

Royal Marriage 71

Chapter 71: Bai knelt down?

They came over merely to announce their status and laugh at the new Princess Consort.

What about being the main wife?

Still forced to drink contraceptive soup by the Prince, and not given the housekeeper's authority.

It's just a joke.

Never thought of bowing down to her in the first place.

Originally thought that she had lost face and would not bring up this matter out of concern for her dignity.

Offending them, who hold the authority of housekeeper, could make her life unbearable in the backyard, right?

Who would have thought, she not only enjoyed herself, using ice and eating fruit, but also casually reminded them to kneel.

It's really...

Jiang Ning ate a grape and muttered, "It seems that there are no rules in this mansion. No wonder they say when the upper beam is not straight, the lower beam is crooked. The master doesn't follow the rules, and those below follow suit. It is embarrassing when it spreads out. Oh well, I don't care about these things..."

Madam Zhao hurriedly said, "Princess Consort, don't say that. It was our fault for being ignorant and forgetting the rules. But don't involve His Highness; he's too noble to be affected by this."

She was afraid that Jiang Ning would speak recklessly outside.

If she ruined the Prince's reputation and word got around the palace, it would be strange if the Prince didn't strangle them.

She gestured to Maid Fang, and the two knelt down and bowed.

"You may all get up," Jiang Ning said with a smile, "Actually, I should have given you a welcome gift, but as you know, I'm in such a situation that I can't control the household affairs, and I need these bits of silver for my living expenses. I really couldn't spare anything to reward you. Don't feel offended, all right?"

The two palace maids were speechless.

The mistress of other families, even if genuinely poor, would still pretend to be generous and give away a few decent pieces of jewelry to the concubines and their servants.

How come everything changed when it came to her?

No matter what, she was the legitimate daughter of the Jiang Family and had brought so many dowries when she married in. Did they all turn a blind eye to that?

And she even had the nerve to pretend to be poor and not give a welcome gift.

Was this not bowing down for nothing?

It was simply maddening.

Jiang Ning looked at them, "Is there anything else? My body is not well, and I need some peace and quiet to rest. Aside from visiting me daily in the morning and evening, there's no need for you two to come over at other times. So many people following you when you go out is quite noisy."

Madam Zhao and Maid Fang:"?!?!"

Visiting her every morning and evening?

Just that, and they didn't need to visit her at other times?

She even casually mocked their low status, saying they had so many servants following them when they went out.

Wasn't she bothered by the noise of her own maids chattering and laughing in her room?

How could the Princess Consort be so annoying?

The two palace maids, with a dry smile, stood up and left empty-handed.

Returning to their courtyard, Madam Zhao slapped the stewardess and scolded, "Who allowed you to send ice to Laurel Garden? And those fruits, why would you give-away?"

The stewardess covered her face, "I never gave them ice."

Another stewardess defended, "Madam, you misunderstood. The ice in the main room was bought by them with their own money from outside."

"Did she withdraw money from the account?"

"No," the stewardess muttered discontentedly while touching her burning cheek, "She, after all, is the main daughter of the Prime Minister's Mansion.

With so many dowries, she can't lack these bits and bobs..."

She was clearly mocking her lowly origin.

Madam Zhao was furious.

Maid Fang tried to console her, "Elder sister, why bother getting angry with her? The Prince is already tired of her. Now that she has no authority over the household affairs and the Prince doesn't like her anymore, she's just a cripple for us to manipulate at will.."

Chapter 72: Am I Beautiful?

Madam Zhao sneered, "Why don't you show me one example? Just now, I don't know who it was, but someone was kneeling so happily in the main room."

Maid Fang's face turned slightly red, and after holding back for a moment, she laughed back coldly, "So what if I knelt? She is the Main Consort, our mistress. We are just servants. It doesn't matter if we kneel once or every day; I am willing."

"Then go and kneel to serve her."

"You think I don't dare? Kneeling to the mistress is better than following you around!"

Maid Fang turned and walked away, her sleeve swinging.

Madam Zhao rolled her eyes and, after sitting and thinking for a while, said to the maid beside her, "Speaking of which, why didn't Ms. Li go to the Main Court to kowtow today?"

The maid pursed her lips, “Her? Isn’t it because she relies on the fact that the Prince of Yu favors her the most? She’s so delicate every day; if she goes out and encounters a breeze, she’ll complain about headaches. She’s like a paper doll— who would dare bother her?”

“This princess consort here is not easy to deal with; I don’t believe that she can tolerate a concubine climbing onto her head without abiding by the rules.” Madam Zhao thought for a bit, then whispered a few instructions to the maid.

Within two days, word spread throughout the palace that the concubine Ms. Li had no manners, showed no respect for her mistress, and even paraded around the market in a bright red dress.

Normally, a Main Consort could not tolerate such behavior from a concubine.

However, after waiting for two days, there was still no reaction from the Main Court.

Madam Zhao became a little restless and went to inquire about the situation.

The anticipated scene did not occur.

The new princess consort was neither infuriated nor showed a hint of jealousy or dissatisfaction.

She continued to lead a leisurely, slow-paced life.

Accompanied by a few maids, she spent her days eating, drinking, and playing in the courtyard.

Madam Zhao thought that she might not have received the news yet.

She found an opportunity to mention the matter in front of Jiang Ning.

“This Ms. Li is too unrestrained.”

"Oh, what's her background?" Jiang Ning asked casually while reclining on a lounge chair and reading

Huang Ying was beside her, fanning her with a fan.

Feeling slightly pleased, Madam Zhao hurriedly said, "Speaking of Ms. Li, she is just a concubine, but her relationship with our Prince of Yu is quite deep. A year ago, the Prince saved her from the mouth of a tiger during the hunt. She's an orphan, but she's extremely beautiful and delicate."

Jiang Ning picked up a cherry, popped it into her mouth, and asked, "Is she more beautiful than me?"

Madam Zhao glanced at her and forced a smile, "Orchids and jade trees, each has its own charm."

"Fine, I know. You can go back now." Jiang Ning waved her hand dismissively.

"Princess Consort, although Ms. Li enjoys the Prince's favor, she is still a concubine. She is so ignorant of the rules that you should reprimand her. Otherwise, people may say that our palace has lost the hierarchy of concubines and consorts." Madam Zhao said.

"I know."

"Princess Consort, won't you do something?"

"I can't." Jiang Ning replied bluntly.

"Why, why not?"

"I'm not in charge. Aren't you and Ms. Fang responsible for managing the inner courtyard?"

“Managing is just managing. As the main princess consort, you still should discipline disrespectful servants.”

“You’re still not leaving?”

II II

Madam Zhao left, fuming with anger.

Huang Ying laughed, “This Madam Zhao doesn’t seem very clever, daring to use the princess consort to deal with Ms. Li. How could Prince of Yu let her manage the household?”

“The Prince of Yu has just moved out from the palace and started living on his own, so let’s see how things go for now,” Jiang Ning said nonchalantly.

Huang Ying said, “Even so, that Ms. Li is quite arrogant. The princess consort has been in the palace for two days, and even two proper palace maids have come to visit and kowtow. Yet, this nameless and undistinguished concubine hasn’t even shown her face..”

Chapter 73: Harmonious Husband and Wife, Husband Leads and Wife Follows

“No choice, she is Prince of Yu’s favorite after all.” Jiang Ning reached out, “Let me taste if that watermelon is sweet.”

Chunlai asked, “So are we going to do anything about this?”

“Do? It’s none of our business. Is it because the watermelon tastes bad or that the storybook isn’t interesting enough? You’re too idle.” Jiang Ning rolled her eyes, “Come on, have some watermelon.”

Anyway, she had never considered herself a true princess consort.

Moving from Jiang Family to Prince of Yu's residence was nothing more than changing places to wait for death while eating good food.

As long as others didn't bother her easy life, she wouldn't care about anything.

As for Li Hongyuan, his absence for the past two days was just what she wanted.

It would be best if he never appeared in front of her for the rest of her life.

But she didn't expect to meet Prince of Yu again very soon.

Returning to her maiden home on the third day after marriage.

This was the rule.

It was impossible for both Prince of Yu's residence and Jiang Family to ignore such a rule.

It was a matter of reputation and face.

If it weren't for Huang Ying's reminder, Jiang Ning would have completely forgotten about this.

She didn't care much about the return visit, but she did miss her gentle and beautiful mother-in-law, Lin Zizi.

But the problem was, the husband was supposed to accompany her for the return visit.

If the man didn't go with her, not only would she become the laughing stock, but the entire Jiang Family would become a joke too.

That evening, the stewardess from the front courtyard came to remind her specifically that the prince would accompany her back the next morning.

Chunlai was surprised, "This servant thought that Prince of Yu wouldn't accompany the princess consort for the return visit. After all... how he treats the princess consort."

"He is accompanying me just to maintain his good reputation, and to gain favor from his father-in-law."

"But he's the prince, does he really need to gain favor from his subjects?" Chunlai didn't understand.

Jiang Ning said, "Jiang Ruobai is still a powerful Prime Minister. As a prince competing for the imperial throne, doesn't he need to win over the forces in the court? Besides, Jiang Ruobai is his father-in-law, so naturally he's already on his side."

Chunlai listened, stupefied.

Huang Ying smiled, "Princess consort should sleep early, this servant will go pack things."

Now that Jiang Ning was three months pregnant, after the initial discomfort, her body felt lighter, her appetite improved, and her sleep became more comfortable.

Everything was comfortable.

If it weren't for the occasional fetal movement, she would have almost forgotten that she was pregnant.

With the cool air in the room and the soft silk quilt, she slept soundly until late morning.

Li Hongyuan's face was as dark as the bottom of a pot.

When Huang Ying opened the door to let him in, he radiated a dark murderous aura.

The maids were frightened and retreated, not daring to approach.

He walked to Jiang Ning's bedroom door, pushed it, but didn't move it.

The door was still locked from the inside.

Li Hongyuan kicked the door open with one foot.

Jiang Ning sat up with her messy hair, "Is it daylight already?"

Huang Ying and Chunlai hurried in, whispering, "Princess Consort, you've been sleeping, and we couldn't wake you up no matter how much we called you from outside. We were so worried. Prince has been waiting outside for half an hour." "What is he waiting for?"

"Jiang Ning, has your brain been kicked by a donkey?" Li Hongyuan's forehead veins bulged, "I had someone remind you yesterday that we're returning to your maiden home today!"

Jiang Ning remembered.

It's said that a woman's intelligence declines during pregnancy, and her memory wasn't very good now.

"Since we're late, let's not go." Jiang Ning laid back down.

Li Hongyuan stepped forward and pulled her up, "You better get it straight, now I'm accompanying you to return to your maiden home!"

"Accompanying me? It's clear that I'm just acting in your play. I'm a bad actor and can't show togetherness and harmony between a couple. You should find someone else to play with.."

Chapter 74: My Old Eunuch's

Li Hongyuan sneered, "You ungrateful woman, do you really think this prince is begging for you?"

Jiang Ning smiled sweetly, "Anyway, it's just a play, you can find someone else.

I believe the Jiang family would be willing to accompany you. After all, no one outside knows my appearance. Even if you replace me with Miss Li, it's the same."

"Miss Li? Do you really think this prince wouldn't dare?"

"You think too highly of me, I really don't dare to look down on you."

"Jiang Ning, what are you up to? If you offend this prince, what good will it do you in this mansion?"

Jiang Ning, holding Huang Ying's hand, got out of bed, walked to the dressing table, and sat down, leisurely combing her hair: "We are all in a cooperative relationship. You can use me, it's fine. But you have to give me enough respect. Even a mud person has a temper, do you really think I'm just a plaything?"

Li Hongyuan asked the servants to leave.

When only the two of them were left in the room, he asked, "What do you want?"

Jiang Ning turned to look at him and said seriously, "It's simple, in this mansion, we don't interfere with each other. I won't eat your food, drink your drinks, or spend your money. But don't boss me around, and don't bother me. In return, I will cooperate with all your acting outside, absolutely professional."

Li Hongyuan's eyes were deep and unfathomable.

Jiang Ning continued, "I just want a safe, calm life, being content with little wealth. So, don't treat me as your enemy. As long as you don't bother me, I definitely won't interfere with you, nor will I seek any presence before you. You can do whatever you want with Miss Li, Ms. Wang, or whoever, no problem."
"You don't want the authority of a housekeeper in the prince's mansion?"

"I don't lack money to spend, so why would I find trouble for myself?"

"How long can your money last?"

"First, I'll spend the betrothal gifts, then the dowry. When the dowry is gone, I'll spend the Emperor's—my eunuch father's."

"What...?"

"Emperor Father gave me a lot of treasures, enough for me to have a carefree life." Jiang Ning clapped her hands, her eyes curling, "So happy, thank you, Your Majesty."

II II

Li Hongyuan coldly said, "Not going back to your family will not have much impact on me. But for you..."

"Prince, don't you understand my meaning?" Jiang Ning stood up, "I am very willing to accompany you to return to my family, but you have to know that I don't need you, and you shouldn't treat me as an enemy. Why don't we live in peace and benefit each other?"

In order to have a peaceful and carefree life in the future, she deliberately pretended to be sick in bed today to anger the Prince of Yu, which can be considered as risking her life.

She had to make the Prince of Yu know that she was not an enemy and didn't want anything from him. She could even help him, as long as he didn't mess around and no more incidents like that of two days ago would happen.

Li Hongyuan looked at her for a moment, then turned and walked out.

“Give you the time of one incense stick to get ready.”

He left a sentence behind.

Jiang Ning revealed a smile.

In less than the time of one incense stick, she was already sitting in a wheelchair, in front of Li Hongyuan, reaching out her hand—

Li Hongyuan frowned, but still helped her onto the carriage.

The return to her family went smoothly, with Jiang Ruobai personally greeting them with his son.

For some reason, Li Hongyuan felt a little worried whether this woman would suddenly become capricious and cause trouble for him.

However, from the time they arrived at the Jiang family, she behaved very appropriately.

Apart from Jiang Yuan’s jealous appearance, everything else was fine, and both hosts and guests were happy.

On the way back in the carriage, Li Hongyuan sat in the middle, occupying more than half of the space..

Chapter 75: Wait Until She Wakes Up to Discuss

Jiang Ning sat to one side, silent all the way.

Neither of them had anything to say.

As they approached the prince's residence, Li Hongyuan looked back and found that she had curled up in a corner, asleep against the carriage wall.

So sleepy?

She woke up so late in the morning, yet here she was sleeping again around noon.

The carriage slowed down and stopped. An attendant outside announced, "My Lord, we are here."

Li Hongyuan hopped out of the carriage.

The housekeeper's wife reached out to undraw the curtains, only to be stopped by Li Hongyuan.

"Wait a while."

The older woman was puzzled: "What are we waiting for?"

Even Li Hongyuan himself didn't quite understand his own behavior. He paused for a moment, then spoke lightly: "We will wait until she wakes up."

He went back to his residence first.

As soon as he had changed clothes, Miss Li from the Spring Breeze Garden brought tea and pastries.

She was adorably delicate and gently moving, like a weak willow caressed by a soft breeze.

"Your Highness has been away for half a day and must be tired. Our food outside must not suit your taste. This is a cake I made myself. Please have a bite."

“Just put it there.”

“May I massage your shoulders?” she offered, moving behind Li Hongyuan.

Li Hongyuan picked up a book and said coldly, “No need.”

He wasn’t a man of good temperament.

Ms. Li didn’t dare push too far and quickly bowed her head in obedience.

Li Hongyuan spared her a glance: “Who allowed you to dress like this? Go change.”

She was wearing a red pomegranate dress today.

It was newly made, especially for him to see.

Who knew he would not like it, his face dark and his tone harsh?

Ms. Li obediently withdrew to change.

In the afternoon, he had to visit the Emperor Father in the palace and only returned come dinnertime.

The prince’s residence was quiet.

There were not many people in the residence, to begin with.

Everyone around him knew of his bad temper, so the two palace maids didn’t dare to disturb him rashly.

Sitting at the dining table, looking at all the dishes, Li Hongyuan asked his attendant, "When did the Princess Consort return this afternoon?"

The attendant quickly replied, "My Lord, not long after you entered the palace, the Princess Consort left the carriage and returned."

"Did she have dinner over there?"

"It seems that she didn't."

"What do you mean 'seems'?"

"These days, the Princess Consort takes care of her own meals, clothes, and other necessities, buying her supplies from outside instead of relying on our residence. So... I am not very sure. I just asked, and the lights in the main court were already off. The Princess Consort must be tired after a day out and must have retired early," explained the attendant cautiously, "Shall I send some dinner over?"

"No need to bother about her." Li Hongyuan picked up his chopsticks.

After their wedding, Li Hongyuan hadn't visited Laurel Garden. He either went into the palace or attended to his own affairs. They both minded their own business, and Jiang Ning's days were quite happy.

So it went on for more than half a month, until the sixth day of the seventh month, which was Concubine Jin's fortieth birthday.

As it was her landmark birthday, a banquet was arranged in the palace.

As the emperor's biological son and daughter-in-law, Prince Yu and the Prince Consort of Yu were required to visit the palace to kneel and attend the banquet.

Early in the morning, Jiang Ning got up to sit in front of the mirror, selected her attire, and dressed as befitting a royal-appointed wife.

As she was putting on her skirt, Huang Ying laughed, “Princess Consort, you seem to have put on a little weight.”

“Hm?” Jiang Ning looked down.

She did seem to have a small belly now.

Chunlai laughed, “That’s true. This skirt was originally a bit loose, but it fits just right at the waist now.”

Jiang Ning gave a dry laugh, “It means we’re living well.”

She had been pregnant for more than four months already, it would be strange not to have a belly at all.

But she was originally very slender, and the wide robes and oversized sleeves hid it well, so you couldn’t really tell.

Prince Yu was already waiting.

He sat on his horse, dressed in exquisite prince attire. He was an extraordinarily handsome and statuesque figure, attracting much attention.

More than a half month since their marriage, they were even more distant than strangers, too indifferent to even glance at each other..

Chapter 76: The King Supports Her

Jiang Ning, holding Huang Ying and Chun Lai's hands, got into the carriage, and it set off slowly towards the Imperial Palace.

Because of her difficulty walking, Huang Ying stayed close to assist her.

Waking up too early and sitting in the swaying carriage, Jiang Ning felt a little sleepy.

When she got out of the carriage, she lifted her sleeve and covered a few yawns, just as Li Hongyuan turned his head and saw it.

He frowned.

This woman, why is she always tired as if she hasn't slept for hundreds of years.

If she yawns like this in front of Emperor Father and Concubine Mother, wouldn't it be disrespectful?

He felt that it was necessary to say a few words of advice, so he stood at the Immortal-view Gate, waiting for Huang Ying to push her over.

Who would've thought that they would just walk right past him...

Not to mention stopping, she didn't even bother giving him a glance.

She completely ignored him.

Li Hongyuan's eyebrows twitched, and he reached out and grabbed the wheelchair, saying to Huang Ying, "I will push her."

Huang Ying bowed her head and retreated, falling a few steps behind.

Jiang Ning leaned against the wheelchair, supporting her chin with one hand, looking around at the people coming and going indifferently.

Today was Concubine Jin's birthday celebration, and both outsider and insider noble ladies were present.

As for the Jiang Family...

There probably weren't many people coming.

Jiang Family's eldest Madam didn't have a decree and thus wasn't qualified to attend the palace banquet. Lin Zizi, connected to Jiang Ruobai, did have a decree, but her mental state hadn't been very good in recent years. Everyone in Chang'an City knew this, so she wasn't invited.

As for Jiang Yuan and the others, being concubine-born daughters, they could go to other aristocratic families, but not to the palace.

She looked around and didn't recognize anyone.

But it was Li Hongyuan pushing her wheelchair, this combination attracted a 100% turnaround rate of attention.

The elegant and handsome young Prince of Yu married a cripple, and the news caused quite a sensation in Chang'an City.

Li Hongyuan saw her eyes wandering everywhere and couldn't help but frown and speak, "Normally I don't care what you do at home. However, in this occasion, you'd better not disgrace me."

Jiang Ning said indifferently, "If you're worried I'll disgrace you, why bring me along? I might as well go back now and have your Miss Li come along instead. How about that?"

"If Ms. Li were here, she would probably be more appropriate than you. It's just a pity she doesn't have your face."

"Your Highness is really candid."

"I've always been upright and forthright."

Jiang Ning let out a soft chuckle.

Li Hongyuan heard it but ignored it, "I'm reminding you, don't act so lazy in front of Emperor Father, Queen Mother, and Concubine Mother later."

"So particular."

"What did you say?"

"Emperor Father himself steps on a stool, squats on the ground, and eats with a bowl in hand. You, as his son, are so particular."

"How can Emperor Father..." Speaking to this point, Li Hongyuan suddenly remembered Xiaoqian's words.

That was right, Emperor Father had eaten at her restaurant for two months.

It turned out that he, who had grown up so large, had never shared so many meals with Emperor Father at the same table.

It seemed that he, as a son, was not as close to Emperor Father as this woman.

Thinking about these things, he fell silent and stopped talking.

Jiang Ning enjoyed the peace.

The banquet would be held in Harmony Hall.

Li Hongyuan and Jiang Ning went to kowtow to Concubine Jin first.

Concubine Jin was lying on a couch, in a crimson long skirt, wrapped around her soft curves, her expression lazy and cold, making people dare not approach, only admire from afar.

Supported by others, Jiang Ning and Li Hongyuan knelt down and kowtowed to her.

“Your humble son wishes Concubine Mother a life of peace and tranquility, with evergreen trees in the Xuan Pavilion and warm days in the Xuanti courtyard with flowers in bloom..”

Chapter 77: I’m not his own child

After saying that, he held a brocade box in both hands and said, “This is the birthday gift from your son and the Princess Consort.”

Concubine Jin nodded slightly, her cold face showing no expression. She instructed the palace maids to take the box and said, “You may all stand up.”

Not even looking at the things inside the box.

Li Hongyuan stood up.

Jiang Ning assisted Huang Ying in standing up.

Concubine Jin glanced at Jiang Ning and said, "You can sit down."

"Thank you, concubine mother."

Jiang Ning had a good impression of this cold beauty and sat down immediately.

Concubine Jin seemed to be reluctant to talk, but she had to say something to her son and daughter-in-law. She asked casually, "Have you two been getting along well these days?"

Jiang Ning looked at Li Hongyuan.

Li Hongyuan answered, "Your son and the Princess Consort are doing well. Thank you for your concern, concubine mother."

Concubine Jin gave a hum and said, "In that case, you should have a child soon."

Li Hongyuan was silent for a moment and then smiled, "Your son will do as you say."

"Alright then, if there's nothing else, go and join the banquet. It's quite noisy outside, and I prefer the peace and quiet here."

"Yes, your son will leave now."

Li Hongyuan turned and left.

Huang Ying also pushed Jiang Ning and followed him.

This mother and son pair really didn't look like they were related at all.

But that was their family matter, and Jiang Ning was too lazy to worry about it.

All she had to do was come and eat, then go home and sleep.

When the banquet officially began, Jiang Ning saw a few familiar young girls, including Princess Ling'an from the draft selection day.

Princess Ling'an was sitting right across from Jiang Ning, staring at her with a resentful look.

Jiang Ning had heard that Princess Ling'an had admired the Prince of Yu for many years and had vowed to marry no one else.

Unfortunately, the prince did not care about love at all; he only cared about the benefits others could offer him.

"You little wretch!" Princess Ling'an held a pair of chopsticks in her hand and muttered under her breath while staring at Jiang Ning. She imagined that Jiang Ning was the fish on her plate and stabbed it repeatedly.

Jiang Ning glanced at her, poured a cup of tea, and brought it to Li Hongyuan's lips. She sweetly asked, "Prince, are you thirsty? Have some tea."

Li Hongyuan was talking to someone else when a cup of tea suddenly appeared in front of him. He looked at Jiang Ning in surprise.

Jiang Ning smiled, "Drink."

Li Hongyuan frowned, wondering what this woman was up to.

Had she put some knockout drug in the cup again?

"There are so many people here," Jiang Ning reminded him.

Li Hongyuan looked at her, opened his mouth—

Jiang Ning fed him a sip, then looked at Princess Ling'an.

Princess Ling'an's teeth were grinding.

Jiang Ning pulled up Li Hongyuan's sleeve, put it to her nose, and sniffed.

Princess Ling'an:"..."

Jiang Ning wrapped her arm around Li Hongyuan's, resting her face on his shoulder—

Li Hongyuan had been ignoring her the whole time, but now he couldn't pretend he wasn't aware of her actions.

This woman...

"Ahh, I can't stand it anymore!" Princess Ling'an exclaimed, standing up.

Everyone looked at her.

Princess Ling'an's face turned red. Thinking quickly, she picked up her wine cup, walked up to Jiang Ning, and said, "I heard that Prince of Yu can drink a thousand cups without getting drunk. As the Princess Consort of Yu, you must have a good tolerance as well. Why don't we have a drinking competition?"

Jiang Ning said, "The Prince of Yu can drink a thousand cups without getting drunk; you can go compete with him. I'm not his blood relative; can this ability be inherited?"

Li Hongyuan:"..."

Princess Ling'an said, "Do you dare not?"

"I don't dare."

"You..." Princess Ling'an felt like she had just punched a cotton ball. She was so frustrated she wanted to spit blood..

Chapter 78: You Are Pregnant

Princess Ling'an was already standing here, and her cup was raised. If she just turned around and left, it would be an enormous loss of face.

She simply turned to Li Hongyuan: "Your Highness, I have yet to congratulate you on your wedding."

Li Hongyuan lifted his wine cup, muttered a thank you, and took a sip.

Princess Ling'an looked at his handsome and fresh face, feeling bitter in her heart.

She felt like she was a chaste and loyal woman abandoned by a scumbag in a story.

So great, so brave, so wronged, and so pitiful...

Tears almost welled up in her eyes, moved by her own feelings. She lifted the wine, preparing to drink it all at once—

Just then, a sound of retching came.

Looking up, it was Jiang Ning.

She was holding a piece of sheep milk custard and was bent over, vomiting.

All eyes in the hall shifted from Princess Ling'an to her.

Princess Ling'an was pissed.

She was indulged in self-pity, self-emotion. This little slut was putting on a vomiting show right there. Who was she performing for?

Just because she had a drink with Prince of Yu, was she that jealous?

The atmosphere was ruined by her.

Princess Ling'an, in her anger, turned and left.

Li Hongyuan reached out and grabbed Jiang Ning's wrist, pulling her to his side.

To outsiders, it seemed like he was helping and caring for her, but in reality —

He was threatening her in a low voice: "Behave yourself, such an embarrassing act, who are you trying to impress?"

Jiang Ning lifted the sheep milk custard: "It's not because I find you two disgusting, it's just this thing is too hard to swallow."

"You—"

"Don't believe me, Your Highness, taste it yourself." Jiang Ning placed the remaining sheep milk custard at his lips.

Li Hongyuan was fighting the urge to kick her out.

Then, a noblewoman spoke: "Is the Princess Consort of Yu feeling unwell?"

Jiang Ning laughed, "Not really, it's just that this pastry, tastes a bit fishy."

The noblewoman laughed: "Oh, by the looks of it, it seems like you might be pregnant?"

Hu-

The hall was in an uproar.

The Emperor had five sons in total. Except for the eldest prince who died and left an emperor's eldest grandson, the second, third, and fourth sons were all married and had birthed six-seven children, all girls, without exception.

In other words, the Emperor had a lot of granddaughters, but only one grandson.

If the Princess Consort of Yu were to have a son, it would greatly strengthen the Fifth Prince's position in the struggle for the Imperial Throne.

But Prince of Yu had only been married for just over half a month, was the Princess Consort pregnant so soon?

Looking at the leg, it seemed too fertile.

Faced with everyone's complicated expressions, Li Hongyuan said: "The Princess Consort is just not used to the diet, she has lived a poor life since childhood. She's not pregnant."

Jiang Ning rolled her eyes in her mind.

Publicly stating that she's poor?

Fine.

So be it.

"Whether she is pregnant or not, shouldn't the Imperial Physician be the one to decide?" Concubine Jin, who had always been sitting at the head of the room, looking listless, spoke up, "Lai Fu, go call for the Imperial Physician."

Huang Ying also hurriedly pushed Jiang Ning behind the screen.

After all, she couldn't let the Imperial Physician check her pulse in front of everyone.

Soon, the Imperial Physician arrived.

Upon seeing him, Jiang Ning realized that he was an "old acquaintance", seeing him for the third time now.

She couldn't help but ask, "Is there only one Imperial Physician in the palace?"

Imperial Physician Wei laughed, "Princess Consort of Yu jests, it's purely a coincidence."

Jiang Ning replied, "Considering your medical skills, it's a miracle that you've managed to hold your position in the palace for so long. Okay, let's get started."

She stretched out her hand.

Imperial Physician Wei took out a silk handkerchief and covered it, carefully checking her pulse. After a while, he withdrew his hand and said with a smile, "Congratulations to the Princess Consort, you are pregnant.."

Chapter 79: Really Pregnant?

"Fine, I got it... Huh?" Jiang Ning muttered and suddenly realized something, looking up at him in disbelief, "What... did you say?"

Imperial Physician Wei stood up with a broad smile and cupped his hands, "You are with child, this is a pregnancy pulse."

Jiang Ning looked at him up and down, "You sure?"

"I have been a physician for thirty years, and have diagnosed countless cases; I can certainly be sure of this."

"Oh..." Jiang Ning dragged out the last syllable, "then listen, tell me, how many months am I?"

"The pulse is clear but weak, which means the pregnancy is not long. If I had to count, just over a month."

Huang Ying couldn't help but laugh at Jiang Ning's side.

Jiang Ning laughed too.

Just over a month.

This old man was going crazy.

What was he up to?

“Imperial Physician Wei, who instructed you to say this?” Jiang Ning couldn’t help but ask, “After all, you are an Imperial Physician. With a heart as a parent, should there be even half a truth in what we say?”

Imperial Physician Wei still had that smile on his face, “Every word this old man says is true.”

“Go away.”

Jiang Ning was extremely annoyed by his greasy face.

She knew she couldn’t get anything out of him, so she waved him away.

Although she hadn’t figured out the situation, she had a vague guess in her mind.

Who else could manipulate an Imperial Physician other than the Emperor?

Old Man Li had been pretending to be poor and asking for food from her all along, and he returned to his identity as an emperor after his recovery.

It would be strange if this matter had nothing to do with him.

She could almost be sure that Old Man Li knew who the child’s biological father was.

Following this line of thought, Old Man Li was the ruler, the Emperor. Would he let his own son wear a cuckold?

Definitely not.

Since he knew about her pregnancy and still allowed the Prince of Yu to marry her, it meant—

Jiang Ning shivered.

Could the child's birth father be the Prince of Yu?

Jiang Ning was frightened by this speculation.

Did the Prince of Yu ever... had relations with the original host?

However, thinking about the timeline, things didn't seem right.

Based on her current pregnancy, she had already been pregnant when she traveled through time.

Why didn't she have any recollection of this?

She didn't remember anything happening.

And judging by the performance of the Prince of Yu, he didn't seem to know about such a thing either.

Could it be Old Man Li's scheme?

It wasn't impossible.

Thinking back, more than three months ago, Old Man Li had brought a pot of wine and she got drunk after only one glass, and slept until the next afternoon.

At that time, she thought it was because the wine was too strong and her alcohol tolerance was too low.

Now that she thought about it...

If something really happened, it could only be that night.

Jiang Ning kept rubbing her chin, thinking for a long time.

After all this thinking, the only thing she could do was confront Old Man Li and ask him directly about the matter.

By this time, there was already a commotion outside.

Upon leaving, the Imperial Physician Wei informed Concubine Jin about the matter.

All the noble ladies were greatly surprised.

She was really pregnant.

Concubine Jin remained calm, looking at her son and saying, "Your wife is pregnant, it's a happy occasion. There is no need to stay here, take her home to rest."

Li Hongyuan replied with an affirmative and frowned slightly.

That woman was really pregnant?

At this moment, Huang Ying came out pushing the wheelchair.

Everyone's gaze was drawn to the beautiful face of the young girl in the wheelchair.

She was indeed pretty.

But somehow...

Lacking the noble elegance of a well-born young lady, she seemed more casual and careless.

This actually made it easy for people to overlook her beauty.

Li Hongyuan took the wheelchair and said, "Let's discuss this after we get back.."

Chapter 80: Abort the Child Immediately

On the way back, Jiang Ning leaned against the carriage dozing off when suddenly the curtain was lifted, and Li Hongyuan entered.

She glanced at him and ignored him.

Li Hongyuan sat across from her, looking at her yawning, and coldly said, "Tell me, whose child is it?"

Jiang Ning stopped yawning in astonishment: "What did you say?"

"Whose child is it?"

"Isn't it yours?"

"Heh." Li Hongyuan lowered his head and chuckled, "Are you really that foolish, or do you think I am as foolish as you? Do you really think I would believe your lies?"

He moved slightly closer to her, gazing into her eyes, "That night, we did not share a bed. You know this better than I do."

Jiang Ning coughed lightly, "What about the wedding handkerchief..."

Li Hongyuan pinched her fingers tightly, "Where did the scar on this finger come from?"

"I cut it while slicing fruit."

"Not a single word of truth from your mouth." Li Hongyuan sat straight, "I'm sorry, I had someone check it, the blood on the handkerchief wasn't from you losing your virginity. It was..."

"Shut up!" Jiang Ning yelled in embarrassment and anger.

Li Hongyuan stopped, then sneered coldly, "You did such a thing, but you don't dare to hear people talk about it."

"What are you talking about? Get out!"

"This is my carriage. If anyone should leave, it's you." Li Hongyuan's voice was cold and cruel, "Don't try to use your cunning to manipulate others. Judging by your behavior during this time, you must have been pregnant for more than a month."

Jiang Ning remained silent.

Li Hongyuan said, "It seems that you were already carrying a bastard child before marrying into the Wang family."

"Indeed, it's a bastard." Jiang Ning replied calmly, "Since Your Highness is so clever, I'm sure you can find out who the child's real father is."

"I don't care about such trivial matters. As for this bastard, just abort it."

"If you dare to do that, I guarantee you'll regret it."

“Still playing mysterious at this point.”

“Why don’t Your Highness use your clever mind to think about where I was living before I returned to the Jiang family, and who I came into contact with every day.”

Upon hearing this, Li Hongyuan’s expression changed slightly as if he thought of something.

Xiaoqian told him that Emperor Father had been eating at Jiang Ning’s restaurant for over two months.

Given Emperor Father’s infatuation with Lin Zizi back then, would he have been tempted when he saw this girl who looked so much like Lin Zizi?

Could it be that this child... was Emperor Father’s?

Li Hongyuan was shocked by this guess, his face pale.

He had married his own father’s woman; what was going on?

Li Hongyuan felt like flipping the carriage in a rage.

He wanted to throw this woman out of the carriage and make her abort the child immediately.

Despite the turmoil in his heart, his face remained calm. After a long silence, he asked, “Does Emperor Father know about this?”

“He probably does.”

“Good, very good.” Li Hongyuan was so angry that he laughed.

What on earth did that old man want to do?

Was he afraid of the Queen Mother and his concubine mother, so he didn't dare to bring a new woman to the palace?

That was just too cowardly!

Even if he was cowardly, he shouldn't have let him marry her.

Wasn't this a mess of seniority?

He began to doubt if he was really the Emperor's son.

What kind of father would do this to their own son?

Li Hongyuan felt like he was going to explode from anger.

Take a deep breath.

Another deep breath.

He suppressed his anger and coldly said, "When we get back, abort the child immediately."

Jiang Ning looked at him in surprise.

He didn't want his own child?

Didn't the royal family place great importance on heirs?