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Chapter 78.1

Every Kind of Feeling in Mind

In front of the jade engraved palace among its comfortable and expensive chaise lounges along with a variety of fruits that filled the table, five to six servants had their heads lowered while waiting silently for the Master's instructions. Even though they knew it was disrespectful, several of these young servants could not help but raise their heads to take a glance at this Prince from the Empress who had disappeared and who had only just now returned. Not only was it in part due to his respectable identity, but his handsomeness also made people feel ashamed of their appearance. Especially even now, as the Prince did not sit on the soft chair, but leaned on the jade pole while sitting on the floor, with a faint smile on his lips. His eyes were as bright as stars and no one could ignore his calm and peaceful temperament.

"What are you looking at that has you so entranced?" Qin Xiu Zhi was startled as a mocking female voice echoed in his ears while the greenish jade pendant was taken forcibly from him. Qin Xiu Zhi raised his head to look up and saw that the trouble maker was already lying comfortably on the soft couch while fiddling with it in her hand.

Xi Lie Yue wrapped the string around her finger as she swayed the jade pendant back and forth. The jade was exquisite and lustrous; although the color was moderate, the round carving was full and delicate and the sculpting was excellent. It was indeed an excellent gem, but it was not considered a rare treasure in this world. Casually throwing the jade pendant back to Qin Xiu Zhi, Xi Lie Yue pronounced in a bored tone, "Nothing special."

Looking at the jade pendant flying towards him, Qin Xiu Zhi became frightened as he quickly got up to catch it and enclosed it tightly into his hands. Qin Xiu Zhi looked helplessly at this willful woman with a smirk on her face. This woman was the most honorable person besides the Empress, but her character is still the same as always.

Xi Lie Yue held her chin and smiled teasingly as she said, "So nervous, was it a present from your beloved?"

Qin Xiu Zhi lightly smiled while he shook his head and answered, "Do not talk nonsense. I said it before, I was able to return to Hai Yu through the help of someone. This pendant was given to me by her as a token to find the other person who could help me return back."

Xi Lie Yue did not listen to such perfunctory words as she asked directly, "Then the person who gave you this jade is a woman?"

"Yes."

With a low chuckle Xi Lie Yue guessed, "En, it goes without saying that she must be gorgeous, beautiful and graceful?" The woman whom Qin Xiu Zhi fancied would have that appearance.

Qin Xiu Zhi thought for a moment, shook his head and said, "She actually looks average but pretty, although she is indeed outstanding, elegant and refined." Murong Shu Qing's beauty was

not her appearance, but her elegance that made people admire her. Clicking her tongue, Xi Lie Yue slightly narrowed her eyes and mockingly said, "You still say that you do not like her, but when have you ever boasted about someone like this before?" Looking at his smilling face, she knew that his heart was tied to that beautiful lady. Glancing at the jade pendant in his hand again, Xi Lie Yue smiled and said, "Being able to pick this kind of elegant jade pendant, the owner must have a good taste, so maybe this person also has a secret affection for you!"

The jade pendant's owner? Is it Shang Jun? Qin Xiu Zhi's heart is beating faster for no reason, but he immediately answered, "Impossible!"

Originally, Xi Lie Yue was only teasing him, but who would have known that Qin Xiu Zhi would

have this kind of excited reaction, so she was puzzled and asked, "Why?"

Qin Xiu Zhi was stunned; he also did not know what he was panicking about. Whenever he thought of Murong Shu Qing, he always felt calm and comfortable, but whenever he thought of Shang Jun, he felt strangely disturbed. If he liked Murong Shu Qing, then Shang Jun would be his rival, but should he have this kind of mood towards his rival?! He was a little dazed.

Qin Xiu Zhi's face looked thoughtful, but Xi Lie Yue was too lazy to further linger on his emotions, so waving her hand she said, "Forget it. I will not make you say it. However, I want to go to Dong Yu in three days."

Dong Yu? The Empress Mother's abdication is near, so is it alright that she wants to leave Hai Yu at this time?! Qin Xiu Zhi turned his head and waited for her explanation.

Xi Lie Yue stood up and lightly patted the wrinkles on her skirt before she smiled and indifferently said, "As the Crown Princess I still want to go and see the other three kingdoms. Do not look at me like I am going to be gone forever; if you are interested, you can pleasantly stay in the palace to watch the show, but if you are in the palace, you have to be very careful."

It seemed that he was worrying her for nothing. Xi Lie Yue had been able to occupy the position as the Crown Princess for more than ten years so she should have her own plans. Still leaning on the jade pillar and sitting casually, Qin Xiu Zhi nonchalantly replied, "I will be careful, so do not worry."

Qin Xiu Zhi's indifferent appearance made Xi Lie Yue angrily look at him. After not seeing him for over ten years, here he was still as virtuous as when he was a child, so Xi Lie Yue could not help but advise, "If the Empress Mother gives you a favor, you should not reject it. You need to nurture your own powers, because after all, it is a very long future." While the Empress Mother feels guilty about him right now it, and causes her to dote on him even more so he should make good use of it!

Qin Xiu Zhi did not raise his head, but stroked the jade pendant in his hand and looked at the clouds in the bluish sky before he tranquilly answered, "I had experienced first-hand the fighting and deception in the palace ten years ago. I only returned this time to fulfill my father's final wish and I will not stay in Hai Yu forever." He has never wanted any riches, glory or noble status in his life.

Sian's notes:

Jade is my favorite gem. With jade, the darker the color, the more expensive it is. A good quality jade can become darker in color when it's being touched on the skin regularly. My Chinese name is a type of jade even though it's not the typical jade word. In Chinese, the typical jade is "yu" \pm which is my cousin's name. But if you look up at any Chinese to English dictionary, my name "xuan" \pm (I know it's a ridiculously complicated character 3), also means beautiful jade like star. 3 3 If you ask my mom, she'll say "nope, my name doesn't mean jade" but I refuse to accept her answer. 3 3 According to my mom, my second uncle (my dad had 13 siblings and was the 12th child), named me after a famous older actress & singer Zhou Xuan who unfortunately died of a nervous breakdown. 3 My uncle must have liked this famous actress.

If you're interested in this famous lady whom I shared my chinese name with, check this out \bigoplus https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhou_Xuan