

## **Royal Marriage 91**

### Chapter 91: Request for Leave

Li Hongyuan returned home to change clothes and went to the study to read and write.

Usually, as soon as he picked up a book, he could immediately forget about everything else and immerse himself in it.

But now, no matter what he did, he couldn't calm down.

He only felt a mess in his heart.

He threw down the book, went to the martial arts training arena, practiced a sword routine, but the more he practiced, the more irritated he became.

Throwing the sword down, he rode off to drink.

As he rode, unconsciously, he arrived near the Jiang Family residence.

Looking at the entrance of the Jiang Family from a distance, he furrowed his brows for a moment, then returned to the Prince's residence and ordered the housekeeper to go to the Jiang Family and retrieve the annulment document.

The housekeeper was a bit baffled.

Retrieving the sent annulment document?

That wasn't the style of their master at all.

When had their master ever taken back something he had given away?

Wasn't that just slapping himself in the face?

Due to his disbelief, the housekeeper stood there, stupefied, without responding.

Li Hongyuan coldly said, "Can't you understand what this prince is saying? If you can't get the annulment document back, you'll be sleeping in the doghouse tonight!"

The housekeeper shuddered and turned to run.

He gasped as he arrived at the Jiang Family residence, told the guards his identity, and requested to see Prime Minister Jiang and Third Master Jiang.

The guards couldn't help but remember him.

It was he who personally delivered the annulment document.

When had the Jiang Family ever been given such a thing?

Those ladies from the Jiang Family who had run back home due to conflicts would always have their husbands come and kneel, apologized, and pleaded for them to return. No one had ever received an annulment document.

This was a great humiliation to the Jiang Family.

A gatekeeper of a prime minister, even a low-ranking official, held much reverence and respect from others.

So when they saw the housekeeper of the Prince of Yu residence, they naturally wouldn't give him a good attitude.

While talking with him, they didn't let him in or send the message.

Finally, the housekeeper got angry and said that if their masters' important matters were delayed, the guards wouldn't be able to afford the consequence.

The guards didn't dare to hinder the matters of the Jiang Family, and eventually sent someone to relay the message.

In the end, it was Jiang Yi who came out.

He should have returned to the Academy, but since Seventh Sister returned home pregnant, he hadn't gone back and planned to stay until the matter was resolved.

After all, their aged parents had finally found their long-lost sister who had been wronged, and as a brother, he naturally had to stand up for her.

"Isn't this the head housekeeper of the Prince of Yu residence?" said Jiang Yi with a smile. "What brings you here?"

Seeing him, the housekeeper felt relieved and quickly explained his purpose.

"Retrieve the annulment document?" Jiang Yi was astonished. "How could this happen? Was your prince so casual when he decided to send the annulment document, that he can just change his mind?"

The housekeeper was a bit embarrassed: "This... it's not... it's not our prince's intention, it's my mistake."

"Oh, so who are you to your prince, that he actually didn't want to divorce his wife, but you, the housekeeper, took the initiative to divorce his wife on his behalf?"

“Ah? No, no, no! I definitely didn’t mean that!”

The housekeeper was frightened, quickly waved his hands, and started to stammer.

Although he was the Prince’s housekeeper and had seen a lot in his lifetime, this matter of revoking an annulment document truly was the first time!

He continually bowed with a mournful face: “Third Master, please be kind, don’t make things difficult for me. If I cannot bring it back today, our prince will not spare me.”

“I would like to help you, but I really can’t. The annulment document is gone.” Jiang Yi spread his hands.

“Gone? Gone?”

“That’s right..” Jiang Yi stated, “Let’s not beat around the bush, and I’ll ask you straightforwardly: is it true that your prince regretted it, and now doesn’t want to divorce his wife anymore?”

Chapter 92: Sleeping in the doghouse tonight

The housekeeper wiped his sweat: “This... I’m not quite sure myself. I’m just following orders.”

Jiang Yi sneered: “This is really ridiculous. When it comes to divorcing a wife, you send a manager to deliver the divorce letter. Now that he has changed his mind, you casually send you to get it back. What, is our Jiang family’s daughter so easy to bully?”

“No, this... actually, His Highness is quite busy and can’t spare the time...”

“Then don’t change your mind.”

“No, Third Master, please return the divorce letter. After all, the princess consort is your own sister. You can’t just stand by and watch her get divorced, can you?”

“Little Master doesn’t care about this. Our mansion has been arranging people to introduce Seventh Sister to other families these past few days. She will always marry out.”

“This, this...” the housekeeper sweated profusely, “Then, Third Master, what do you suggest we do to convince you to return the divorce letter?”

“Since my sister has been wronged in your mansion, her brother-in-law should naturally come in person to apologize and show some sincerity. Otherwise, why should we forgive him and go back with him?” Jiang Yi smiled, “Housekeeper, you must admit that this request isn’t too much, right?”

“This...”

“Housekeeper, please go back and convey this message to your prince. Give him seven days to come and apologize in person and take my sister back.

Otherwise, we will arrange for her to remarry someone else. Close the door and see the guest off!”

After saying that, Jiang Yi left with a flick of his sleeve.

The housekeeper dejectedly returned to the Prince of Yu’s mansion.

Seeing that he had returned empty-handed and with a saddened face, Li Hongyuan knew that the task had not been accomplished.

Actually, he didn’t expect the housekeeper to get the divorce letter back so easily either.

If it were that easy, Prime Minister Jiang wouldn’t be Prime Minister Jiang.

He had stolen the Emperor's dream lover back then, and he was still alive and well, even becoming a prime minister. How could he be underestimated?

The housekeeper carefully repeated Jiang Yi's words.

"Seven days? So, he's returning the words I said to him." Li Hongyuan sneered, "Asking me to come and apologize in person, how high and mighty the Jiang family's door is."

The housekeeper whispered: "This servant has heard that none of the daughters of the Jiang family have been bullied by their husband's family. Whenever they suffer even the slightest grievance, the husband's family has to come and kneel down to apologize."

"Kneel down and apologize?"

"No, Third Master Jiang didn't say that. But you really have to go there in person." To avoid sleeping in the dog house, the housekeeper did his best to encourage the reconciliation, "The princess consort is pregnant with your child. If not for anything else, do it for the child's sake."

Li Hongyuan frowned when the child was mentioned.

"I know. Get out." Li Hongyuan waved, "You can leave now."

The housekeeper let out a sigh of relief and happily turned to leave.

Just as he reached the door, he heard a sentence from behind him –

"Sleep in the doghouse tonight."

Housekeeper's eyes filled with tears of frustration.

What did he do to deserve this?

The Jiang family gave them a seven-day deadline.

During the first few days, there was no movement.

Li Hongyuan went to court, dealt with matters, drank with colleagues and friends, and didn't delay any of it.

On the sixth day, Li Hongyuan was discussing matters with two staff members when the housekeeper came stumbling in, shouting: "Your Highness, it's, it's not good!"

"What's wrong?"

"This servant just got news from outside that our princess consort went to the Prosperity Teahouse today!"

"So?"

One of the staff members said: "Prince might not be aware, but the second floor of the Prosperity Teahouse is a place where many wealthy families arrange for their young men and women to meet."

"Meet for what?"

"For blind dates."

"Blind dates?" Li Hongyuan paused..

Chapter Ninety-Three: Is This World Going to Fall Apart?

The housekeeper was a bit anxious: "If the princess consort is going on a blind date, and if things get settled, it'll be too late."

Li Hongyuan waved his hand to dismiss his two aides.

After they left, he sneered: "I don't believe there's a man bold enough to marry my woman."

The housekeeper cautiously reminded him: "You've sent her the divorce letter. The princess consort is no longer one of us."

Li Hongyuan was furious: "Just divorced and she's already dating? Does this woman have no decency?"

The housekeeper didn't dare to respond, thinking to himself: You've divorced her, stated in the divorce letter 'to part ways for a better life', allowing her to find her happiness. So why are you now upset at her seeking happiness?

But even with a hundred times the courage, he wouldn't dare to voice these thoughts.

Li Hongyuan asked again: "Who is the man dating her?"

"It's the Thirteenth Young Master of the Marquis of Dongyuan family."

"Wenren Zong?"

"Yes, Thirteenth Young Master Wenren."

Li Hongyuan's eyes cooled slightly.



If there was anyone in the capital who dared to take his things, apart from his few despicable brothers, it would probably only be Wenren Zong, the Thirteenth Young Master of the Wenren family.

The Thirteenth Young Master's experiences were somewhat legendary.

His mother, when she was pregnant with him, went to the temple to pray and got caught in a heavy rain, taking shelter in the same temple as the Empress Dowager. The Empress Dowager was the biological mother of the Emperor and the imperial grandmother of Li Hongyuan—

Of course, she's passed away now.

Back then, Wenren Zong's mother went into labor in the temple. When the baby was born, his cries were extraordinarily loud, even the Empress Dowager in the next room was startled and came over to see what was happening. But within a short while, a lightning bolt struck the room the Empress Dowager was previously in, causing a large part of the ceiling to collapse.

If the Empress Dowager had been in the room at that time, the consequences would have been unimaginable.

Everyone broke out in cold sweat.

One could say that Wenren Zong, who had just been born, saved the Empress Dowager's life.

After that, she had a special care and affection for Wenren Zong, even recognising him as her foster grandson.

The favor she showed him far exceeded that to her own grandsons.

Wenren Zong was indeed exceptionally talented, excelling in both literature and martial arts. At the age of twenty, he'd already passed the imperial examination and is now serving as Jingzhao Magistrate of Chang'an City.

Young and unprecedented, his future was believed to hold limitless potential.

If Li Hongyuan was the dream of noble women in the capital, then Wenren Zong was the man every common girl in Chang'an wanted to marry.

Although Wenren Zong's accomplishments and talents shine bright, he wasn't without flaws.

He was rather tough, taking everything extremely seriously. Accustomed to handling and presiding over cases as the Magistrate of Jingzhao, he wouldn't let anyone trample on the royal laws of the Great Sheng Dynasty.

In short, he was a particular person who was hard to deal with.

Moreover, he was allies with the second prince.

The second prince was the hot favorite for the position of crown prince.

This naturally placed him at odds with Li Hongyuan.

Li Hongyuan only admired his talent and didn't like him as a person.

Prime Minister Jiang had actually arranged for his daughter—Jiang Ning—to meet Wenren Zong. And the Wenren family had even agreed to him going to meet her.

Regardless of anything, Jiang Ning was a divorced woman and even pregnant, too!

The Wenren family wasn't disgusted by that?

Was the world going to fall into chaos?

Seeing him silent, the housekeeper softly suggested, "This Thirteenth Young Master might really dare to marry our princess consort. Your highness, you should go stop it."

Li Hongyuan was silent for a moment before he returned to his desk and picked up his book to read.

The housekeeper:"??"

His lord really wasn't in a hurry?

"Your highness, if you cannot bring yourself to intervene, this servant can think of a way for you."

"Keep your bad ideas to yourself. Don't let them rot outside your belly.."

Chapter Ninety-Four: Thirteen Hears People

Housekeeper scratched his head: "So, do nothing?"

"It's their own choice. If they want to meet for a potential marriage, let them."

"But... Princess Consort is still carrying your baby?"

Li Hongyuan picked up the pen and said casually: "Is the child Jiang Ning is carrying mine?"

"Yes."

"What kind of person am I?"

"You are His Majesty's Fifth Prince, Prince of Yu."

“Then, my child, what would he be to my Emperor Father?”

“He would naturally be the emperor’s grandson.”

Li Hongyuan glanced at the housekeeper, neither hurried nor slow, and said, “Do you think our Emperor would allow his own grandson to live in a subject’s house and recognize that subject as his father?”

The housekeeper was momentarily stunned but then shook his head like crazy: “That’s impossible, absolutely not!”

His Majesty had been of advanced age, but so far, there had been only one grandson, and the father of the grandson had passed away.

None of his other four sons had yet produced sons of their own.

Succession was the most important thing for the royal family. If any prince could produce a grandson first, they would have the upper hand in the struggle for the position of Crown Prince.

The housekeeper immediately smiled and said happily: “Your Highness is wise. Even if we don’t do anything, His Majesty wouldn’t stand idly by and watch the grandson enter the subject’s house.”

However, despite saying this, the housekeeper felt it necessary to keep an eye on the situation and report any updates to Li Hongyuan in a timely manner.

Prosperity Teahouse.

Jiang Ning sat next to Old Madam Jiang, quietly eating a small amount of dessert.

Old Madam Jiang was the head of Jiang family’s main house, and Jiang Ruobai’s sister-in-law

Old Master Jiang, Jiang Mubai, spent most of his time in the southwestern army, and the main house's family matters were managed by the old lady and Madam.

On the surface, the two brothers, Old Master Jiang and Second Master, held different views and had a strained relationship.

However, in reality, the women and younger generations of Jiang family's two houses had a good relationship.

Due to Lin Zizi's health, she couldn't go out and meet people. So all major decisions regarding Jiang family's children were taken care of by Madam Ge.

Including this time, taking Jiang Ning to see Madam Wenren.

Madam Wenren was good at giving birth and had seven daughters. Wenren Zong, her youngest son, was born late in her life, but the family did not indulge or spoil him.

Although Madam Wenren was not young, she was energetic, gentle, and courteous, representing a typical noblewoman.

She sat across from Ge and Jiang Ning, and behind a screen sat Wenren Zong.

Although the folk customs of the Great Sheng Dynasty were open, men and women could meet each other before getting married; however, they still could not sit together openly and bluntly.

Some avoidance was necessary.

Madam Wenren looked at Jiang Ning and asked, "If you marry into Wenren family, what will you do with the child in your stomach?"

Madam Ge smiled and said, "This child belongs to our Jiang family, and naturally we will raise it."

Madam Wenren nodded, neither agreeing nor objecting.

She didn't say it was okay but also didn't say it wasn't okay.

It was all Madam Ge who was doing the talking.

In such an awkward situation, someone like her was necessary.

When the meeting ended, Madam Wenren called her son over to say goodbye to them.

Jiang Ning looked up at the screen.

A tall figure stood up on the other side and walked around—

He was wearing a black robe with a silver crown tying his hair up.

His face was stern.

Compared to Li Hongyuan, although this Thirteenth Young Master Wenren was not as beautiful and dazzling, he appeared to be a low-key, refined, and abstinent man.

"Madam Jiang, Seventh Miss Jiang." Wenren Thirteen greeted them politely.

Madam Ge's eyes lit up: "Thirteenth Young Master is indeed extraordinarily talented."

After returning home, Madam Wenren said, "I will discuss this with my family." She stood up, and along with her son, they left..

Chapter 95: If Prime Minister Jiang dares to marry her off, the child will dare to marry her.

On the way back in the carriage, Madam Wenren shook her head: "This girl, she looks just like her mother, so incredibly beautiful."

Wenren Zong said, "Is it bad to be beautiful?"

"What's the use? She's already married to the Prince of Yu."

"The Prince of Yu has divorced her."

"Thirteen, don't trouble your mother. I know you can't possibly marry her. She's carrying the child of the Prince of Yu; our Wenren Family would never stoop to that. Besides, His Majesty would never allow it." Madam Wenren said.

Wenren Zong said, "Mother should know that the Prince of Yu is the most powerful opponent of the King of Chen."

"That's true, but... do we, the Wenren Family, really want to get involved in this? If we fail, the consequences would be unimaginable." Madam Wenren shook her head slightly.

Wenren Zong said, "From the day you married Eighth Sister to the King of Chen, we, the Wenren Family, have had no choice."

Madam Wenren sighed, "Speaking of which, this girl from the Jiang Family would be quite a match for you. It's a pity we were a step late. With her situation... don't think about it."

Wenren Zong said, "If Prime Minister Jiang dares to marry her off, I dare to marry her."

"Does he dare?"

“Why wouldn’t he? We’ve already come out to meet each other, haven’t we?” Wenren Zong said, “By the time we left the teahouse, there had already been five groups of followers nearby. Those who should know probably already know.”

“So, you’re really going to marry her?”

“Seventh Miss Jiang is as beautiful as a flower and has a gentle temperament, I think she’s great.”

“But she’s been married and has a child.”

“Mother, when you married father, didn’t you also have Eldest Sister with you?”

Madam Wenren smiled and scolded, “You’re good at poking at people’s wounds.”

“Your son wouldn’t dare.” Wenren Zong sat up straight, looking serious, “I just think it doesn’t matter. I believe Mother wouldn’t think that a woman who has been married and had a child no longer has the right to marry again.”

“My objection isn’t because she’s been married, nor is it because of her leg disability.” Madam Wenren said calmly, “I object because your motive is impure.”

Wenren Zong raised an eyebrow slightly.

Madam Wenren said bluntly, “You’re not marrying her because you like her, but to help King Chen suppress Prince of Yu and to disgust Prince of Yu. I can understand your position as a courtier assisting King Chen’s plans, but you shouldn’t gamble your own lifelong happiness for this. It’s not fair to Seventh Miss Jiang either.”

Wenren Zong said, “Mother, do you think that the Prince of Yu married Seventh Miss Jiang because he likes her?”

“It’s not my place to comment on what others do. But you’re my son, and that’s why I’m talking.”



"Mother, you've said that Seventh Miss Jiang is very good." Wenren Zong said, "Can you be sure that the girl chosen for me at home would definitely be someone I like?"

Madam Wenren was speechless.

Of course, she couldn't guarantee that.

"But you're marrying her for your own purpose. That's not good."

"Purpose and liking are not necessarily conflicting."

"What do you mean?"

"Since Seventh Miss Jiang is so good, why does Mother think that I wouldn't grow to like her in the future?"

"I can't win against you." Madam Wenren snorted, "If you have the courage, go ahead and marry her. Let's see if the Prince of Yu can spare you."

Wenren Zong smiled, "As long as Mother agrees."

"What's there for me not to agree to? When you bring your wife home, it's not like she'll be living with me. This pampered girl from the Jiang Family won't be easy to serve. You'd better not regret it.."

Chapter 96: The Aroma of Jiang Family's Mo Mo'er

Wenren Zong said, "In that case, I'll have to trouble my mother to go to the Prime Minister's Mansion to propose the marriage."

Madam Wenren sighed, "I still feel that this isn't quite right."

Wenren Zong's expression was serious, "Mother knows my character. Whoever I marry, I will treat her well and take care of her with all my heart. I will never let her suffer any grievances."

"I'm not worried about that, but what about Prince Yu...?"

"Prince Yu doesn't want her anymore."

"I'm not a stickler for such things. This concerns your lifelong happiness."

Think it through carefully."

"I have never made a wrong decision. Just like when I make judgments in the court, I have never wronged a good person, nor have I spared a guilty one." "Yes, you are a good official, and your judgments are top-notch. But this is about getting married. You are still young. Don't make hasty decisions." "Mother, please prepare to propose."

Seeing his unwavering attitude, Madam Wenren decided not to persuade him further.

After she returned home, she discussed it with her family members. And surprisingly, everyone agreed unconditionally.

The Wenren family unanimously agreed to Wenren Thirteen marrying the third daughter of the Jiang family, Jiang Ning.

This was understandable.

After all, the Wenren family was practically tied to the King of Chen, the second prince.

Marrying Jiang Ning would not only draw in the considerable power of the Jiang family but also strike a blow to their mortal enemy, Prince Yu.

It was a win-win situation.

Moreover, with Wenren Zong's insistence, Madam Wenren eventually conformed to the majority and made up her mind. She began to make preparations and asked a respectable noblewoman to propose to the Jiang family.

The Jiang family didn't expect the Wenren family to agree so quickly.

It was quite surprising.

Wenren Zong had a high status and was talented. His judgments in court had even been praised by the emperor.

Such a talented young man would be eligible to marry a princess.

Yet he wanted to marry the divorced wife of Prince Yu.

Were the Jiang girls really that attractive?

After Prince Yu had married Jiang Ning, Wenren Thirteen immediately stepped in.

Many ladies gritted their teeth in envy.

But there was nothing they could do.

It was the couple's choice to be together.

Who could blame them for having good parents?

Jiang Ning was enjoying the coolness of the ice basin in her room when Jiang Yi came to tell her about the Wenren family's marriage proposal.

She almost dropped the cake in her hand.

"Proposing marriage?"

"Yes." Jiang Yi smiled, looking very pleased, "Compared to Prince Yu, I admire Wenren Thirteen more. He is upright, and his judgments are divine. He will be a good match."

"I'm pregnant now. How can I get married?"

Jiang Ning felt that this world was a little confusing.

Everyone said that the Wenren family was a prestigious noble family, and Wenren Thirteen was so outstanding. Wouldn't it be better for him to marry an equally well-matched young lady?

Instead, he wanted a divorced and pregnant woman like her. If you said he didn't have ulterior motives, only a ghost would believe you.

Jiang Yi said, "The Wenren family is very decent, and they have never been involved in anything scandalous."

"I won't marry him."

"Seventh sister, are you still thinking about Prince Yu?"

"Think about him my ass."

"Don't use foul language." Jiang Yi pressed down on her head, "Prince Yu is too much to bully, driving you back home while you're still pregnant and then sending the divorce letter. We'll marry someone even better, and let him know that Jiang family's daughters never have trouble getting married."

Jiang Ning shook her head, "I won't stoop to that level. It's childish. I'm not going anywhere. I'll stay at home and give birth to this child."

"Then why did you go for the matchmaking?"

"Aunt said she would take me out for a walk. I didn't know it was for matchmaking beforehand. Otherwise, I definitely wouldn't have gone." Jiang Ning shook his sleeve, "Third Brother, I don't want to get married.."

Chapter 97: If there is a bite for your brother, there is a sip for you.

Jiang Yi laughed and said, "You can tell Dad that whether you marry or not is up to you. Our Jiang family can support you without any trouble."

"What if dad disagrees?"

"Then Third Brother will provide for you."

"Thank you, brother!" Jiang Ning smiled.

Jiang Yi touched her head and laughed, saying, "You look so much like Mom when she was young. Seeing you makes me happy. Ever since you came back, Mom's spirits have improved a lot too. It's great."

"Third Brother, aren't you going to study at the Academy anymore?"

"I've been delaying going back. The Academy has been urging me several times already."

"You should focus on your studies. It's important for your future prospects."

"Do you really care for me that much?"

"If you don't pass the examination and have a good future, who will support me?"

"Hahaha." Jiang Yi laughed heartily, feeling very happy. He patted his sister's head and affectionately said, "Don't worry, as long as there's food for me, there'll be drink for you."

"Look at you! I'm not kidding anymore. Right now, Aunt is talking with someone who came to propose marriage. If you're not willing, you'd better hurry and tell Dad and Mom in person."

"Third Brother, give me a push."

"Naturally."

Jiang Yi pushed her wheelchair to the front yard and ran into Jiang Yuan on the way.

Jiang Yuan sweetly called out "Third Brother" first and then looked at Jiang Ning, scoffed, "You really know how to get yourself into trouble. Even the Thirteenth Young Master of the Wenren family wants to marry you. Are you trying to piss someone off?"

"You seem to be quite alive to me."

"You—"

"Third Brother, let's go. If we're late, it'll be too late. Aunt's temper will probably make her agree early on."

“Don’t worry, I’ll fly you there.”

Jiang Yi pushed her wheelchair at a jog, rushed to the front yard, and found Jiang Ruobai.

Jiang Ruobai was in the study. Seeing his sibling duo rushing over, he frowned, “Be careful. Seventh Sister is pregnant. Watch out.”

Jiang Ning laughed, “It’s okay, I’m fine. Dad, hurry up and reject the Wenren family’s marriage proposal.”

“Why reject it?”

“I can’t accept my child having a stepfather, I mean, a stepfather!”

“Don’t worry, when the child is born, our Jiang family will raise it as our own grandchild with the Jiang surname. Even if the Wenren family wanted to raise it, they wouldn’t have a chance!”

“Dad, you know that this child is Prince of Yu’s, right?”

“Your father knows. But what can we do if the Prince of Yu doesn’t want us?” Jiang Ruobai sneered, “We gave him seven days, but he didn’t come to pick you up. Do you still have any illusions about him? Your father wants to marry you off just to spite them to death!”

Jiang Ning:”...”

She had no doubt that the “them” Jiang Ruobai was referring to were Emperor Li Changgeng and his son, Prince of Yu Li Hongyuan.

A court official competing against an emperor and his son, wasn’t this simply courting death?

“Dad, calm down, don’t be impulsive.” Jiang Ning tried to persuade him earnestly, “The Emperor’s mind is unpredictable. What if he gets upset and makes things difficult for you? Our little arms can’t compete against their big legs.”

“With your father here, what are you afraid of? Just marry him. Although Wenren Zong is not as noble as the Prince of Yu, he is still a rare talent. Marrying him won’t be a loss for us.”

“I don’t want to.”

Jiang Ning thought to herself that she had finally found a reliable identity for her child and successfully got rid of the Prince of Yu. She could live a carefree life with food and drink. Why would she deliberately jump into a pit?

Even if others didn’t care, after all, this was ancient times. She was a woman who had been married, had a child, and if she were to marry the cultured and refined Wenren Thirteen, people would inevitably say that she was not worthy of him..

Chapter 98: A Daughter Should Be a Chaste and Virtuous Woman

Isn’t she just asking for trouble?

Jiang Ning firmly declined. (f)reewe(b)

Jiang Ruobai said, “Daughter, if you refuse this marriage proposal, it will be difficult to find a better one in the future.”

“I won’t look for one. Dad, do you dislike your daughter so much that you’re anxious to marry me off?”

“Oh, how could Dad dislike you? I love you so much. That’s why I’m trying to find you the best man. If the Prince of Yu is not suitable, then let’s switch to Wenren Zong.”



“No! No!”

“Why not? You have to give a reason. If you can convince Dad, I will refuse this marriage.”

“Because, because...”

“Is it because you still have feelings for the Prince of Yu?”

“Ah?” Jiang Ning was startled, then quickly nodded, “That’s right, that’s the reason!”

Jiang Yi asked, “Seventh Sister, have you fallen for the Prince of Yu?”

“Yes... I guess.”

“Sigh.” Jiang Ruobai sighed, “What do you see in him?”

Jiang Ning:“???”

Weren’t you the one who was eager to become his father-in-law?

Now that my daughter’s married off, you’re still saying this. Do you want her to be married to one man but have her heart set on another?

Perhaps realizing that his words were indeed somewhat inappropriate, Jiang Ruobai coughed lightly, “What I meant was, it’s hard to know the true character of the Prince of Yu. I thought he was a good man, but he turned out to be a deceitful one. My dear daughter, it’s not too late for you to escape.”

“I can’t escape, I just like him!” Jiang Ning spoke righteously.

“He has divorced you...”

“Even if he divorced me, I still like him! There’s only him in my heart, and I can’t marry another man!”

“Isn’t that a bit extreme?”

“A woman can’t marry twice. I swear to be a chaste heroine! I’ll win a chaste archway for our Jiang Family!”

Jiang Ruobai exchanged glances with his son.

His daughter really lacked insight.

What to do?

The Prince of Yu didn’t want her anymore, yet she still had her heart set on him, wanting to be what...a chaste heroine?

What nonsense.

The Jiang Family doesn’t need a chaste archway.

Can it be eaten or drunk?

Why not choose a young, handsome, and promising man?

Such a stubborn girl.

Jiang Ruobai wished he could shake Jiang Ning’s head awake, but he couldn’t bear to.

“Daughter, think it over.”

“My stomach is not well...”

“Alright, alright, if you don’t want it, you don’t want it.” Jiang Ruobai quickly stood up, “I’ll go reply to them now.”

At this moment, Jiang Yuan suddenly walked out from the door and said hesitantly, “Dad.”

“Oh, Fifth Sister, what is it?”

“Dad, I’m older than Seventh Sister.” Jiang Yuan said shyly, “Since Seventh Sister doesn’t want this marriage proposal, then...”

Jiang Ruobai was no fool, he could easily understand his fifth daughter’s intentions.

He thought about it. Since Jiang Ning didn’t want it, it wouldn’t be a bad idea to arrange this marriage for his fifth daughter.

After all, daughters grow up and need to get married.

“Alright, you go with me and meet Lady Yuan first.”

“Thank you, Dad!”

Jiang Yuan was overjoyed and quickly straightened her skirt, following Jiang Ruobai out.

Seeing Jiang Ruobai walk away quickly, Jiang Ning let out a sigh of relief.

Jiang Yi sighed, "Look, as soon as you refused, someone else took the offer. Wenren Zong is actually a really good choice."

"Then we should congratulate Fifth Sister on her upcoming good marriage."

"And you..."

"Third Brother, it's so hot today. I'll make grass jelly and taro balls for you to eat, is that okay?" Jiang Ning quickly changed the subject.

"What jelly?"

"My cooking is okay. Come on, give it a try."

"Alright, I can't do anything about you."

The siblings headed towards the kitchen.

Thinking of the free and easy days ahead, as well as the comfort of being in the middle of her pregnancy, Jiang Ning was in high spirits and itching to make some dessert..

Chapter 99: Silky, Tender

Although Jiang Yi promised to go with her, it was purely to please her, and he had no real intention of eating her so-called... grass jelly.

Just hearing the name, he knew it couldn't be good.

He said persuasively, "Seventh Sister, if you're not feeling well and want to eat something, just ask the kitchen to make it."

"The people in the kitchen don't know how to make it."

"Oh, then I'll go out and buy it for you."

"You won't be able to purchase it."

"How come?" Jiang Yi laughed, "Our Chang'an City is the richest place in the world. As long as we have money, is there anything we can't buy to eat?"

Jiang Ning gave him a glance, "Brother, your perspective is rather limited."

"What do you mean?"

"You have a good education, but don't be a frog in a well, go out and see the world."

"What...frog? From which well?"

"It means a frog squatting in the bottom of a well can only see a small piece of sky above its head. It means it's never seen the world."

"Are you saying I'm a country bumpkin who has never seen the world?"

"Something like that."

"Heh." Jiang Yi chuckled, thinking that Seventh Sister had been raised among a family of restaurateurs over the years and probably hadn't studied much either, but she was full of wisdom.

After reaching the kitchen, Jiang Ning asked for a workstation and had Chunlai and Xiachu bring all the ingredients over.

Materials like grass jelly powder, taro balls, peanuts, red beans, and the like were piled up on the table.

Seventh Miss personally cooked, and the kitchen maids all gathered to watch.

But they were driven away by Chunlai.

What's valuable in these days?

Secret recipes, of course.

She had previously tasted the delicious food made by the Princess Consort while living in the royal palace, and it was indeed delicious.

It was a taste she had never experienced before.

Such a secret recipe, naturally, could not be easily revealed to others.

Chunlai and Dongxie drove everyone away, only leaving Huang Ying to help by their side.

Jiang Ning didn't really care, as it was not her own secret recipe to begin with. But having fewer people made it quieter and cleaner, preventing chatty mouths from splashing saliva everywhere.

She planned to make taro balls and then cooked grass jelly, which would be stored in an ice cellar to cool.

Once the grass jelly was done, she placed it in a basin, added cooked taro balls, red beans, peanuts, and chopped fruits, and then poured sheep milk.

Stir with chopsticks.

The cold, sweet, and soft grass jelly taro balls were ready.

Huang Ying watched with amazement.

Jiang Yi, on the other hand, was dumbfounded.

He thought Seventh Sister was just fooling around in her free time, but she moved quickly and efficiently, like a flowing stream, making even him, who had never liked kitchens, feel refreshed.

This strange-looking thing she made was also odd.

He had never seen it before.

It looked watery and messy, could it be edible?

Jiang Ning scooped some into a small bowl and handed it to him, "Brother, have a taste."

Jiang Yi hesitated for a moment, looking at the dark mixture and thinking that since Seventh Sister made it by her own hands, he certainly had to eat it. Even if it made him sick for three days, he decided to accept his fate.

With that thought in mind, Jiang Yi picked up the spoon, closed his eyes, stomped his foot, and ate.

A mouthful of grass jelly entered his mouth –

Hmm, it was slippery, tender, cool, sweet, and slightly milky.

He looked down at it in surprise and quickly took another bite.

Jiang Ning grinned, "Try the taro balls."

Jiang Yi immediately stuffed a purple taro ball into his mouth.

Soft, glutinous, and cool.

In this hot weather, it chilled him right to his core.

Delicious.

It was too delicious.

He didn't care about talking, swallowing down half a bowl in one breath, still unsatisfied.

Jiang Ning immediately added another bowl to his portion, quite considerately.

This time, Jiang Yi savored each bite, his eyes sparkling nonstop..

Chapter 100 I Don't Want

Jiang Ning served herself a bowl and said to Huang Ying, "Help yourself, call Chunlai and the others to come eat as well. It's such a hot day, it'll be nice to cool down."

Huang Ying wasn't one to indulge in food, but seeing the Third Young Master's reaction, she couldn't help but want to taste it.



She immediately called Chunlai and the others over.

As soon as these servant girls heard that the Princess Consort had finished cooking, they rushed right in.

They had a different relationship with Jiang Yi.

Jiang Yi had never tried the dishes made by the Princess Consort, but during their time at the Prince of Yu's mansion, these girls had been lucky enough to have them several times.

Whether it was rice or other dishes, they were all deliciously irresistible.

And today, it was dessert, which was even more tempting.

In such hot weather, who wouldn't want to enjoy something cold, sweet, and refreshing?

The servant girls lined up, each taking a bowl, squatting at the kitchen doorway forming a row, eating with glee.

The kitchen staff were left speechless at the sight.

These young maids who usually serve in the backend, often acting as half-mistresses, didn't usually stoop down to coming to such places as kitchens.

But here they were today, squatting by the door and eating.

Could it be that the food made by Seventh Miss was that good?

Jiang Yi gobbled up three bowls in one go, heaved a sigh of relief and said, "Seventh Sister, the food you made is incredibly delicious! I've never tasted anything like it in my lifetime."

Jiang Ning, nibbling on her taro balls, smiled and said, "It's nothing, quite ordinary."

She wasn't being modest.

The dishes she made, including these desserts, were all quite common and simple.

They were not considered extraordinary culinary skills in modern times.

However, anyone who tasted her cooking here couldn't help but be amazed.

Jiang Ning could only sigh that food in ancient times was too monotonous, too bland.

Especially in the Great Sheng Dynasty, where the food mainly consisted of stews.

No matter what ingredients, they were always served stewed.

There weren't many seasonings used either, other than fumes, not much else was common.

It's understandable if the poor couldn't afford this, but families like the Prince of Yu's mansion and the Jiang family, although not poverty-stricken, also didn't have much variety in their dishes.

In short, the culinary culture here was too backward, so that even simple dishes she made could mesmerize everyone.

At first, Jiang Ning couldn't understand their exaggerated reactions, but now, she could calmly watch their astonishment.

The feeling was not bad.

Jiang Yi pushed Jiang Ning out of the kitchen and back to the Purple Forest Garden, saying, "Seventh Sister, I have a proposal for you."

"What is it?"

"Let's open a restaurant together?"

"Huh?"

"You know how to make a lot of delicious dishes, right?" Jiang Yi's eyes lit up, "This could make us a lot of money."

Jiang Ning said, "You should focus on your studies and aim for an official post, why think about these things?"

"Becoming an official is a must, but it doesn't hinder us from doing business." Jiang Yi laughed, "Besides, how many salaries can you get from being an official? I can't be a corrupt official. If one wants to be a clean official, there's no money. How are you going to support you and my nephew then?"

Jiang Ning laughed, "I don't have the energy to fuss over this, I don't want it."

Making something on a whim to eat for herself and the people around her was enjoyment.

But if it became a business, and she would have to cook from morning till night, that would be too tiring.

She didn't want that.

Jiang Yi laughed, "Could I let you get tired? Rest assured, I'll take care of everything, you just need to show off a little, teaching your signature dishes to the chefs."

"I don't have to work in the kitchen?"

“Of course not. How could my sister be a cook for outsiders.”

“If that’s the case, then alright.”

“Deal”

Jiang Yi was very happy.

As the siblings were discussing their money-making plan and reveling in anticipation, they saw Jiang Yuan running in tearfully, grabbing onto Jiang Yi and bursting into tears..