcasm in the Emperor's words.

Concubine Jin didn't mind either, her red lips slightly curling, "Nowadays, people say that Your Majesty's actions back then were admirable in helping others achieve their happiness, but who knows that Lin Zizi actually loved Your Majesty."

The Emperor's face darkened.

Concubine Jin gently touched the ring on her finger and laughed, "Your Majesty once vowed to someone that you would give them the position of Empress.."

Chapter 197: Back then, he owed someone

"Later on, why did you go back on your word? Isn't it because Lin Zizi's family was not as powerful as Empress's? Did they have the strength to ensure Your Majesty's position?"

"Silence!"

The Emperor scowled and shouted angrily, "These years, I have indulged you too much, allowing you to act recklessly and say whatever you want!"

"I haven't spoken this outside." Concubine Jin did not care about the Emperor's anger and continued with an unhurried tone, "Since you owe someone the position of Empress, won't you even satisfy a small wish of theirs now?"

The Emperor coldly replied, "I owe her the position of Empress, so I want to give this position to her daughter!"

"Oh, so that's why Your Majesty plotted against that young lady, forcing her to marry Prince of Yu before marriage? Your Majesty is quite selfish. You only satisfy your own wishes and never consider that girl's thoughts from the Jiang Family, whether she is willing to marry the Prince of Yu or not?"

"Prince of Yu is of noble birth, who would not want to marry him?"

"Prince of Yu is not gold, not everyone loves him. Now isn't she determined to divorce him?"

"All spoiled!"

"Nobody spoils her. She is just too similar to Your Majesty, doing anything for the Emperor, even giving up the woman she loves the most."

"Have you said enough!"

The Emperor raised his hand and smashed her cup.

Concubine Jin silently looked at the broken cup, no longer speaking, but a hint of mockery and coldness flashed in her eyes.

She saw through the indifference and selfishness of the royal family and was tired of it.

Her son, inheriting the Emperor's coldness and selfishness, deserves his current fate.

In the past, Lin Zizi could not be the Empress and married someone else very soon.

Unable to be the Empress, she would never become the concubine of the Emperor.

Both mother and daughter would rather remain whole as bricks than broken as jade.

The Emperor left with a flick of his sleeve.

Concubine Jin stood up and lazily said, "Farewell, Your Majesty."

Then she sat down again.

The palace maid came in, tidying up the broken teacup on the floor, tremblingly saying, "It's been many years since His Majesty has been this angry with Concubine Jin."

"Indeed."

Concubine Jin did not care much.

Not long after, the palace maid came in, "Your Highness, Prince of Yu is here."

"Oh, let him in."

Li Hongyuan strode in.

Concubine Jin glanced at him and laughed, "When you and your father arrived today, the expressions on your faces were exactly the same. It seems that the young lady from the Jiang Family wanting to divorce you has really upset you."

"Even concubine mother knows about it."

"Even if I don't want to know, many people would like me to know."

That was true.

Prince of Yu was her son; any slight movement on his side could easily reach her ears.

Moreover, Prince of Huai was still imprisoned, and Concubine Xian was watching like a tiger, always looking for an opportunity to counterattack.

Li Hongyuan sat down, frowning.

Concubine Jin pushed over the teacup that the palace maid had just brought, "Drink some water and see the color of your face."

"Concubine mother, I heard that Prime Minister Jiang's wife has entered the palace for an audience."

"Yes, she asked the Emperor for permission for Jiang Ning to divorce you."

"Did Emperor Father agree?"

"Your father can't refuse Lin Zizi's request." Concubine Jin sneered coldly, "After all, he owes her a lot. But now he wants to..."

She did not continue.

Li Hongyuan did not ask further either.

The affairs of the past, as the Emperor's biological son, he knew more or less.

If it were not for knowing the Emperor's affections towards Lin Zizi, he would not have agreed to marry Lin Zizi's daughter.

Speaking of which, it was quite ridiculous..

Chapter 198: Separation and Harmony

In order to please Lin Zizi, the Emperor schemed for him to marry her daughter. Now, he wants him to divorce Jiang Ning for Lin Zizi's sake.

What is the meaning of this?

What does he consider him and Jiang Ning to be?

Two playthings that he can manipulate in his hand?

Anger rose in Li Hongyuan's heart.

Concubine Jin glanced at her son and said, "This palace had told you before, since you've married her, whether you like her or not, don't be too excessive. A cornered dog would still jump over the wall, let alone a living person. Now, it is necessary to get a divorce. It can also be considered as fulfilling your wish. After all, you don't like Jiang Ning."

"Son does not want a divorce."

"Huh?" Concubine Jin looked at him and couldn't help but laugh. "What's the matter? Have you really fallen in love with that girl?"

"Can a son not like a woman?" Li Hongyuan's tone was cold.

"That's true. You really are worthy of being Emperor Father's most beloved son. He likes Lin Zizi, and you like Lin Zizi's daughter. Who else should inherit the Imperial Throne?"

“Concubine mother, watch your words!”

“Aren’t you also dreaming of the Imperial Throne? Which one of you princes doesn’t want it? You dare to do it, but you don’t dare to say it.”

“Concubine mother, we are talking about the matter of divorce now.”

“Previously, you made a scene about wanting a divorce. Now that she really wants to divorce you, you are reluctant. This is what you deserve.”

Li Hongyuan didn’t say anything.

He just came to inquire about the news, and he didn’t expect Concubine Jin to help.

Given her temperament, she wouldn’t help either.

He stood up: “Concubine mother, rest well. Your son is leaving.”

Concubine Jin looked at him: “What do you intend to do about this matter?”

“Father Emperor’s command, son will naturally obey.”

“Indeed, both of you father and son are the same. In order to claim the imperial throne, you can easily give up the woman you like.”

Li Hongyuan said calmly: “Son and father emperor are not the same.”

“What’s the difference?”

“Even if we divorce now, son will eventually get her back.”

“Back then, your Emperor Father also said these words, but in the end, she married Jiang Ruobai just like that. Your Emperor Father can only be filled with regret for the rest of his life.” Concubine Jin said slowly, “Do you believe that after the divorce, Jiang Ning will marry immediately?”

Li Hongyuan’s tone was grim: “Whoever dares to marry her, I will take their life.”

Concubine Jin nodded: “If you can really do this, it would be quite interesting.”

“Son takes his leave.”

Li Hongyuan turned around and left.

Not long after he returned to the Prince of Yu’s residence, he received the Imperial Edict, ordering him and Jiang Ning to divorce. From now on, they can choose their marriage freely and live their own lives.

Li Hongyuan knelt down to listen to the Imperial Edict. He took the Imperial Edict and sent away the eunuch who had delivered the decree.

He stared at the Imperial Edict in his hand for a long time and then casually threw it into the fire basin.

This scared Chashan half to death.

He didn’t care about the heat and hurriedly snatched the Imperial Edict out: “My lord, this is the Imperial Edict! If others find out and tell the Emperor, it will be disastrous!”

Although the Imperial Edict was issued, the Prince of Yu’s residence didn’t send the divorce document to the Jiang Family.

Jiang Ruobai didn't care. He directly ordered the staff to write two copies of the divorce document and sent them to the Prince of Yu's residence for his signature.

Li Hongyuan stared at the divorce document, looked at it for a long time, and finally picked up the pen, wrote his own name, and sent a copy back to the Jiang Family.

From then on, this divorce document officially took effect.

Jiang Ning and Li Hongyuan's marriage ended in divorce.

With the divorce document in hand, Jiang Ning felt extremely upset.

It wasn't that she couldn't bear to part with the divorce, but that she missed the two children.

She thought she could be indifferent, but in fact, she missed the two children so much that her heart ached.

Worried about Jiang Ning's unhappiness, the Jiang Family arranged blind dates for her.

The Jiang Family was not in the mood for this, but they couldn't help Lin Zizi's nagging. So, they went to get some fresh air.

Who would have thought, as soon as she sat down, before she even saw the man's face, she saw Li Hongyuan wrapped in a cloak, holding a baby in one arm and an umbrella in the other hand, walking in from outside..

Chapter 199: Does Seeing Me in Pain Make You Happy?

It's snowing outside, and it's freezing.

Li Hongyuan directly sat down at a table near Jiang Ning, unwrapped the swaddle, revealing a lovely little baby face as cute as jade snow.

It's the first child.

The small red bundle was covered with a little snow.

Jiang Ning immediately panicked.

She wheeled herself over and said, "Why... have you brought the first child here? He is so young, and with such heavy snow outside, aren't you afraid of him catching a cold?"

"Do I have to put up with your criticism for bringing my son out for some fresh air? I wrapped him up well, he won't be cold."

"Where is Lingzi?"

"Girls are weak, so I am reluctant to bring her out."

"You—"

At this moment, the little baby hummed a few times, twisting his little face, as if he was about to cry.

Jiang Ning's heart instantly softened: "Let me hold him."

Li Hongyuan indifferently said, "You are no longer the Princess Consort of Yu, and you have abandoned the two children. What qualifications do you have to hold them?"

At this moment, the woman at the blind date called, "Jiang Seventh Young Mistress, come over."

Jiang Ning took a deep breath and turned the wheelchair.

“Wah!”

Wenzan cried, his little face turning red.

Jiang Ning shuddered, her hand stopping.

She looked back at the child.

The child was wailing, tears streaming down his face.

How could she not feel heartache when her own child was crying like this.

“...Jiang Seventh Young Mistress, come over!”

“Get lost!” Jiang Ning shouted angrily.

Having sent the blind date away, Jiang Ning wheeled herself back and glared at Li Hongyuan, “What do you want? Deliberately bringing the child to cry in front of me, so you can be happy watching me suffer, right?”

Li Hongyuan gently rocked the child, who soon stopped crying, sucking on his thumb with tearful eyes.

Jiang Ning watched, her heart aching unbearably.

“I just don’t want you to meet other men.” Li Hongyuan stood up holding the child, staring at her, “As long as you are willing to come back, you will still be the Princess Consort of Yu, and both children will be raised by you.”

He handed the child to her, "Don't you miss them? I can't watch them every day. Do you really want to let Li Yuanyuan raise them?"

Jiang Ning used all her strength to hold back from reaching out to embrace the child.

"Whoever you want to raise them, just let them. I never looked forward to their birth in the first place."

"Why?"

"Because I was schemed into getting pregnant, and I don't like you."

"So you really dislike me this much."

"That's right. I have no affection for you at all."

As Li Hongyuan listened to her words, he looked at her for a moment, then gently put the child in her arms and said, "From today on, the child will be raised by you. Lingzi has been sent to the Jiang Family."

Jiang Ning was slightly stunned, "What do you mean?"

"Since we are already divorced, there is no longer any connection between us. But after all, children need their mother's company and care. They are still the royal descendants, and their names are already on the royal family register. But I am willing to let them be raised in the Jiang Family."

Looking at the child's small, pinkish face, Jiang Ning subconsciously took the swaddle.

"What are you trying to scheme again?" She never trusted him nor let her guard down against him.

Li Hongyuan said lightly, "Maybe in your eyes, I am not a good person. But even a tiger does not eat its own cubs, they are my children after all. I made a mistake separating you and your children these past few days. Chashan, send the princess consort...send Jiang Seventh Young Mistress back."

Having said that, he turned around and left.

Jiang Ning asked, "When will you pick them up?"

Chapter 200: One Arrow, Four Carvings

"Until you don't want to raise them anymore."

"You're really giving them to me?"

"Yes."

Li Hongyuan leaves without looking back.

Chashan hurriedly follows out, seeing him mounting his horse, he quickly mounts his own and follows, "My lord, did you really give the young master and young mistress to the Jiang family?"

"The Jiang family is their maternal grandparents' family. What's so wrong with them being with their own mother? Do you think they would mistreat them?"

"No, no, that's not what I meant. I just think... the young master has a noble identity, being your legitimate eldest son. Can we really have him raised outside the palace?"

"What do you expect? To let my legitimate eldest son be raised by one of Ms. Li's concubines?"

"That... won't work either." Chashan speaks softly, "This servant only feels that it's unfair to you, my lord."

"I don't want to make her sad."

"Since you like the Princess Consort so much, why not ask Emperor Father to bring her back?"

"Once Emperor Father agrees to Madam Prime Minister Jiang's request, he won't go back on his word." Li Hongyuan rides his horse, gazing forward, his expression cold, "And Prime Minister Jiang's wife is wholeheartedly devoted to her daughter. In this matter, unless Jiang Ning agrees to it herself, nobody can force her."

"Then you're sending the young master and young mistress to the Jiang family, making it even more impossible for the Princess Consort to come back."

"Even if the children are in the palace, she won't come back."

"Then, aren't you losing both the...?" Chashan doesn't dare to finish his sentence.

Li Hongyuan, however, remains calm: "By giving the children to her, I now have a reason to visit the Jiang family."

Chashan is dumbfounded.

So that's what his lordship was thinking.

Upon further thought, it was true.

By giving the children to the Princess Consort to raise, it would be good for the kids, and she would be grateful. Plus, it would give his lordship a reason to visit the children and get close to the Princess Consort.

A proverbial killing of three birds with one stone.

No, no, no, there's an even more important point.

If the Princess Consort has to raise the kids, she won't be able to go on blind dates and remarry!

Brilliant, simply brilliant!

Chashan couldn't help but feel an endless admiration for his lordship.

Jiang Ning holds the child, watching as Li Hongyuan's figure retreated into the distance, feeling as if she was dreaming.

He really just gave her the children so easily?

She lowers her head, and the baby in the swaddling cloth is sucking his thumb, blinking his bright black eyes at her.

Jiang Ning pulls his thumb out and kisses his cheek, "Little guy, is your little hand so delicious that you keep gnawing on it all the time?"

Unable to eat his hand, the little guy doesn't get upset either, just humming a few times before giving up.

Jiang Ning thinks about Li Hongyuan's words.

He said that Lingzi was already sent to the Jiang family by now.

"Huang Ying, push me back quickly."

Xiaoman hurriedly comes to push the wheelchair.

Huang Ying exclaims excitedly, “Did the Prince of Yu really give the children back to us? What is he trying to do?”

“I don’t know what he wants to do, but since he sent the children back, I have no reason not to accept them.”

Huang Ying smiles, “The Prince of Yu looks cold-hearted, but he has a good heart. Knowing that you miss the two children, he couldn’t bear to see you sad and returned them to you.”

Jiang Ning says, “You really believe that? I think he just wants to use the children to tie me down, so I can’t continue going on blind dates and marrying.”

“Ah, that... makes sense too. But, what should we do?”

“What should we do? What do you think I’m trying to do by going on these blind dates? Do you really think I want to get married?”

Huang Ying is astonished, “You mean you agreed to go on blind dates just to show the Prince of Yu? Did you know all along that he would do this?”