

Royal Marriage 51

Chapter 51: Getting Married One Month Later

Jiang Ruobai asked, "Does it hurt?"

Jiang Yan had never received such care from her father before, and her voice choked up with emotion, "It hurts a lot, father."

"Sit down, don't cry, don't cry." Jiang Ruobai hurriedly pulled a chair for her to sit and urged the stewardess, "Why haven't you called the doctor yet!"

Soon, the doctor came and saw Jiang Ruobai supporting Jiang Yan, and naturally went over to check on her.

Jiang Yuan was left to the side.

Jiang Yuan stared at the scene in disbelief.

The doctor treated Jiang Yan's wound and wrote a prescription.

Jiang Ruobai instructed Aunt Liu to take her back to rest and asked the kitchen to send some nourishing soup for her.

As she walked out the door, Jiang Yan looked back and made eye contact with Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning gave her a slight smile.

Jiang Yan felt a little embarrassed.

Actually, her injury was nothing, but the care and love from her father was a new and exciting experience for her. It made her feel warm and happy.

As she left the Black Bamboo Garden, Jiang Yan felt dazed, and her face held a constant smile.

Aunt Liu glanced at her a few times, somewhat worried, "My girl, what's gotten into you today? Are you so distraught because you weren't chosen? You should let it go, our kind of..."

"Aunt Liu, I know. It's impossible for me to be chosen."

"Then why are you smiling so foolishly?"

"It's nothing. I'm just happy."

"You're actually happy about not being chosen?"

"Even happier than if I were chosen."

Jiang Yan walked with a lighter step and a cheerful smile.

In her heart, she thought that maybe following Seventh Sister would not be so bad.

Aunt Liu shook her head, thinking that her daughter had truly gone silly.

Back in the Black Bamboo Garden, Jiang Yuan was furious.

Today, she was first stunned by being chosen by Jiang Ning and then kicked off the carriage by her. When she returned home, she thought her father would feel sorry for her and scold Jiang Ning.

Who would have imagined that instead of scolding Jiang Ning, her father had focused on caring for Jiang Yan!

This infuriated Jiang Yuan.

Prince of Yu's choice of the Jiang Family's crippled eldest daughter shocked many nobles.

For several days, many people visited the Jiang Family under various pretexts, openly or covertly trying to find out what this crippled eldest daughter looked like.

Jiang Yuan watched with intense jealousy.

Everyone only paid attention to Jiang Seventh Daughter now.

Her own brilliance had dimmed...

However, Jiang Ning herself was terribly troubled.

On one hand, there was the Emperor's Imperial Edict, demanding that she and Prince Yu complete their marriage within a month.

On the other hand, there was her growing belly that couldn't be resolved.

It had been more than two months now, and although her reactions hadn't become particularly severe, her belly would become more and more difficult to hide.

By the time she married into Prince Yu's Mansion one month later, her belly would no longer be concealable.

By then...

Everyone with eyes would realize that Prince Yu had been cuckolded, and at that time, the heartless and cold-faced Prince Yu would undoubtedly kill her without hesitation.

Now, the most urgent task at hand was either to cancel the marriage or to get rid of the child in her belly.

Cancelling the marriage... the possibility was slim to none.

Abortion... she couldn't find a doctor willing to give her the medication.

No one even believed she was pregnant.

Jiang Ruobai didn't believe her either.

What about...running away?

It was better than being at the mercy of Prince Yu and her growing belly.

But sitting in a wheelchair, escaping was inconvenient, and even if she ran, she wouldn't be able to escape the grasp of the Jiang Family.

Jiang Ning had been so troubled for several days that she couldn't sleep well or eat, and she had lost a considerable amount of weight. She spent every day thinking about how to find an opportunity to slip away..

Chapter 52: Anxious and Enjoying at the Same Time

Jiang Ning regretted it so much.

If she had known she would be forced to marry as soon as she entered the house, she would never have followed them back.

Now she was in a fine mess, unable to find a way out.

Besides, on this ship was Lin Zizi, who was gentle as water, looking at her with tender and loving eyes every day.

Just because of this unique pampering, she couldn't bear to give it up.

"The gentlewoman's embrace is the hero's tomb!"

As she lay in the lounge chair, enjoying Lin Zizi's ear-picking service, she couldn't help but sigh in extreme satisfaction.

Leaving?

No way in hell.

The tingling sensation from the silky touch, the delicious meals, the sweet care from her parents and siblings, the soft little hands of the pretty maid, the luxurious big bed...

She would rather die than give it up.

Now, she was both enjoying and worried at the same time.

Satisfied, yet in pain.

Jiang Ning despised herself in her heart.

“Mother.” She spoke with her eyes closed.

Lin Zizi held her ear gently while carefully picking her ears, and responded softly, “What’s the matter?”

She treated Jiang Ning like a delicate baby.

Although she was still occasionally confused and unable to recognize people, she would become extremely gentle as soon as she saw Jiang Ning.

Jiang Ning opened her eyes and asked, “Mother, if I did something wrong, would you be angry?”

“No.” Lin Zizi answered without hesitation.

“What if I were to do something that violates a woman’s virtues?”

“What do you mean?”

“Like... What if I got involved with someone else before getting married?”

“Oh, do you have someone in your heart?” Lin Zizi remained gentle and calm, as if what she heard was nothing more than a comment about the nice weather.

Jiang Ning paused, “If I did, could I not marry the Prince of Yu?”

Lin Zizi stopped what she was doing and looked up thoughtfully, as if seriously considering the feasibility of this request.

Jiang Ning was surprised.

This beautiful and loving mother truly spoiled her daughter to the core.

Soon, Lin Zizi finished pondering and said, "Tell me his name and whereabouts, and I'll have someone find him to see if he's worthy of you. Then we can discuss it further."

Jiang Ning:

This Jiang family really didn't take the Prince of Yu seriously.

After all, the Prince of Yu was a prince, the son of a noble concubine.

Did the Jiang family dare to force him to cancel the marriage?

Such arrogant subjects usually didn't end well in the future.

However, Jiang Ning couldn't come up with a fake sweetheart at the moment.

She looked at her beautiful, gentle and cute mother and asked, "Mother, do you believe me?"

"I do."

"I really am pregnant."

"Is the child's father the man you love?"

"... Maybe." Jiang Ning felt a little embarrassed.

She really didn't know who the child's father was.

She had no memory of it.

Lin Zizi stopped what she was doing and asked, "Ningning, what do you want me to do for you? No matter what it is, even if it costs me my life, I'll do it for you."

Having lost her daughter for so many years, her mental state had been greatly affected.

But she always felt that she owed her daughter so much. It was because of her own mistakes that her daughter had suffered so much.

Even if her daughter's innocence had indeed been taken by a shameless man, she didn't want to pursue anyone. She just wanted to protect and compensate her daughter.

She would unconditionally agree to any of her daughter's requests.

Jiang Ning carefully said, "I want an abortion potion."

"Are you sure?" Lin Zizi asked seriously.

"Yes, I'm sure!"

"Alright, no matter what my Ningning wants, mother will find it for you." Lin Zizi promised solemnly..

Chapter 53: Taking Medicine

Jiang Ning felt relieved.

As for Lin Zizi, her whole heart and mind were now filled with concern for her suffering little daughter, and she met every request Jiang Ning made without any hesitation.

Therefore, the next day, she had her close confidante Mother Zhou go out to find a doctor and buy medicine.

Nowadays, it was not easy to buy this kind of medicine, as its sale was strictly regulated.

However, that was for ordinary people and the Jiang Family was by no means an ordinary family.

Mother Zhou quickly and discreetly bought the medicine, secretly brought it back, and brewed it in the Black Bamboo Garden with a small stove, instead of daring to use the kitchen.

When the medicine was ready, it was a dark, thick liquid with a strong bitter taste.

Jiang Ning couldn't stand the unusual smell, and the scent alone made her feel nauseous.

"Take it away immediately —"

"Miss, medicine is generally bitter. It'll be fine after you drink it," said Mother Zhou, who was Lin Zizi's personal maid since childhood and utterly loyal and reliable. Lin Zizi never hid anything from her.

Although Mother Zhou hated the man who had taken away Seventh Miss's innocence, she had to get rid of this bastard child first.

The wedding was just a month away, and they had to restore Jiang Ning's health before then.

Jiang Ning covered her mouth, trying to suppress the urge to vomit.

Mother Zhou gently coaxed her: "Miss, hold your nose and down it in one go. It'll be fine after you drink it."

Jiang Ning picked up the bowl and took a sip, but immediately vomited it out with a retch.

She simply couldn't swallow it.

Lin Zizi felt extremely distressed: "Let's not drink it then."

"Madam, I understand that you are concerned about Miss, but the short-term pain is better than long-term suffering. In a month's time, her pregnancy will begin to show, and if she goes to the Prince of Yu's mansion like this, it could be a life-threatening matter."

Everything Mother Zhou said was true.

Jiang Ning was well aware of this.

She gritted her teeth, picked up the bowl of medicine, held her nose, and gulped it down in one go.

She barely managed to not vomit it back up each time she felt the urge.

Mother Zhou quickly helped her lie down and said, "I don't dare call the maids to tend to you now, for fear of gossip and rumors. Please rest well, Miss. I will be here guarding you. When your stomach starts to hurt, you must tell me."

Lin Zizi anxiously watched her closely.

Jiang Ning closed her eyes and silently waited for the stomach pain to come.

After waiting for quite a while without feeling anything, she unknowingly fell asleep.

When she woke up, it was already noon.

She instinctively touched her stomach, but felt nothing abnormal.

Lin Zizi was dozing off by the bed while Mother Zhou was sitting at the foot of Jiang Ning's bed, sewing a shoe pad. They both stayed with her and didn't dare to leave.

Jiang Ning sat up, startling them.

"Miss, what's wrong? Is your stomach hurting?" Mother Zhou asked hurriedly.

Jiang Ning shook her head: "What time is it?"

"It's almost noon."

"Did I sleep for more than an hour?" Jiang Ning frowned, "Why didn't I feel anything?"

Lin Zizi looked at Mother Zhou.

Mother Zhou was also puzzled: "How could this be? Normally, the medicine should take effect within the time it takes to burn a stick of incense."

Lin Zizi touched Jiang Ning's forehead and asked worriedly, "Ningning, is there anything wrong? You must tell me if you're uncomfortable. I'm worried."

Jiang Ning got out of bed, walked a few steps, and touched her stomach: "Apart from feeling a bit hungry, there's nothing else."

"Huh? That's not right," Mother Zhou was also at a loss.

She personally fetched the medicine, guarded the small stove and watched Jiang Ning drink it.

From start to finish, she had done everything herself, without anyone else's involvement.

There should have been a reaction by now.

Lin Zizi asked: "Could it be that you picked up the wrong medicine?"

Chapter 54: Getting Married

"No way, I paid for it." Mother Zhou stood up, "I'll go find them. How dare they sell me fake medicine?"

"Forget about it, Mother Zhou. This kind of thing is not something to be proud of. It's not good to make a fuss." Jiang Ning stopped her, "Is there any medicine left?"

"Yes, there's still a bag left."

"Take a little bit of the crushed one and have the doctor in the mansion look at it and see what kind of medicine it is." Jiang Ning said.

"This is a good idea. I'll go right away."

Mother Zhou quickly left.

It didn't take long before she came back with a somber face.

Lin Zizi asked, "How did it go?"

Mother Zhou said, "The doctor in the mansion looked at the medicine and said it's a good prescription for nourishing the energy and blood."

“It’s not an abortifacient?”

“No, not at all.” Mother Zhou cried out in anger, “This bastard! He took my money and didn’t do the job. I’m going to wreck their pharmacy!”

Jiang Ning was deep in thought.

From the start till now, every doctor she came across was very peculiar.

Including the only young doctor who initially diagnosed her pregnancy, he later changed his statement outright.

If all those were her illusions, then the examination by the palace nanny and the medicine grabbed by Mother Zhou today couldn’t possibly be false. All these pointed to the presence of a shadowy hand behind the scenes, manipulating everything.

Who could have such a powerful influence?

Jiang Ning wasn’t sure.

But what she is certain of is that the person must know she is pregnant and who the child’s father is.

Not only does that person know everything, they are also trying their best to prevent others from finding out about her pregnancy and have surprisingly helped her progress in the selection process.

Could it be the Prince of Yu?

But looking at the Prince of Yu’s disdainful and annoyed attitude towards her, it didn’t seem likely.

Jiang Ning shook her head, feeling somewhat puzzled.

Was she fated to enter the mansion of the Prince of Yu while being pregnant?

The feeling of being manipulated was simply terrible.

Jiang Ning started feeling a bit agitated.

Alright then, she would marry while pregnant to see how long the person behind the scenes could cover up for her!

The most amazing thing was that after drinking the “tonic” Mother Zhou brought, Jiang Ning’s pregnancy symptoms improved a lot. The constant feeling of dizziness and nausea faded.

Before Jiang Ning could rejoice, the palace sent more gifts, wedding clothes, jewelries, etc.

They also sent two nannies and four palace maids to teach her the rules and regulations.

But with Jiang Ning’s disability, the nannies couldn’t force her to do anything. As she idled the days away, time passed and the day of her marriage came quickly.

Having been pregnant for three months, her belly wasn’t very noticeable. Her voluminous wedding dress covered it well.

Early in the morning, Jiang Ning was made to get up and get dressed. After donning the cumbersome, red wedding dress and the heavy gold phoenix coronet, she could hardly lift her neck.

Jiang Yuan and Jiang Yan were both there, looking at her in opulent attire, with different expressions.

Jiang Yuan was so jealous that she got conjunctivitis.

It was real conjunctivitis. Her eyes were completely red, and her fingers were wrapped in thread.

“Why...why...” She mumbled incessantly, “A cripple...why does she get to be the Princess Consort of Yu...This is a princess consort, the main consort!”

No one paid her any attention.

On the other hand, Jiang Yan was genuinely happy for her and even gifted her a present.

Though it wasn't expensive, it was sincere.

The dowry prepared for her by the Jiang Family was of course not meagre.

Lin Zizi went even further by bringing all her dowry from her natal home for Jiang Ning.

She only had this one daughter. Much as she was distressed about her getting married right after finding her, she poured her all into it.

At that moment, two maids carried a large basket over and asked Jiang Ning, “Miss, if you don't want the things in this box, shall we throw it away?”

Jiang Ning took a glance and suddenly thought of Old Man Li's identity.

Given Old Man Li's status, would the “trash” he gave her really be trash?

Chapter 55: Everything in Father's House is Fake

Jiang Ning hurriedly waved her hand: “Put it down, let me take a look.”

The maid placed the basket in front of her.

Suddenly, Miaomiao ran over, jumped on her lap, and meowed a few times.

“Good Miaomiao.” Jiang Ning stroked its head, “Are you hungry? Chunlai, bring Miaomiao’s cat bowl and prepare some food for it.”

Chunlai responded and brought a bowl of food.

Miaomiao jumped down and started eating quietly.

Chunlai, Xiachu, Qiulai, and Dongxie, as her accompanying maids, were all wearing brand-new clothes and looked bright and pretty.

Seeing the cat bowl, the expressions of the people in the room were a bit complicated.

Especially Jiang Yuan, who couldn’t help but say: “Jiang Seventh, did you steal this bowl from somewhere?”

“Shut up if you can’t talk. What can I do with a broken cat bowl? Get rich by stealing it?” Jiang Ning said annoyed.

“Broken cat bowl?” Jiang Yuan sneered, thinking that you are just a poor girl, and using such valuable things as cat bowls would make you seem rich?

Jiang Yan whispered: “Seventh Sister, where did this bowl... come from?” “Someone gave it to me.”

“This bowl is very valuable; put it away and use another bowl for Miaomiao.” Jiang Yan cautiously advised, “You are taking this cat to Prince of Yu’s residence; if people there see it, they’ll think our family’s girls are arrogant.” Valuable?

Jiang Ning looked down at the cat bowl, feeling a slight stir in her heart.

This bowl was also given to her by Old Man Li.

She wanted to pick it up and take a closer look, but Miaomiao was eating. Nevermind.

She reached into the basket and took out a painting, then unfolded it and looked at it.

She didn't know much about painting and thought that the one in her hand wasn't that great.

But Jiang Yuan and Jiang Yan's eyes lit up when they saw it.

"A Painting of the Sunset in Spring." Jiang Yan murmured.

Jiang Yuan had already leaned over: "This... must be fake, an imitation, for sure!"

Although they were both concubine-born daughters, they grew up in a scholarly family and followed their lady tutor since childhood, so they had at least some appreciation skills in terms of poetry, calligraphy, and painting. Jiang Yan said: "Fifth Sister, are you sure? I think this is an authentic piece." "Impossible!" Jiang Yuan immediately denied.

"If you don't believe me, let's ask Father and Third Brother."

"Who's calling me?"

Jiang Yi happened to be at the door and walked in when he heard the voices. Seeing Jiang Ning dressed in a red wedding gown with a phoenix coronet on her head, he was dazzled.

He walked closer and looked carefully for a while: "Little sister, you look beautiful."

Jiang Yuan couldn't stand her third brother praising Jiang Ning and pouted: "Any woman in a wedding dress looks good."

Jiang Yi glanced at her: "What were you talking about just now?"

"Third Brother, please take a look at the painting in Seventh Sister's hands." Jiang Yan hurriedly said.

"Painting?" Jiang Yi leaned in and looked, then exclaimed, "This painting... seems to be an original."

After carefully examining it for a moment, he was somewhat surprised: "I thought the original was in the palace. It's actually in our house? Is it part of Father's collection?"

Jiang Ruobai, who was listening at the door, was devastated.

The one in his study was a fake, sobbing in distress.

Jiang Yi glanced at the cat bowl on the ground: "Huh, it looks like the one on Father's desk."

Jiang Ruobai:

Please, don't say it!

There are fakes in your own father's room!

The real ones are right by this young girl's cat's mouth!

Jiang Ning was also shocked.

So, the painting in her hands was valuable?

She reached into the basket and took out a porcelain cup: “And this....”

Chapter 56: Giving Her Back A Nest of Little

Mice

“A priceless piece from Ru Kiln.” Jiang Yi’s eyes sparkled, “If it was a complete set, it would be of great value.”

Jiang Ning glanced into the basket.

Isn’t it a complete set?

She thought it was the kind you could buy ten for five cents on the streets...

It seems now, Old Man Li... no, the heroic Emperor, had given her meal money in the form of valuable treasures.

Indeed, it wouldn’t be possible for the Emperor to carry gold and silver around with him, he probably just grabbed something off his desk or around his house.

A basketful of “garbage”.

Jiang Ning decisively asked Chunlai to bring a large mahogany box, put all the items in, and locked it up. She personally kept the key.

Just kidding, this was her little treasury.

As for Miaomiao's cat bowl...

Never mind, let's keep using it.

Everyone was speechless.

The carriage from Prince Yu's mansion for the wedding ceremony was almost here, and the loud music could be heard from afar.

After Miaomiao had eaten his fill, he jumped onto Jiang Ning's lap.

So there she was, holding a cat, as she got into the carriage to Prince Yu's mansion.

Prince Yu was notable for his good reputation, and had won the hearts of many maidens in Chang'an.

Now that he had personally chosen a cripple to be his princess consort, he had undoubtedly broken the hearts of many young girls.

With so many crushed hearts, there was naturally some resentment and a desire for retaliation.

As the carriage was moving, someone threw a rat into the procession.

The men carrying wedding items and the musicians were all men, none of whom would be afraid of a few rats.

But the rat scurrying towards the bride's carriage was rather scary.

A delicate and sheltered young lady would surely be afraid of a rat.

The worst part was, everyone knew the bride in the carriage was a cripple and would have a hard time escaping if she saw a rat.

The men outside saw the rat enter the carriage, but they didn't dare lift the curtain to check.

If this caused an outcry, it would be a great loss of face not just for the Jiang Family.

Her life in Prince Yu's mansion would definitely not be easy after this.

But strangely, there was no sound inside the carriage.

What happened?

Where is the rat?

Where's the scream and crying from the bride that they had expected?

Nothing happened.

It was as quiet as if nothing had happened.

People were puzzled but resigned to it.

The loud music continued, heading towards Prince Yu's mansion.

Inside the carriage.

Jiang Ning, with her cheek propped up, watched as Miaomiao used his claws to pin down a rat. The rat, terrified, struggled and squeaked, but Miaomiao showed no mercy, firmly pinning it down, occasionally giving it a little slap with his paw.

Miaomiao looked as brave as a general who had captured a prisoner.

Jiang Ning laughed, "Good Miaomiao, your sister hasn't doted on you for nothing. Remember this grudge, and when we find out who did this, we'll give them a nest of young rats, how about that?"

"Meow!"

"That's settled then."

And now, in Prince Yu's mansion, Prince Yu was wearing his red wedding robe, sitting composedly in his study, writing. His expression was calm, without a hint of joy for his upcoming marriage.

The door was pushed open, an attendant came in and whispered something.

Without lifting his head, Prince Yu said, "They threw twenty rats, then we should return tenfold. Today is my wedding day, I don't want it ruined."

The attendant acknowledged the command and then said, "A rat also got into the Princess's carriage, she might have been frightened..."

"Did she die?"

"Well, no."

"Then why are you wasting words?" Prince Yu's tone was icy.

The attendant lowered his head, "The sedan is almost here, sir. Should we go greet the bride?"

"I know."

Though his words said that, his eyes were cold, not a trace of happiness in them.

Not until the sedan had stopped at the mansion's entrance did he put his pen down and stand up to go to the front courtyard gate..

Chapter 57: Perfunctory and Coercion

According to the rules of the Great Sheng Dynasty, the wedding of a prince and his main consort was a very complicated affair.

Most people couldn't remember all the steps involved in the process.

Let alone Jiang Ning.

The nanny sent by the palace to teach her the rules didn't dare to force her to learn, and she herself was lackadaisical, letting the lessons go in one ear and out the other, never really learning much.

Fortunately, there were people to guide them, and every step had someone whispering instructions into their ears.

Thus, there was no risk of making a mistake and disgracing the royal family.

Although the Prince of Yu was already 18 years old and lived separately from his parents, he was still a prince, and his parents, the Emperor and Empress, were still in the palace.

After going through the ceremony at the prince's residence, Jiang Ning had to go to the palace and pay her respects to the Emperor, Empress, and other elders by kowtowing.

Wearing a heavy phoenix coronet and robes weighing dozens of pounds, Jiang Ning was pushed back and forth by assistants. Although she didn't have to walk on her own, she still had to be helped to kneel when performing the rituals.

She was exhausted after a whole day of this, and with all the buzzing in her ears, she couldn't hear anything clearly.

From underneath her veil, she could occasionally glimpse the red robe and cloud boots of the man standing beside her.

She knew that was the Prince of Yu, but she didn't have the energy to pay attention to him.

The Prince of Yu also acted aloof and indifferent, following the rules like a mere tool, barely bothering to look at the girl in the wheelchair.

Once they were in the palace, Jiang Ning was at least allowed to remove her veil temporarily.

It would be inappropriate to keep her face covered while kowtowing to the Emperor and Empress.

So, Jiang Ning finally saw the true face of the legendary Emperor.

A chubby body, a round face, a white beard, and a smile directed at her.

Oh my.

Wasn't that Old Man Li?

Although Jiang Ning had suspected his identity, seeing him dressed in the emperor's robe, wearing the crown, and sitting beside the Empress left her speechless.

Old Man Li, no, the Emperor, raised his hand with a smile: "Never mind the formalities, please rise."

A palace maid helped Jiang Ning to her feet.

The Emperor frowned at his fifth son and said, "Don't you see that your wife has difficulty moving? Why don't you help her?"

Prince of Yu hesitated for a moment but then quickly reached out and supported Jiang Ning's arm, saying, "This humble son was concerned that the princess consort might feel shy and uncomfortable, so I didn't dare to take the liberty."

Jiang Ning looked up at the Prince and frowned slightly.

Contrary to his gentle expression and warm words, his hand was cold and not gentle at all, but rather forceful and impatient.

It was as if he was reluctantly helping her.

It wasn't really help; just perfunctory and coercive.

Jiang Ning tried to pull her hand back, but a cold glance from the Prince stopped her. His fingers tightened around her wrist, not allowing her to break free.

Jiang Ning lowered her head and stopped struggling.

The Emperor and Empress sitting above didn't notice this little exchange.

In their eyes, the tableau of the Prince holding Jiang Ning's wrist and looking down at her was quite harmonious.

The Emperor chuckled, "She's already married to you, why worry about propriety? Girls from the Jiang family are good. Fifth son, you must cherish her, understand?"

The Empress glanced at him and uttered a low snort.

It probably wasn't the Jiang daughters that were good, but their mother!

The Prince bowed his head, "This humble son accepts the decree and will most certainly take good care of the princess consort."

The Emperor seemed satisfied, and he gave Jiang Ning a meaningful look, "You both must be exhausted from the day's events. Go on, return to your resting quarters. There will be plenty of opportunities to visit the palace in the future." Smiling, the Empress added, "Prince of Yu, although you're both tired, you still need to pay your respects to Concubine Jin."

Concubine Jin was the Prince's birth mother, and, of course, they had to kowtow to her as well..

Chapter 58: If You Have the Ability, Don't Get

Married

Prince of Yu respectfully agreed, carefully helping Jiang Ning to sit in the wheelchair, and personally pushing her towards Concubine Jin's residence.

The Emperor and Empress watched their retreating figures, quite satisfied: "It seems that our fifth son is not too shabby."

The Empress smiled: "The fifth son is indeed an intelligent child."

The praised Prince of Yu, after pushing Jiang Ning outside and leaving the sight of the Emperor and Empress, immediately let go of his hands and walked straight ahead without bothering about Jiang Ning any further.

Jiang Ning hadn't brought any maids into the palace, and there was no one else around. Seeing that the Prince of Yu didn't even lookback, she spoke up: "Your Highness, do you plan to go and kowtow to Concubine Jin alone and leave me here? I know you don't want to marry me and you don't like me. But this is in the palace, can't you at least put on an act?"

Prince of Yu glanced at her, turned around, and continued pushing the wheelchair.

Jiang Ning leaned against the wheelchair, propping her chin with her right hand, and looked at the Prince of Yu from the side.

Prince of Yu was indeed born with a good appearance.

Chang'an City praised him as a dashing and beautiful youth, and it was indeed true.

He had a handsome face, and his eyes and eyebrows were like paintings.

But his expression was cold, and there was no warmth when he looked at people.

He didn't even try to hide his disgust.

Others thought he was good because of his noble status and handsome looks, assuming that he must also be gentle and elegant, but they were greatly mistaken.

From the few encounters Jiang Ning had with him, she knew that beneath his splendid appearance was an extremely cold and self-centered person, who, coupled with his noble identity, would never put a mere woman in his eyes. "Have you seen enough?" Prince of Yu coldly said.

Jiang Ning retracted her gaze, sat up straight, and after a moment of silence, she asked: "Why did Your Highness choose me?"

"Because you look like your mother."

“Huh?”

Due to his blunt answer, Jiang Ning took a while to process it.

The Prince of Yu coldly said, “Emperor Father likes your mother.”

Jiang Ning was stunned for a moment and then understood.

That explained everything.

The Emperor must have approached her because she resembles Lin Zizi in looks.

His kind expressions and the gifts he gave her were not for her but for Lin Zizi.

And the reason Prince of Yu chose her was simply to please the Emperor.

Several of the Emperor’s sons were bound to be in competition with each other.

By marrying the daughter of Emperor Father’s young dream lover, he would certainly leave a good impression and gain an advantage in the competition.

It all came down to the Imperial Throne in the end.

Jiang Ning sneered.

The Prince of Yu indifferently said, “Some things are better left unsaid. You won’t be cold or hungry in the Prince of Yu’s Mansion, and I will provide for you. As for other things, you shouldn’t be foolishly daydreaming.”

“What other things?” Jiang Ning asked.

“Do you really think I would have children with a cripple?”

Jiang Ning didn't say anything, and touched her stomach.

This guy was actually prejudiced against people with disabilities.

That was enough. If you had the balls to be prejudiced, then don't marry me, fight for the throne on your own merit!

Using me while looking down on me.

What a piece of trash.

Jiang Ning decided to firmly fix that green hat on his forehead.

When they arrived at the entrance of Concubine Jin's Splendid Palace, they were informed that Her Highness was resting and didn't have time, so they should return and come back another day when she was available.

Jiang Ning was surprised.

Was this Concubine Jin really the Prince of Yu's biological mother?

Her only son was getting married, but she didn't even show her face and was sleeping in her room instead.

Such coldness. She and the Prince of Yu were cut from the same cloth.

They really were mother and son.

Prince of Yu didn't look surprised at all and just turned around to leave.

And just like that, he left Jiang Ning alone in the same spot..

Chapter 59: Heatstroke.

Jiang Ning could push the wheelchair herself, although it was difficult.

Prince of Yu left without looking back, leaving her behind. She couldn't afford to lose her temper and demand that he come back and help her.

She couldn't bear losing her dignity like that.

It was the time of the Fire of June, and despite being evening, it was still hot.

Let alone that it was her wedding day. After entering the palace to kowtow to the Empress Dowager, Jiang Ning was wearing the full set of phoenix coronet and robes, with clothes as thick as nine layers, and the phoenix coronet on her head weighed several pounds.

She was both hot and suffocated, like she was standing in a steamer.

The ground was also hot, with the wheels rolling back and forth. She couldn't bear to touch them with her hands for long.

Moreover, she was pregnant.

In a short while, she felt a little heatstroke, dizziness, nausea, and the urge to vomit.

All the symptoms of pregnancy came over her.

Once she was uncomfortable, all kinds of negative emotions poured out.

Jiang Ning was not a person with a good temper. Although she liked to be lazy and muddleheaded, she wouldn't let anyone bully her.

She stopped the wheelchair under a tree. She hardly caught her breath when her vision blurred and everything turned black.

After that, she didn't know anything.

When she woke up, she was already in the bridal chamber of Prince of Yu's mansion.

There were red candles flickering in the room, a red "double happiness" pasted, and the bedding was all red.

The room was quiet, but—

It was hot.

She was lying on the thick bedding, and despite having taken off the phoenix coronet and the wedding dress, her whole body was still sweating, and she felt weak.

She sat up with difficulty, feeling light-headed from hunger.

The door was pushed open, and Chunlai came in. Seeing her awake, she hurried over to help her sit up: "Miss is finally awake. I was scared to death. How did you faint in the palace? Luckily, Huang Ying found you and hurriedly reported to His Majesty. His Majesty sent someone to send you back. Here, have some water."

Jiang Ning took the water cup and drank it all in one breath before feeling a little more comfortable.

She kicked off the bedding and took off her inner clothes, leaving only a thin red bellyband and a pair of short red gauze trousers. She also let down her hair and braided it into a twist, letting it hang down her back.

Only then did she feel much cooler.

Chunlai was dumbfounded by her series of actions.

Although she was beautiful, with skin white as snow, slender shoulders and collarbones, and wearing a long red shirt and a long twists braid made her look very pretty and cute.

However—

She was wearing too little.

“Miss, the Prince has not arrived yet, do you want to put on your clothes first?” she suggested.

“This room is unbearably hot, I would get heatstroke if I wrapped myself in clothes.” Jiang Ning frowned, “Why isn’t there ice in the room? When we were in the Jiang Family, didn’t we have ice every day?”

“Perhaps the people here forgot to send it.”

“Really?”

Jiang Ning suspected that Prince of Yu disliked her and was deliberately mistreating her.

He didn’t want a lame wife in his heart. He married her out of necessity and was naturally unhappy about it.

On their wedding day, he left her in the palace, not appearing even when she collapsed from heatstroke.

This man was indeed extremely cold and selfish.

If he didn't want to give her anything, that was fine. There were still many days ahead.

Jiang Ning leaned on the bed, moved to the edge of the table, and casually picked up the pastry to eat, asking, "What time is it now?"

"It's the Xu hour."

"You just said that Huang Ying found me?"

"Yes." Chunlai smiled, "Sister Huang Ying used to be a family servant of our mansion and was later selected to enter the palace as a lady-in-waiting. Today, after she found you fainted, His Majesty sent her to accompany you back and said that she would stay here to serve you from now on.."

Chapter 60: Will He Come?

"Where is she?"

"She's outside, busy tidying up."

Jiang Ning nodded.

She quite liked Huang Ying, this girl was smart, steady, and knew how to do things with discretion.

Seeing her sitting there in a small bellyband, Chunlai felt a bit frightened.

"The Prince is welcoming guests in the front yard now, he could come at any time," she cautiously reminded Jiang Ning, trying her best to get her to put on clothes.

Jiang Ning ate cakes and drank water, "Don't worry, he won't come."

Look at Prince of Yu's eyes and tone during the day.

He only married her to be a mascot, he would never look at her.

Chunlai was puzzled, "How does the lady know His Highness won't come?"

"If you were a man, would you want to be with a cripple?"

"Although the lady's legs are not good, it doesn't prevent her from having children," Chunlai frowned, "It's the first day of the wedding. If His Highness doesn't come, it would not sound good if it gets out. Tomorrow, the joyous handkerchief still has to be taken to the palace..."

"What joyous handkerchief?"

"That one..." Chunlai's face turned red, and she whispered, "The one on the bed."

Jiang Ning glanced back and saw a white handkerchief spread on the bed.

She probably understood.

Although she had heard about it, she didn't expect there would be such a thing.

It was for verifying whether the new bride was a virgin.

As a modern person, she, of course, understood that not every woman would bleed.

As for the situation in ancient times, the girls were married at the age of fourteen or fifteen, and their bodies hadn't developed yet, so consummation could be harmful.

Naturally, there would be some bleeding.

Jiang Ning despised this thing in her heart, but she knew that this was how the feudal society was, oppressing and hurting women, objectifying them.

In her current state, she probably wouldn't bleed.

However, it didn't matter, as Prince of Yu wouldn't come anyway.

Would she care if she was embarrassed?

There was just one thing, if Prince of Yu didn't come all this time, how could she put a green hat on him, making him a cuckold?

She was already three months pregnant, but due to her slim build, it was not apparent yet.

However, her belly would eventually grow.

In any case, she had to find a way to make Prince of Yu visit once.

Jiang Ning ate while rubbing her chin in thought.

Soon, Huang Ying finished tidying up and came in. When she saw Jiang Ning's attire, she paused for a moment, then smiled and said, "You look quite refreshing like this, lady. However, it might be better if you cover yourself when the Prince comes later."

She handed Jiang Ning a robe and draped it over her shoulders.

Jiang Ning had already cooled down, so she didn't refuse, smiling and saying, "Thank you for saving me, Sister Huang Ying."

Huang Ying chuckled, "I've said it before, we're fated. From now on, I'll stay by the Princess Consort's side."

"I wish for nothing more."

"The Prince will be here soon, you should sit by the bed," Huang Ying reached out to help her.

Jiang Ning smiled, "Will he really come?"

"Of course, today's the big day," Huang Ying helped her back to the bed, coaxing and persuading her to put on her clothes, fix her hair, and put on her veil.

Although it was hot, for sweet and gentle Huang Ying's sake, Jiang Ning endured it.

As they waited, half an hour, an hour passed...

It was suddenly the Hai hour (9 pm-11 pm).

The noise in the front yard gradually faded away.

The banquet must have ended.

Huang Ying and Chunlai took turns going out to check and wait, but they never saw Prince of Yu's shadow.

Jiang Ning was already lying on the bed yawning.

That scoundrel Prince of Yu really didn't come..