

The Hunter 541

Chapter 541: Birthday Gift

After the rebels were defeated, the commoners in the capital heaved a sigh of relief.

The next day, the capital returned to normal.

At this moment, the empress dowager's birthday was also decided to be celebrated in three days.

After Li Xiaoran received this news, she suddenly thought of something and quickly ran to look for Luo Cheng.

"Husband, husband, I heard that the empress dowager's birthday is going to be held in three days. What birthday gift are we giving her?"

Luo Cheng was writing a letter when he saw Li Xiaoran rush in, so he put down his pen and smiled.

"Xiaoran, why are you so moody?"

Li Xiaoran laughed when she heard Luo Cheng's words.

"Whatever I call you depends on my mood!"

Luo Cheng laughed when he heard Li Xiaoran's words.

"Yes, you're right! In the future, I'll have to call you my beloved consort!"

"Pfft, pfft, pfft. What do you mean? You make me sound like the emperor's consort. You should call me Xiaoran. Either call me Xiaoran or Madam. Anyway, I don't like being called a consort! Husband, if you call me Beloved Consort, I'll get mad at you!"
Li Xiaoran placed her hands on her hips and pretended to be angry.

When Luo Cheng saw Li Xiaoran's cute and feisty appearance, he found her even more adorable.

"Alright, alright, alright. I definitely won't give you a chance to get mad at me! The birthday gift is ready. Don't worry! If you really want to know what I gave you, I'll bring you to see it later!"

Li Xiaoran nodded.

"Alright, alright! I have to take a look! Otherwise, it would be embarrassing if someone asked me what birthday gift I'm giving the empress dowager after entering the palace and I couldn't answer!"

When Luo Cheng heard Li Xiaoran's words, he thought about it for a moment before saying in agreement, "You're right. Let's go now!"

With that, Luo Cheng stood up. After washing the ink off his hand, he brought Li Xiaoran to the storeroom.

The birthday gift had been prepared a long time ago and had been placed in the house that the emperor had rewarded Luo Cheng with.

Luo Cheng had just asked someone to bring the birthday gift over today and planned to bring it straight to the royal family in three days.

After she opened the storeroom and lifted the red silk, Li Xiaoran's eyes widened when she saw the birthday gift in front of her.

After a while, Li Xiaoran turned around and looked at Luo Cheng.

"Husband, this birthday gift is really good! But are you sure the empress dowager will like this birthday gift?"

Luo Cheng knew what Li Xiaoran meant, so he grinned.

"I've never received any rewards from the empress dowager since I was young. Everything I have today was obtained through my own hard work. Now, I respect her as my elder. In my eyes, this birthday gift is priceless!"

Li Xiaoran said worriedly, "In my opinion, such a gift is priceless, but I'm afraid the empress dowager, the emperor, and the ministers won't think so!"

Luo Cheng smiled and said indifferently, "Don't worry! I don't care what others say, as long as I have a clear conscience!"

Seeing that Luo Cheng really didn't care, Li Xiaoran didn't say anything else.

Luo Cheng asked, "Then do you care? Do you care about the nasty things others say when they attack us?"

Li Xiaoran said, "Why should I care?! They're not important to me! Even if the empress dowager despises the birthday gift we gave her, I don't mind. At most, we'll just stay far away in the future! We're not begging them, so what's there to be afraid of?! Besides, I think your birthday gift is very good. At least, I think you've really put in a lot of effort!"

With Li Xiaoran's assurance, Luo Cheng felt relieved.

"It's good that Li Xiaoran doesn't care! Anyway, we've never thought of competing for favor or the throne. Let's just do whatever we want!"

Li Xiaoran thought so too, thus, the couple threw the matter about the birthday gift to the back of their minds.

Today, the weather was even more muggy than yesterday's. Li Xiaoran was extremely not.

Even though there were ice cubes in the room, Li Xiaoran kept fanning herself with a fan.

"Husband, why did the weather suddenly become so hot?! I feel that the humidity here in the capital differs from that in Sichuan! When it gets hot here, it hurts!"

Luo Cheng also felt that the weather was a little abnormal. Then, he thought about it for a moment and said, "Ask Wu Qinghe to divine later and see if there's any drought or flood!"

When Li Xiaoran heard Luo Cheng's words, she immediately remembered.

“Yes, yes, yes. It’s time to let Wu Qinghe play his part! If there really are natural disasters, we have to make plans in advance! If there are floods, it’ll be troublesome if we encounter them on the way back!”

Luo Cheng felt that this was indeed very important, so he nodded.

“Alright, I’ll call Wu Qinghe over later!”

Wu Qinghe had previously learned that the state preceptor had come to change the fengshui of the house, so he had been engrossed in studying the fengshui of the Seventh Prince’s residence for the past few days.

When he heard that Luo Cheng was looking for him, Wu Qinghe quickly ran over.

“Brother Luo Cheng, why are you looking for me?”

Luo Cheng explained his thoughts directly, “The weather suddenly became much hotter. This is a little abnormal! We want you to divine if there will be a drought or waterlogging! ”

After Wu Qinghe glanced at the bright sunlight outside, he thought about it for a moment before saying, “How about this? I’ll observe the astronomical phenomenon at night and do divination. This way, it’ll be more accurate!”

“Alright, tell us the results afterwards!” Luo Cheng thought of something and added, “By the way, it’s the empress dowager’s birthday in three days, so we’ll be leaving after congratulating the empress dowager! It’s better to set off on that day!”

“Alright, leave it to me!” Wu Qinghe accepted the task.

However, in the following period of time, Wu Qinghe focused on studying the fengshui of the Seventh Prince’s residence.

After all, there wasn’t much time left for him to study. He was leaving in three days, so he had to hurry!

For the past few days, Shu Ruyue had been worried about the situation at home.

Just as she was feeling a little uneasy, someone from the Shu family came looking for her.

“Hello, we’re Shu Ruyue’s clansmen. Please inform Shu Ruyue that we want to see her!” A middle-aged man went forward and explained his intentions to the guard.

As soon as he heard that they were Shu Ruyue’s clansmen, the guard asked them to wait a moment while they went in to call for help.

As soon as Shu Ruyue heard that her clansmen were here, she quickly ran to the door.

When Shu Ruyue saw who it was, she shouted in surprise.

“Fifth Uncle, why are you here?”

Chapter 542: The Shu Family’s Thank-you Gift

It was none other than Shu Ruyue's Fifth Uncle, Shu Huan.

When Shu Huan saw Shu Ruyue coming out, he said with a smile, "What? Are you unhappy to see me?"

Shu Ruyue said, "Of course I'm happy! Fifth Uncle, come in with me first. Let's go in and talk!" Then, Shu Ruyue led Shu Huan into the Seventh Prince's residence.

Li Xiaoran also knew that Shu Ruyue's clansmen had come to look for her, so she instructed the guard to let them in directly. There was no need to stop them.

That was why Shu Ruyue was able to bring her Fifth Uncle and the others in.

Shu Huan didn't come alone. A total of seven people came.

They also brought a pile of boxes and carried them in.

After they arrived at Shu Ruyue's courtyard, Shu Huan asked someone to put the things in the courtyard.

Shu Ruyue brought out a stool and two pots of tea, as well as some fruits and pastries. Then, she called for her clansmen to rest in the shade in the courtyard!

After Shu Huan finished the bowl of tea, Shu Ruyue couldn't wait to ask about the situation at home.

"Fifth Uncle, how's the family now? Is everyone alright?"

Shu Huan explained the family's situation, "You know what happened to our family, right? Fortunately, you sent the news in time. All of us quickly packed our things and went to the mountains to take refuge. Later on, those rebels really came to the Shu family's village to capture us. Because we were all gone, the rebels planned to burn the village down. Fortunately, the government's army arrived in time and captured those people, saving the Shu family's village from disaster!"

"Now that the calamity has been resolved, although some of the village has been destroyed, fortunately, it's only a small loss. We can bear it. Now, the people in the village have moved back and everyone has resumed their peaceful lives."

Shu Ruyue heaved a sigh of relief when she heard Shu Huan's words.

"It's good that the family is fine. I'm completely relieved now!"

With that, Shu Ruyue saw the few large boxes that Fifth Uncle had brought in, so she asked, "Fifth Uncle, are you coming to the capital to develop? Why did you bring so many things?"

Shu Huan laughed when he heard Shu Ruyue's words.

"These things aren't my luggage, but gifts!"

"Give it to someone? Who?" Shu Ruyue asked in confusion, "Are you planning to become an official, Fifth Uncle, so you're trying to bribe people?" Shu Huan was amused when he heard his niece's guess.

“What are you thinking?! Look at me, I’m already so old. Why would I want to become an official? This is a thank-you gift for the Seventh Prince and the Seventh Consort!”

Shu Ruyue finally realized what was going on and her eyes widened.

“Fifth Uncle, are you in trouble? Do you need the Seventh Prince and Seventh Consort’s help?”

Shu Huan felt that if he didn’t make things clear, Shu Ruyue might think of something even more far-fetched.

“No, no. The Seventh Prince and Seventh Consort must have told you about the message you sent us! They saved the Shu family. Wouldn’t we be ungrateful if we didn’t express our gratitude?”

Shu Ruyue heaved a sigh of relief when she heard Shu Huan’s words. “My good Fifth Uncle! Can you explain it clearly next time?! I was really shocked by you!”

Shu Huan said in amusement, “You were the one who was too impatient, yet you blame me for not making things clear! Are these gifts enough to express our gratitude?”

Without looking at what was in the box, Shu Ruyue shook her head.

“Fifth Uncle, if you really believe me, bring these things back! I know Xiaoran very well. She treats me as a true friend, so she revealed this news to me. Similarly, the Seventh Prince took care of the Shu family on account that Seventh Consort and I are friends. These things can’t buy this kind of friendship!”

Shu Huan laughed when he heard Shu Ruyue’s words.

“Girl, you’re still as sincere and simple-minded as before!”

With that, Shu Huan took another sip of tea, cleared his throat, and said, “Your relationship with the Seventh Consort is indeed sincere, and it can’t be measured by money, but Ruyue! The Seventh Consort is your friend, not the Shu family’s. The Shu family has received a favor from the Seventh Prince and the Seventh Consort, so we should express our gratitude. Even if we can’t do anything for the Seventh Prince and the Seventh Consort now, we have to show our attitude! ”

At the end, Shu Huan added, “Girl! You can’t mix this matter up. You’re you, and the Shu family is the Shu family!”

It wasn’t that Shu Ruyue didn’t understand these things, but she hadn’t thought so much about them before.

Since her Fifth Uncle had specifically pointed it out, she naturally understood the logic behind it.

Shu Ruyue didn’t stop him anymore. Instead, she asked the servants in the courtyard to inform the Seventh Prince, Luo Cheng, that her Fifth Uncle wanted to see the Seventh Prince.

After the Seventh Prince received the news, he thought of the servant who had reported that Shu Ruyue’s clansmen had brought a lot of things over and immediately understood something.

After a moment of silence, Luo Cheng asked someone to invite Shu Ruyue's Fifth Uncle, Shu Huan, over to meet him.

Shu Huan didn't let Shu Ruyue follow him. Instead, he came to see Luo Cheng in the name of the Shu family.

As soon as he walked into the main hall, Shu Huan walked forward and bowed to the Seventh Prince.

"Greetings, Seventh Prince!"

Seeing this, Luo Cheng gestured for him to get up.

"There's no need to be so polite. Please sit!"

Shu Huan nodded and sat down on a chair.

Luo Cheng said after the servants brought tea, "For you to come to the capital, the Shu family's crisis must have been resolved!"

"That's right! Thank you for your kindness, Seventh Prince and Seventh

Consort. Ruyue brought me the news and saved our family from danger! The Shu family can't repay your kindness, but we're willing to listen to you in the future. Also, I brought things to show our gratitude!" Shu Huan clapped his hands as he spoke.

Soon, the other six people carried several wooden boxes in.

Shu Huan said as he opened the wooden box, "These things are some special herbs, fruits, and vegetables that our family grows!"

The things in the wooden box were really what Shu Huan had mentioned.

In addition to herbs, fruits, and vegetables, there were also some potatoes, peanuts, and so on.

Li Xiaoran happened to hear that Shu Ruyue's Fifth Uncle had come to see Luo Cheng, so she walked over curiously.

As soon as she came in, she saw the contents of these large boxes and immediately walked over curiously to take a look.

"Red-skinned potatoes, purple-skinned potatoes, tender peanuts, and purple corn.. These are all goodies!"

Chapter 543: Caught Li Xiaoran I s Eye

The things sent by the Shu family were commonplace, but these things caught Li Xiaoran's eye.

Just like that, Luo Cheng accepted the thank-you gift from the Shu family.

Of course, Luo Cheng also asked Shu Huan and the others to have a meal together as well.

Although it was a casual meal, it was also very sumptuous.

When Shu Ruyue heard that Li Xiaoran had accepted the things sent by Fifth Uncle, she was also happy.

During lunch, Shu Ruyue ate an extra bowl of rice because of her good mood.

After dinner, Shu Huan didn't stay much longer. After reminding Shu Ruyue about some things, he bid farewell to his clansmen.

After sending off her family, Shu Ruyue came to find Li Xiaoran.

"Xiaoran, thank you for your help!"

Li Xiaoran smiled when she heard Shu Ruyue's words.

"There's no need for formalities between us! Besides, I've accepted so many good things from your family!"

Seeing that Li Xiaoran really liked these things, Shu Ruyue couldn't help but ask, "Other people like gold, silver, and jewelry, but you like food instead?!"

"I have gold, silver, and jewelry! I can earn money with my own hands. On the other hand, I lack these ingredients! Look at these purple potatoes. The output isn't as high as red-skinned potatoes, but the color of these potatoes is very special and they can be sold for a little more money when made into dishes," Li Xiaoran explained with a smile.

"Also, there are peanuts and purple corn. There's more anthocyanin in it, so it's more nutritious. Naturally, they're much rarer than ordinary peanuts and corn. In the past, I couldn't eat them even if I wanted to. Now that they're offered to me, I naturally have to accept them!" As Li Xiaoran spoke, she pushed aside the peanut shell and revealed the peanuts with purple patterns inside.

After peeling a few peanuts in a row, Li Xiaoran realized that the peanuts were very full.

These peanuts had probably just been dug out of the ground and were the most suitable for cooking.

Li Xiaoran suddenly had some thoughts and looked at Shu Ruyue. "Ruyue, does the Shu family want to do business to earn money?"

Shu Ruyue was stunned for a moment.

Weren't they talking about food just now? Why did the topic suddenly change to earning money?

"I don't know. I'll have to ask! Xiaoran, do you have any good ways to earn money?"

"What good idea can I possibly have? It's just a gift! As the saying goes, that which is rare is dear. The food sent by the Shu family is very rare. I wonder what the output is. If there are a little more, we can sell them directly and the price will naturally be higher. If the output is very small, we can cooperate with restaurants. Or if the Shu family has a restaurant, we can use it to make special dishes!" Li Xiaoran voiced her thoughts.

Shu Ruyue nodded when she heard Li Xiaoran's words.

“Alright, I'll send another letter back later and ask my family!”

After Li Xiaoran thought about it for a moment, she said, “By the way, when you write back, ask if the Shu family can sell some seeds to me! Don't worry, I'll bring these seeds back and plant them in Sichuan. I'll eat them myself. They won't be sold for profit!”

Shu Ruyue nodded and remembered Li Xiaoran's words.

After that, Li Xiaoran washed the peanuts and cooked them.

The corn was also boiled in the pot.

As for the red-skinned potatoes and purple-skinned potatoes, Li Xiaoran made a table full of potatoe dishes with them.

There were fried potatoes, wolf fang potatoes, sour and spicy shredded potatoes, mashed potatoes, roasted potatoes, shredded potatoes, salad potato slices, roasted pork ribs with potatoes...

At dinner, other than the mung bean porridge and fresh cucumbers, there were various potatoes, boiled peanuts, and boiled corn.

Looking at the table full of dishes, the group was dumbfounded.

Luo Cheng said when he saw these dishes, “Xiaoran! Our family doesn't lack money. Why can't you bear to cook more meat?”

Li Xiaoran said with a smile, “You gorge on fish and meat every day. Haven't you gotten sick of them yet? Eat something different today! I guarantee you'll like it!”

In the end, Luo Cheng could only sit down gloomily and start eating.

Even Luo Cheng compromised, so the others had no choice but to sit down gloomily as well.

First, they grabbed a handful of boiled peanuts to eat. As they ate the peanuts, they realized the peanuts tasted very delicious!

Then, the group ate boiled corn...

Li Xiaoran ignored the changing expressions on these people's faces and focused on eating instead.

These boiled peanuts were simply delicious! After some cinnamon octagonal pepper and dried chili were added, the fragrance immediately wafted out. This purple corn had a natural delicious taste that was much better than that of the corn she used to eat in the modern world.

These were all pure natural goodies!

Eating such delicious food made her feel blissful.

In addition, the potatoes that were made in different ways were also delicious.

It had to be said that she really loved carbs!

In the modern era of Earth, people ate too much fish and meat, and the food became more and more processed.

A long-term processed food diet caused more and more people to become obese.

Li Xiaoran gained weight easily, so she could only limit her intake of carbohydrates.

However, Li Xiaoran loved carbs, so she was in pain every time she went on a diet.

Now, she had transmigrated to this time and space, and the lifestyle wasn't as good as that of the modern world, so Li Xiaoran wasn't afraid of eating too many carbs.

She could gorge on these carbs to her heart's content.

After the others realized how delicious the food was, they began to gorge on the food.

Their reluctant expressions from just now turned into that of greed and relish.

When Li Xiaoran saw the people eating from their bowls, she couldn't help but laugh.

As expected, carbs brought people joy!

As Luo Cheng ate, he noticed that Li Xiaoran was secretly laughing, so he was immediately puzzled.

Could it be that Li Xiaoran liked to eat this very much, so much so that she was secretly laughing while eating?

Compared to the satisfied Li Xiaoran, Ma Baoshan was quite miserable.

As a young master of the Ma family, he usually didn't have to worry about daily necessities, so he didn't expect to be bullied by dogs one day.

Look at the ragged clothes, he thought to himself, "Were these clothes really for humans?"

And why was this shabby mat so prickly?

What made Ma Baoshan the most depressed was that he didn't know how to beg for food!

The surrounding beggars could more or less beg for some food.. Only he had nothing to eat!

Chapter 544: Ma Baoshan I s Begging Life

Most importantly, he had not drunk a single drop of water since he entered the Seventh Prince's residence!

At this moment, his stomach was already growling from hunger.

Looking at the beggar who was wolfing down food not far away, Ma Baoshan stared straight at him and kept swallowing.

To be honest, he was really hungry.

At this moment, the leftover dishes in the beggar's bowl were very tempting. If not for the fact that he could not move one leg, he would have rushed over and snatched the food!

After this thought flashed across his mind, Ma Baoshan quickly shook his head.

"No, no, no, I don't want to! I don't want to at all! That food is obviously rotten.

How can Young Master Ma eat that sort of thing?!"

Even though he thought so, his eyes couldn't help but go to the food in the beggar's bowl.

The beggar seemed to know that someone was watching him, so he quickly sped up as he ate the food.

In this day and age, it was not safe to be a beggar. Only when the food was in his stomach would it truly be his.

Otherwise, it would go to other people.

As expected, as soon as the beggar finished eating, a burly beggar suddenly appeared and walked towards him.

He took the broken bowl, but saw that there was no rice in it.

The burly beggar slapped the other beggar's head as he cursed.

"You didn't leave any for me?! You need to be taught a lesson!"

The beggar, who had been beaten up, did not make a sound. He did not escape or cry out in pain. He just endured it silently.

When Ma Baoshan saw this scene, he was immediately furious.

"Sigh, we're all beggars. Why are you bullying him?! He begged for the food himself! If you want to eat it, go beg for food yourself!"

"Yoho! A new face has appeared here today. How dare you say such a thing to me? I'll remember you! Come, come, come. Since you're new, I'll teach you the rules of being a beggar!" As Sr. Kong scolded Ma Baoshan, he turned around and walked towards him.

Only then did Ma Baoshan remember his current situation. His leg was really a burden!

If his leg had not been tampered with, it would not have been difficult for him to deal with a beggar at this moment.

Even though he thought so, Ma Baoshan didn't stop.

Unfortunately, Ma Baoshan had overestimated himself.

If he had eaten his fill, he could deal with this beggar even if he could not move a leg.

However, he hadn't eaten his fill at all, so his punches were soft and weak.

Therefore, Ma Baoshan was no match for Sr. Kong and got beaten up instead.

Although Sr. Kong was a beggar, he was a ruthless person when it came to beating people up. His every move targeted people's most vulnerable parts.

Not long after, Ma Baoshan was already covered in injuries.

However, Ma Baoshan did not cry out in pain at all. He kept holding on, which attracted more punches and kicks from Sr. Kong.

Ma Baoshan stared fixedly at Sr. Kong to remember his face.

“You’re glaring at me? It seems that you’re quite indignant! Alright, alright, alright. I’ll teach you a lesson today!” With that, Sr. Kong was about to step on Ma Baoshan.

At this moment, the beggar who had eaten earlier rushed over and rammed into Sr. Kong’s body.

In the end, Sr. Kong was pushed to the ground and his head was smashed so hard that he couldn’t get up for a moment.

Seeing this, the beggar quickly got up and pulled Ma Baoshan away.

When he realized that Ma Baoshan could not exert any strength on one leg, the beggar simply carried Ma Baoshan and ran.

After running for an unknown period of time, the two of them finally reached a bamboo forest. Only then did the beggar put Ma Baoshan down.

At this moment, Ma Baoshan was so hungry that he no longer had any strength in his body.

After the beggar put him down, he sat on the ground and looked around.

“Where are we?”

“This is where I usually stay!” the beggar said.

After that, the beggar walked towards the other side of the bamboo forest.

“Hey, where are you going?” Ma Baoshan asked.

“I’ll get some water to drink!” the beggar replied.

After a while, the beggar returned with a bamboo tube of water.

“Drink it. This is very clean water from a nearby well, so you won’t get sick after drinking it! The people nearby are willing to come here to pick it because the water in this well is very good!” The beggar handed over a bamboo tube as he spoke.

At this moment, Ma Baoshan was indeed very thirsty. After taking the bamboo tube, he placed it to his mouth and drank it.

Perhaps because he was too hungry, Ma Baoshan felt even hungrier after drinking a bamboo tube of water.

At this moment, his stomach made a very loud gurgling sound, reminding Ma Baoshan that he was hungry.

Ma Baoshan felt a little embarrassed when he heard this sound.

When the beggar heard the sound coming from Ma Baoshan’s stomach, he sighed and came out. Then, he took out a steamed bun that had been wrapped in leaves and hidden in his pocket.

“I picked this up outside a steamed bun shop this morning. A child thought that this steamed bun was not tasty and threw it away after taking a bite. I saw that this steamed bun was not bad, so I picked it up and hid it! I’ll give you half!” As the beggar

spoke, he broke the steamed bun in his hand into two and handed the remaining half to Ma Baoshan.

When he smelled the fragrant steamed bun in front of him, Ma Baoshan suddenly felt emotional.

In the past, he would not have given this thing a glance at all. Perhaps, like that child, he would have found it disgusting.

However, now that he was starving and saw half a steamed bun, Ma Baoshan realized how precious food was.

Ma Baoshan carefully took the steamed bun, but did not eat it. Instead, he looked at the beggar beside him.

“Why are you so good to me?! You could have kept this steamed bun for yourself!”

When the beggar heard Ma Baoshan’s words, his face was expressionless.

“When I got bullied, nobody ever spoke up for me! You were the first to speak for me!”

Ma Baoshan was stunned. He had only said those words out of righteous indignation, but he had received so much gratitude from him.

Ma Baoshan said, “I’ll return you a lot of delicious steamed buns in the future!” Then, he placed the steamed bun in his mouth and ate it in small hi t-ac

Chapter 545: The First Test

What Ma Baoshan did not know was that others had seen what had happened to him today.

From the beginning to the end, Luo Cheng had sent people to follow Ma Baoshan and secretly protect him.

In the next few days, Ma Baoshan begged with the beggar.

Speaking of which, Ma Baoshan had even learned a lot from this beggar called Ah Du.

Although he ate leftover dishes every day, Ma Baoshan’s mental state gradually began to change.

At this moment, he already understood.

Without the protection of his family, he was nothing.

If he wanted to survive, he could only rely on himself.

During this period, Ma Baoshan also encountered several crises.

The most miserable time was when he was beaten up by more than ten beggars just so they could snatch a bite of food from him.

Ma Baoshan was also a ruthless person, so he was naturally unwilling to split the things.

He would rather be beaten up than give any food to those beggars.

Not only that, but after eating, Ma Baoshan began to target someone.

No matter how others hit him, he kept an eye on one person and fought back desperately.

As time passed, the people he was targeting could not stand it anymore.

What was even more terrifying was that Ma Baoshan remembered everyone who bullied him. Then, when those people were alone, he would deal with them one by one. After he dealt with them, those beggars would be so afraid that they would not dare to cause him trouble anymore. Only then would Ma Baoshan let go.

In the blink of an eye, the news that a ruthless cripple had appeared in the capital spread throughout the streets.

From then on, Ma Baoshan brought Ah Du to beg on the streets, and no one dared to bully them anymore.

After Luo Cheng learned this news, he told Li Xiaoran.

Luo Cheng lamented, "I really didn't expect this kid to have such a ruthless side! Now that I think about it carefully, if anything happens to the Ma family, this kid will probably be the one to bear the responsibility!"

Li Xiaoran thought of what she had sensed previously and said, "He's experienced too little and is kind-hearted. However, if this continues, he'll probably suffer a loss. When he went to the casino, he was schemed against. Therefore, I want to help him, so that at least, he won't be schemed against by others and go down the wrong path!"

Luo Cheng said, "Now, I'm impressed by this kid! Speaking of which, this kid is quite lucky. He met you when he went to the casino and you helped him!"

Li Xiaoran said, "Perhaps this kid can help us in the future! Who knows what will happen in the future?! Anyway, since we've bumped into him, let's help if we can!"

Soon, it was time for the empress dowager's birthday celebration.

Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng woke up very early in the morning.

No matter what, it was a palace banquet in the royal family and it was the empress dowager's birthday, so it naturally had to be grand.

Li Xiaoran was the Seventh Consort after all, so she wore gorgeous clothes and wore a lot of hairpins and pearls.

If not for the fact that Li Xiaoran had always despised these things for being too heavy, she would have worn even more jewelry.

Sitting in the carriage, Li Xiaoran felt very heavy.

"Husband, this is too torturous. It's such a hot day, but I'm wearing so much.

It's really too hot! And this headwear is really torturous!"

After Luo Cheng looked at Li Xiaoran, he realized that she was so tired that her forehead was covered in sweat. His heart ached.

She quickly helped Li Xiaoran take off some cumbersome jewelry and left only a hairpin on her bun.

This time, Li Xiaoran felt relieved and much more comfortable.

After Luo Cheng thought about it for a moment, he let Li Xiaoran take off two more clothes. In the end, Li Xiaoran only wore two pieces of clothing.

This way, Li Xiaoran felt that she could breathe again.

“That’s right. I should have worn it like this in the first place! In my opinion, even these two pieces of clothes are too much!”

Luo Cheng warned sternly, “No, these two things have to be worn. Don’t take them off!”

When Li Xiaoran heard this, she immediately pursed her lips.

She missed those modern-era short-sleeved shirts and shorts!

She missed modern-day air-conditioned ice cream!

She missed the sandals she could wear every day in the modern world!

Seeing Li Xiaoran’s dejected expression, Luo Cheng couldn’t help but laugh.

“Alright, it’s just for a day. After we get through the day, we’ll return to

Sichuan. At that time, you won’t have to go through so much trouble!”

When Li Xiaoran heard Luo Cheng’s words, she immediately became dejected.

“Then I want to wear short-sleeved clothes and shorts when we get back. I want to wear sandals as well!”

Luo Cheng asked in confusion, “What are short-sleeved shirts and shorts? And what are sandals?”

Li Xiaoran said, “Sigh, you won’t understand even if I tell you now. After today,

I’ll go back and make a set of clothes for you to see. Then, you’ll know!”

Luo Cheng could only suppress his curiosity and wait for Li Xiaoran to show him.

As they spoke, they arrived at the royal family’s residence.

Unlike those ministers who had to wait in line, Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran’s carriage moved into the door on the other side under the lead of the guards.

At this moment, the royal family’s home was decorated with lanterns and decorations. Those who didn’t know better would think that the emperor was getting married.

Not only that, but the palace maids in the royal family had also changed into festive palace clothes today and all of them had happy smiles on their faces.

When Luo Cheng brought Li Xiaoran to the place where the banquet was held today, there were already many people inside.

Upon closer inspection, the princes and their sons were all there.

In other words, Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran were the last to arrive.

The crown prince raised his eyebrows and asked when he saw Luo Cheng, “Yo, Luo Cheng is here! I wonder what kind of birthday gift Luo Cheng will give grandma today?”

After Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran bowed to the crown prince, Luo Cheng replied with a smile, “I’m a poor person to begin with, so I’m afraid I won’t be able to provide a decent birthday gift. It can’t compare to yours!”

When the empress dowager heard Luo Cheng’s words, she smiled and waved at him.

“Luo Cheng, come over quickly and show your wife to me!”

Luo Cheng nodded and led Li Xiaoran to the empress dowager.

The empress dowager glanced at Luo Cheng first before looking at Li Xiaoran.

Li Xiaoran knew that her first test after entering the royal family was here.

However, she was not nervous and bowed obediently.

“Greetings, Grandma-in-law!”

The empress dowager said, “Get up! There’s no need to be so polite! Since you’re already married to Luo Cheng, you guys should be more understanding of each other and live a peaceful life!” The empress dowager had a good impression of Li Xiaoran.

Although Luo Cheng’s wife was a farmer from the countryside, from her etiquette and the way she treated others, she was sensible..

Chapter 546: Fight

Actually, from the moment Luo Cheng brought Li Xiaoran in, the empress dowager had already seen them.

From the beginning, the empress dowager had been secretly observing her granddaughter-in-law.

After Li Xiaoran entered the palace and saw so many people, she did not panic and walked in with a smile.

Later on, the couple met the crown prince and were mocked by him, but Li Xiaoran’s expression did not change at all. She still stood at the side with a smile as she watched Luo Cheng and the crown prince bicker.

Now, Li Xiaoran bowed to her very respectfully.

What was even more interesting was that everyone else called her ‘Imperial Grandma’, except Li Xiaoran.

It was only one word short, but it sounded different in her ears.

Although Imperial Grandma sounded noble, she was less approachable.

Calling her grandma gave off a sense of intimacy.

Just based on this alone, the empress dowager had a good impression of Li Xiaoran.

“Today, you’ll follow me! Luo Cheng, it’s rare to see you return to the capital and after today’s birthday celebration, you’ll probably bring my grand daughter-in-law back to Sichuan! Therefore, you two have to accompany me today!” The empress dowager held Li Xiaoran’s hand and let her sit beside her.

Li Xiaoran was not flattered at all. After sensing other people’s envy, she smiled.

“Grandma, sitting beside you will be so troublesome! When so many court officials and women come to congratulate you later, I’ll have to put on a good front so as not to embarrass you. Therefore, after the birthday banquet, you have to reward me with delicious food!”

At this point, Li Xiaoran revealed an embarrassed smile.

“To be honest, other than celebrating your birthday, I also came here today to try these delicious foods in the royal family! The best chefs in the world are all in the royal family, so I’m in luck today!”

With that, Li Xiaoran leaned towards the empress dowager shyly. Then, she quickly sat up straight. This was the first time the empress dowager had been pestered by her grand daughter-in-law, so this feeling was a little refreshing.

“Don’t worry, just accompany me with Luo Cheng. We can eat whatever we want later!”

When Li Xiaoran heard this, she immediately looked at the Empress Dowager happily.

“Thank you, grandma! As expected, you treat me the best! Father eats my food all day long, but has never thought of rewarding me with something tasty! As the saying goes, courtesy has to be reciprocated. I often send him delicious food, but Father doesn’t give me any delicious food in return, so I’ve decided not to send food to Father in the future. I’ll only treat you well in the future! If you want to eat anything delicious in the future, feel free to tell me. I’m not outstanding in other aspects, but my culinary skills are impressive!”

“What? I heard you making things up about me the moment I arrived. Are you really not going to give me anything delicious in the future?” The emperor’s voice came from the entrance of the palace.

When the group saw the emperor, they stood up and bowed.

“Greetings, Father!” everyone said in unison.

“No need for formalities!” The emperor said as he strode to the empress dowager’s side.

“Girl, although today is your imperial grandma’s birthday, you can’t betray me just to flatter her!”

Li Xiaoran was not afraid of the emperor at all and said in disdain, “Father, aren’t you being reasonable? As the saying goes, courtesy has to be reciprocated. That way, the relationship will grow deeper and deeper, Every time my husband entered the palace, didn’t I asked him to bring delicious food in? But what about you? Did you ask someone to send me something delicious?”

These words stunned the crowd.

Among the emperor’s many sons and grandsons, only Li Xiaoran spoke to him like this.

This girl from the countryside was quite bold. She even dared to retort the emperor!

Of course, there were also many people who had ill intentions and were secretly mocking Li Xiaoran. They were waiting for the emperor to fly into a rage and teach this ignorant village girl a lesson.

Unexpectedly, the emperor did not get angry at all. He only raised his eyebrows.

“Is that so? Then what delicious food did you bring me today?”

“None for you today, only for Grandma!” Li Xiaoran said as she glanced at Luo Cheng.

Luo Cheng immediately understood and asked someone to send in what they had brought.

A food box was quickly delivered. After Li Xiaoran took it, she got up and knelt in front of the empress dowager.

“Today is my grandma’s birthday. I come from the countryside and can’t offer any good birthday gifts, so I personally made a birthday gift! Please take a look! ”

When the empress dowager saw this, she gestured for the nanny beside her to take the food box.

“Open it for me to see!”

When the nanny heard the empress dowager’s words, she immediately opened the food box.

There were two round steamers in the food box.

In a steamer, there were boiled peanuts, boiled corn, sweet potatoes, edamame, and potatoes.

In each steamer, there were pastries made of multigrains.

“This is a gift made by me! I hope that you’ll benefit the people and that there will be bountiful harvests!” Li Xiaoran said her blessings!

Compared to blessings about longevity, older people hoped that their lives would be blessed with good fortune.

Li Xiaoran’s birthday gift seemed simple and ordinary, but it struck a chord with the empress dowager!

“Good, good. You’re quite ingenious. I like this gift very much!”

“Then try every kind! Don’t worry, my cooking definitely won’t disappoint you.” With that, Li Xiaoran took some things and ate them. “Grandma, to show my sincerity, I’ll try them for you first!”

The empress dowager knew what Li Xiaoran meant. She was trying to show that these things weren’t poisonous.

Therefore, at this moment, the empress dowager was very touched.

Before the empress dowager could reach for it, the emperor beat her to it.

“Mother, don’t eat these things recklessly. Let me try them on your behalf!” With that, the emperor took some of each and ate them.

The others came back to their senses and all of them expressed that they wanted to try it for the empress dowager as well.

The empress dowager immediately snatched the food box and placed it beside her.

“What do you guys want to try it? This is my grand daughter-in-law’s show of filial piety! If you want to eat it, go find your own grand daughter-in-law!”

Chapter 547: The Envy of the Second Prince’s Consort

The emperor’s eyes were filled with regret when he saw the empress dowager take the things away.

He had tasted everything just now and they tasted very delicious.

For some reason, the food made by his daughter-in-law was much more delicious than other people’s.

Even the imperial chef’s cooking was not as good as this girl’s!

This was really strange!

After the empress dowager took the things, she tasted them one by one.

As she ate, the empress dowager glanced sideways at the emperor, who was thinking about something.

No wonder her son wanted to try them for her. These food were so delicious!

Her son was already the king of a country, but he was actually coveting the food in her hand.

The empress dowager immediately thought of what Li Xiaoran had said previously.

She said that Luo Cheng would bring delicious food to the emperor every time he entered the palace?

Hmph, her good son!

He usually seemed quite filial, but now that he had gotten delicious food, he did not even give any to his mother.

Hmph, since her son was unfilial, he shouldn't blame her for being heartless!

These things were all hers. No one else could eat them!

Thinking of this, the empress dowager handed the things to the nanny beside her.

“This tastes delicious. Help me safekeep them. I'm gonna eat them at my palace banquet later! Remember, you can't give them to anyone. Watch them carefully!”

With that, the empress dowager glanced at the emperor.

When the emperor received his mother's glance, he was immediately confused.

That shouldn't be the case, right?

Could it be that he had angered her just because he had kindly tested for poison on her behalf?

The others were also extremely dejected. All of them could only watch as Li Xiaoran showed off in front of the emperor and empress.

The other princes and consorts, in particular, wished they could nail two holes in Li Xiaoran.

Of course, there was an exception.

The second prince's consort looked at Li Xiaoran with envy.

She was really too bold.

She actually dared to bicker with the emperor. Tsk, tsk, tsk. She liked her personality very much.

It would be great if she could do the same someday.

Speaking of which, she was not even as casual as Li Xiaoran in front of her own grandma!

If she could also imitate Seventh Sister-in-law and win the favor of the elders, would she have to rely on the Second Prince everyday?

With her man's personality, it was not that she looked down on him, but he was incompetent.

If she hadn't been forced to marry him, she really wouldn't have given birth to a child for someone like the Second Prince.

Speaking of which, it was fine if the Second Prince was just inferior to others! From the looks of it, he could not even compare to her seventh sister-in-law!

Forget it. Men were unreliable. She should rely on herself!

When she was free later, she had to ask her seventh sister-in-law how to please the elders.

In the future, even if something happened to the second prince, the two of them could rely on the favor of their elders to live a carefree life.

The more the second prince's consort thought about it, the more she felt that this was a good idea, so she looked at Li Xiaoran happily.

Li Xiaoran felt that there was someone looking at her, so she looked at the second prince's consort.

After their eyes met, the second prince's consort smiled at Li Xiaoran to expressed her goodwill.

Li Xiaoran also nodded with a smile.

Just like that, the two of them greeted each other.

Li Xiaoran knew the second prince's consort. After all, as her husband's sworn enemy, the second prince was her main target.

Therefore, Li Xiaoran had some understanding of what the second prince's consort was like as well.

However, outsiders said that the second prince's consort was meek yet stubborn.

She would do whatever the second prince instructed her to do.

But recently, she had done something very bold.

She did not interfere with the second prince's mistresses anymore and left everything to the second prince to deal with.

In the second prince's consort's words, they weren't her woman, so she could not interfere, nor were they her responsibility!

Therefore, when she met the second prince's consort's gaze just now, Li Xiaoran nodded.

In Li Xiaoran's eyes, the second prince consort still had some redeeming qualities.

Among all the princes, the second prince had the most children.

Of course, these children were all given birth by the second prince's other women, and the second prince's consort only gave birth to one.

From this, it could be seen that the second consort was a kind person.

Luo Cheng noticed Li Xiaoran's gaze and looked at the second prince's consort.

To be honest, after Luo Cheng learned about the second prince's consort's character, he felt that his second brother was unworthy of his second sister-in-law.

His second sister-in-law was a good woman, but his second brother was not a good man.

It could only be said that fate played tricks on people!

If his second sister-in-law did not marry the second prince and married another man, she would have had a happy life after marriage.

Unfortunately, his second sister-in-law's father was blinded. He only wanted to use his daughter to cling to the royal family and obtain wealth.

Soon, it was time for the palace banquet.

After the emperor said something, everyone sat back in their seats.

Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng wanted to leave, but under the empress dowager's gaze, they could only sit beside her.

The empress dowager asked the palace servants to carry the seats of the Seventh Prince and Seventh Consort over, so that Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng could sit beside her.

Li Xiaoran sat beside the empress dowager while Luo Cheng sat beside Li Xiaoran. Then, the couple looked at each other.

Soon, music sounded. Then, the ministers and women entered the palace to take their seats.

Most people were shocked to see the seventh prince and the Seventh Consort sitting beside the empress dowager.

These people quickly calmed down and returned to their seats.

These people seemed calm on the surface, but they were very flustered.

A few people remained calm and went straight to find their positions.

After everyone was seated, the emperor raised his glass.

“Today is the empress dowager’s 70th birthday. Come, let’s raise our glasses to congratulate the empress dowager on her birthday!”

Seeing this, everyone stood up and raised their glasses to congratulate her.

“May the Empress Dowager be blessed and live a long life!” the ministers shouted.

The empress dowager replied, “Thank you for your blessings. Please take a seat!”

After everyone sat down, the palace servants sent down the food they had prepared for tonight.

The Empress gestured for the nanny behind her to bring the food box from Li Xiaoran.

She did not want to eat anything else tonight. She only wanted to eat the food she received from Li Xiaoran.

The empress dowager was getting old, so eating was quite troublesome for her.

However, Li Xiaoran’s food was mild and delicious, yet not greasy, which was why the empress dowager liked it so much..

Chapter 548: The Competition at the Birthday Banquet

Sigh, one had to admit defeat!

As the empress dowager watched people singing and dancing in front of her, she felt emotional.

After all, she was old!

When a person was old, they had to abstain from eating too much.

She couldn’t eat this or that, which made the empress dowager lose her appetite in the end.

However, the food her grand daughter-in-law brought today looked simple and wasn’t greasy, but tasted delicious.

It had been a long time since the empress dowager had such a good appetite.

Of course, even if the food was delicious, she could not eat it without restraint.

When the empress dowager felt that her stomach was almost full, she stopped.

The emperor had long noticed the empress dowager and had been coveting the two portions of food. However, he could not snatch his mother’s food in public.

Seeing that the empress dowager hadn't eaten for a long time, the emperor thought that she must be full, so he wanted to ask for some to try.

The emperor said, "Mother, the food in front of you seems quite delicious. Let me try some!"

The empress dowager rolled her eyes at her greedy son.

Why hadn't she ever discovered that her son was such a glutton?

How did he remain the emperor for so many years?

"No, I don't even have enough to eat!" The empress dowager refused directly.

The emperor, who had been rejected a second time, was indignant and immediately retorted her.

"Mother, these things will spoil after being left for too long! Instead of spoiling and wasting them, why don't you let me try them?!"

When the empress dowager heard her son's words, she looked at the food in front of her.

In the end, her thriftiness nature made the empress dowager less dissatisfied with her son.

"Give half to the emperor! Leave me half to eat later!"

When the emperor saw that he had obtained half of it, he immediately smiled.

When the empress dowager saw this, she was really unhappy!

However, it was a waste to leave it here now, so she might as well give it to her unfilial son!

The singing and dancing were almost over, and everyone was almost done eating, so the main event of the evening came.

The emperor sent his birthday gift first.

The emperor's birthday gift was always either gold, silver, jewelry, or good materials, so the empress dowager was not looking forward to it at all.

On the other hand, the empress dowager looked forward to the gifts from her other sons and grandsons.

As usual, there were embroideries, scriptures, and rare treasures.

In the past, the empress dowager would have been a little interested in these things, but now, she felt that they were boring.

Of course, the empress dowager naturally would not reveal such emotions.

Every time someone sent a birthday gift, the empress dowager would look very satisfied, which shocked Li Xiaoran, who was sitting at her side.

As expected, the people in the royal family were good at hiding their emotions.

She was clearly uninterested, but she had to pretend to be very satisfied.

At this moment, Li Xiaoran sympathized with the empress dowager!

Soon, it was the crown prince's turn to present his birthday gift.

After the crown prince stood up smugly and clapped his hands, several people pushed something in. ‘Grandma, I spent a lot of effort to get this birthday gift from the East Sea. I hope you’ll like it!’

As soon as he finished speaking, the crown prince pulled off the cloth.

A red coral more than a meter tall appeared in front of everyone.

The translucent red color was pleasing to the eye and the texture was shiny.

No one could resist the charm of a red coral.

When the empress dowager saw this birthday gift, her mood improved.

Red meant festive. Such a pot of transparent red coral would be very pleasing to the eye if placed in the bedroom.

Now, the smile on the empress dowager’s face became more sincere. There was no longer any pretense.

“Thank you, Your Highness! I like it very much!”

When the crown prince heard the empress dowager’s words, he immediately glanced around proudly, especially at Luo Cheng.

Unfortunately, Luo Cheng did not react to the crown prince’s smugness at all.

Next, it was time for the other imperial grandsons to send birthday gifts.

The second prince gave him a cloak made of white fox fur, and the third prince gave him a new western-style mirror.

The other princes offered everything rare that they could find.

Before long, it was Luo Cheng’s turn.

Everyone stared at Luo Cheng to see what congratulatory gift he would give.

Luo Cheng stood up calmly under everyone’s expectant gazes.

“Luo Cheng! Could it be the birthday gift you prepared is the same as what Seventh Sister-in-law offered just now?” The crown prince couldn’t help but add insult to injury.

Luo Cheng said with a smile, “No!” Then, he clapped his hands as well.

Soon, something even higher than the crown prince’s birthday gift was sent in by Cheng Cheng and Zi Zheng with a cart.

As soon as the birthday gift entered, it occupied a large space in the middle of the palace.

After the ministers saw the birthday gift, they started discussing it.

“Look, this is even bigger than the crown prince’s birthday gift. Could the Seventh Prince’s gift be red coral too?” An official guessed.

Another official retorted, “How is that possible? Do you think red coral is that easy to obtain? The red coral that the crown prince gave you previously is already very rare. It’s impossible to find such a big thing.”

“Could there be other rare treasures that are this big?” another official said.

When the empress dowager saw this thing, she was also very curious.

Previously, Luo Cheng had said that the birthday gift he gave was not valuable.

But what was this big thing?

The emperor said, “Luo Cheng, stop leaving us hanging. Hurry up and get your people to show everyone your birthday gift!”

Luo Cheng nodded with a smile. Then, he let Zi Cheng and Zi Zheng pull open the red cloth.

What they saw was a very large wooden carving.

A woman with a smile on her face and anticipation in her eyes reached out and placed her hand behind a little girl.

The little girl, on the other hand, had an excited smile on her face and pointed at a narrow path.

Around the path, there was a lotus pond blooming with lotus flowers.

When the empress dowager saw the huge wooden carving, her pupils dilated and she stood up.

After she walked down the steps, she arrived in front of the wooden statue.

Before she could say anything, tears streamed down his face!

She raised her hand and touched the woman’s face gently as tears streamed down her face.

When the emperor saw this huge wooden sculpture, he was stunned for a long time. In the end, his eyes turned red!

After a while, the empress dowager stopped crying and looked at Luo Cheng. “Luo Cheng! Thank you! You fulfilled my dream!”

Chapter 549: The Best Gift

After Li Xiaoran looked at the wooden carving in front of her, she was amazed again.

Li Xiaoran really did not expect Luo Cheng to give her such a birthday gift.

Although she did not understand at that time, from the empress dowager’s current emotions, it seemed that this birthday gift had a special meaning to her!

At this moment, Li Xiaoran seemed to have returned to many years ago.

The empress dowager felt as if she had returned to when she was still a child.

And the empress dowager was the little girl walking on the path.

The smiling woman behind the empress dowager was her mother.

“Xin’er, slow down. Don’t run so fast! Be careful not to fall into the lotus pond!”

The young empress dowager looked back at her mother playfully and raised her foot proudly.

“Mother, look, I’m fine! I’m standing firmly!”

As soon as she finished speaking, the little girl lost her balance and fell towards the lotus pond at the side.

When the woman following behind saw this, she ignored ran over to hug the little girl.

In the end, the mother and daughter fell into the lotus pond together.

The man who was sitting comfortably by the lotus pond painting the mother and daughter quickly ran over and called the servants to save them.

After the mother and daughter were saved, the young empress dowager laughed happily when she saw that she and her mother were covered in mud.

Seeing this, the empress dowager’s mother was also amused!

The scene stopped there. Li Xiaoran could almost hear the sound of the mother and daughter’s laughter.

After coming back to her senses, Li Xiaoran finally understood why the empress dowager was crying.

When parents were still around, no matter how old one was, one could still be a child.

But after one’s parents left, no matter how young one was, one would no longer be a child.

Thinking of this, Li Xiaoran’s gaze landed on Luo Cheng, who was not far away.

He should be the same!

He had lost his mother at such a young age, and his father ignored him.

It was better not to have henchmen, since all of them bullied him.

No wonder she had heard many bad rumors about him when she had just transmigrated.

How lonely must he have been as someone who hadn’t felt fatherly or motherly love since he was a child?!

Luo Cheng also stared at the wooden statue in front of him with many emotions surging in his heart.

When he was young, he accidentally saw the empress dowager sitting alone in front of the window while looking at a painting.

Out of curiosity, he took advantage of the fact that there was no one in the royal family’s house to look around.

When he saw the painting, he immediately thought of his mother, so he put it back quietly and returned to his palace to cry.

It was also from then on that Luo Cheng began to pull himself together and wanted to grow up quickly.

Because only after he grew up would he have the ability to hire someone to draw a painting for his mother.

This way, he could look after his mother every day and she would not be all alone.

Whenever he missed his mother, he could take the portrait out and look at it.

Unfortunately, as he got older, his memories of his mother became more and more blurry.

Once, he wanted to look for the portrait his mother had left behind.

Unfortunately, there were none.

Therefore, this time, when he wanted to celebrate the empress dowager's birthday, Luo Cheng immediately thought of that painting, so he recalled it himself and drew it. Then, he carved the craftsman out of wood.

As expected, she liked it!

Unfortunately, when would he see his mother again?

Li Xiaoran naturally empathized with Luo Cheng's emotions.

Li Xiaoran thought of something and secretly remembered this matter.

The emperor had seen that painting before, so he looked at Luo Cheng differently.

"Luo Cheng, you're so considerate!"

Luo Cheng calmed down and said, "It's good as long as you can make Grandma happy!"

Next, more birthday gifts were sent over, but nothing caught the Empress Dowager's eye.

That wooden carving was already the best gift for the empress dowager's birthday.

Halfway through the birthday banquet, Li Xiaoran, who had drunk some water, wanted to use the restroom.

Luo Cheng could tell that Li Xiaoran was embarrassed, so he stood up and said goodbye to the empress dowager before bringing Li Xiaoran out.

Li Xiaoran knew nothing about the royal family's residence and had no idea know where she was.

After Luo Cheng brought Li Xiaoran out, he pointed at a place and said, "This is the restroom. Go in!"

Li Xiaoran looked at the guest room. For some reason, the horror movies she had seen in the modern world immediately popped up in her mind. Although she could barely hold it in, Li Xiaoran still did not dare to go in.

"Husband!"

"What's wrong?" Luo Cheng raised his eyebrows as he said to Li Xiaoran, "Don't you need to use the restroom?"

Li Xiaoran stared at Luo Cheng pitifully as she said, "Husband, I'm afraid!"

When Luo Cheng saw Li Xiaoran like this, he couldn't help but laugh.

“I didn’t expect a bold woman like you to feel afraid one day!”

“Then accompany me, okay?” Li Xiaoran reached out and tugged at Luo Cheng’s sleeve.

Upon seeing Li Xiaoran’s pitiful gaze, Luo Cheng smiled. “Alright, alright, I’ll accompany you in!” With that, the two of them entered the bathroom together.

“I’m be right here with my back to you! Hurry up and go! If you’re afraid, look at my back. Then, you won’t be afraid anymore!”

Li Xiaoran really couldn’t hold it in anymore, so she nodded and quickly went to the bathroom. As Li Xiaoran peed, Li Xiaoran could sense Luo Cheng’s emotions and immediately blushed.

After quickly putting on her pants and clothes, Li Xiaoran brought Luo Cheng out.

Perhaps because she was a little bashful, Li Xiaoran did not speak.

Luo Cheng did not say anything and only pulled Li Xiaoran to a corridor. Then, he found a wooden bucket under the corridor and fetched some water from a well to let Li Xiaoran wash her hands.

Li Xiaoran asked curiously as she washed her hands, “Huh, there’s a well and bucket here?”

Luo Cheng said calmly, “There’s no shortage of wells in the royal family!” For some reason, Li Xiaoran thought of something and shivered.

“Husband, has anyone jumped into this well before?”

With that, Li Xiaoran sized up her surroundings.

Luo Cheng couldn’t help but laugh when he saw Li Xiaoran’s frightened expression.

“Don’t worry, no one has jumped into this well before! Because this well is very shallow, even if I jump in, you can still see my head!”

Chapter 550: One More Person

As soon as he said this, Li Xiaoran felt even more terrified.

However, before she could say anything, she suddenly felt that something was wrong. After looked up in a certain direction, Li Xiaoran’s eyes widened.

“Husband, there’s someone there!”

Luo Cheng thought that Li Xiaoran was trying to scare him and was immediately amused.

“Who is there? Look at you. You can’t even pretend!”

Li Xiaoran said anxiously, “Really, there’s someone there! Someone hung himself! ”

Only then did Luo Cheng realize something. He turned around and looked in the direction Li Xiaoran was looking.

Luo Cheng was frightened out of his wits.

In a forest in the distance, a woman in white was hanging from a tree and swaying. It was a terrifying sight.

“Are you sure that’s a human and not a ghost?”

Li Xiaoran said, “That person still has emotions, so she’s definitely not a ghost. How can a ghost have emotions that I can feel?” Then, Li Xiaoran started shouting.

Li Xiaoran shouted, “Someone, come quickly. Someone hung herself!” Now, many people heard Li Xiaoran’s words and ran over.

In the palace, the emperor suddenly saw Xiao Dezi walking over.

After Xiao Dezi said something in the emperor’s ear, his expression changed.

“Your Majesty, what’s wrong? Did something happen?”

The emperor smiled when he heard the empress dowager’s words.

“Mother, it’s nothing serious. It’s just that Luo Cheng’s wife encountered something! I have to go over and help her now. Otherwise, she won’t send me delicious food in the future! I really like the food she makes, so I’ll go over and take a look first!”

The empress dowager nodded with a smile when she heard that.

“Alright, go ahead!”

The emperor nodded and left with Xiao Dezi.

After the emperor left, the empress dowager became even more disinterested, but she still perked up and went to watch other people singing and dancing.

Since her son had to resolve it personally, it must be something troublesome, so as his mother, she should stay here and take care of things for her son!

Soon, the emperor arrived at the forest under Xiao Dezi’s lead.

When the emperor saw the woman who had been saved and was being treated by the imperial physician, his expression turned even uglier.

“What the hell is going on?” the emperor asked through gritted teeth.

Li Xiaoran said, “What else could it be? It’s obvious that she hung herself to cause trouble for the emperor during the empress dowager’s birthday!”

When Luo Cheng heard his wife’s words, he quickly reached out and pulled her sleeve, signaling her not to spout nonsense.

Li Xiaoran also came back to her senses and stopped speaking.

She really hadn’t done it on purpose just now. When she was thinking about this, she happened to hear the emperor’s words, so she blurted it out.

After being reminded by Luo Cheng, Li Xiaoran came back to her senses. After the emperor glanced at Li Xiaoran and Luo Cheng, he asked, “Why are you two here?”

Luo Cheng reported truthfully, “Father, we were originally out here to pay respects, but when we were washing our hands by the pavilion over there, we saw a woman in white hanging here. Xiaoran was frightened and cried out.

This attracted the attention of the palace guards!”

When the emperor heard this, he looked at a man standing at the side.

Seeing the emperor looking at him inquiringly, Tao Zhixin quickly replied, “Your Majesty, I did come over because I heard the consort’s shout. Then, I looked in the direction Seventh Consort was pointing and saw someone hanging in the forest!”

When the emperor heard this, his expression improved.

“The two of you have been gone for so long. Your grandma has asked about you guys several times. Hurry up and go back to accompany her! By the way, don’t tell anyone about what happened here!”

After Luo Cheng and Li Xiaoran nodded, they quickly left.

After walking for a while, Li Xiaoran heaved a sigh of relief.

“No wonder people often say that there are more vengeful spirits in the royal family. It turns out to be true!”

When Luo Cheng heard Li Xiaoran’s words, he asked curiously, “Why did you say that it’s a vengeful spirit?”

“Because that person was hung on a tree after she was drugged!” Li Xiaoran said, “I sensed that she was still dreaming!”

Luo Cheng was speechless when he heard this.

“Have you forgotten what Father just said? Forget what happened today! Don’t say anything after you go in. Keep your mouth shut!”

When Li Xiaoran heard Luo Cheng’s words, she immediately pursed her lips and nodded, indicating that she would definitely remember his instructions.

Soon, the couple returned to the palace together and sat down together while pretending that nothing had happened.

When the empress dowager saw the two of them return, she only nodded with a smile. Then, she focused on watching the performance in the palace.

Li Xiaoran heaved a sigh of relief.

Before long, the emperor came in.

However, from the emperor’s expression, it was impossible to discern his emotions.

However, Li Xiaoran could clearly sense that the emperor was very angry.

He was even angrier than before they left!

Could something have happened after they left?

For the sake of her life, she shouldn't think too much about anything else.

After that, everything went smoothly. Nothing else happened.

Finally, the palace banquet ended.

Li Xiaoran yawned as she was pulled into the carriage by Luo Cheng.

Soon, the carriage left the Imperial City and set off for the Seventh Prince's residence.

When they arrived home, Li Xiaoran had already fallen asleep on Luo Cheng.

It couldn't be helped. Participating in the palace banquet was too tiring.

Looking at those high-ranking officials wearing facades and clearly gritting their teeth in hatred but still acting harmonious on the surface, Li Xiaoran felt tired for them.

Therefore, after the palace banquet, Li Xiaoran was exhausted.

When they got out of the carriage, Luo Cheng picked Li Xiaoran up. As if smelling Luo Cheng's scent, Li Xiaoran suddenly muttered,

"Husband, let's go home! Home is best!"

Luo Cheng nodded softly when he heard this.

"Go home" sounded so heartwarming!

Luo Cheng was very glad that he didn't insist on marrying Li Yan back then and that he married Li Xiaoran instead.

Because with her around, he finally had a home in this world.

Since Xiaoran didn't like the capital, he should bring her back to Sichuan!

The revenge plan had been arranged, so they just had to follow the plan.

As for the throne, whoever wanted to have it could have it!

Anyway, he didn't like it!

Li Xiaoran didn't know that because of her fatigue, Luo Cheng had made up his mind to leave the capital.

When she woke up the next morning, Li Xiaoran heard a piece of news.

"You're leaving tomorrow?"