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Ch 140.1

Xi Lie and Xiu Zhi

In the imperial study room the candlelight flickered, illuminating the hall and brightly lighting it all around. Xi Lie Yue was wearing a blue and gold flowing dress that set off her slender figure even further. It was night time, so her hair was pulled low and uncombed. She wore a towering bun with flowing clouds hairstyle, and although she did not wear the purple and golden fork that symbolized her imperial power, still the inherent nobility and domineering character made her look majestic.

The person in front of him was no longer a fledgling maiden. She was the most noble queen of Hai Yu. Xiu Zhi bowed his knees, and then knelt on one knee and said, "Your Majesty the Queen."

She had always liked this indifferent and cold Imperial Brother. Xiu Zhi coming back to Hai Yu had really surprised her, but no matter what she was still happy in her heart. Holding Xiu Zhi's arm, Xi Lie Yue smiled and said, "Xiu Zhi, you are back. That's great."

Pulling him with the strength of her hand, Xiu Zhi seemed to insist on kneeling which made Xi Lie Yue a little puzzled. According to her understanding of Xiu Zhi, he should not be a pedantic person, so letting go, Xi Lie Yue asked, "What are you trying to do by this?"

Tomorrow, he wanted to return to Cang Yue, so there was no time to greet her. Qin Xiu Zhi bluntly said, "I, this time I came back to ask for something."

"Say it." What was so serious that Xiu Zhi would kneel down for so long?

"I want to ask to borrow three thousand elite soldiers."

"Three thousand?" Xi Lie Yue asked delicately, "What are you going to do?" For her, the trivial three thousand elite soldiers were a small number. She was just curious why it was that this person, who had no desire to be a noble and who liked to have his independent cultivation, would ask her for soldiers.

Qin Xiu Zhi replied with reservation, "Save someone."

Xi Lie Yue could not ask routinely anymore, "Who is it?"

Qin Xiu Zhi slowly raised his head, looked back at Xi Lie Yue's shrewd eyes and replied in a deep voice, "A person who is very important to me, he is imprisoned in Cang Yue and I must save him." In order to save Shang Jun, he could do whatever it would take.

"Cang Yue?" Xi Lie Yue was astonished. Was he actually going to take troops abroad? With his hands wrapped around his chest and looking down on the floor while half-kneeling in front of her, Xi Lie Yue did not agree or refuse and only asked, "You know what it means to send troops to other countries?"

It meant a provocation, it meant a war. Qin Xiu Zhi pondered for a moment and sighed, "I don't need an army, I only need a few thousand elite soldiers to save people." His purpose was just to save people.

It was to save people again, who was to be saved by Xiu Zhi?! Just as Xi Lie Yue was secretly speculating, a stern female voice rang from behind them, "Is it a trifling matter to send soldiers abroad?!"

Xi Lie Yue looked up and saw that there was only one person who could break into the imperial study room so violently. He bowed slightly and Xi Lie Yue whispered, "Imperial Mother."

Qin Xiu Zhi's heart sank; he came anyway and lowered his head. Just like an ordinary person, he gave a big courtesy, but his voice was so flat with no emotion, "Your Highness the Queen."

Your Highness the Queen?! He still refused to call her the Imperial Mother. Seeing this child whom she had missed for more than ten years, but he was so indifferent to her, it caused Xi Lie Qing Hua's heart to hurt like a needle. He had the same stunning beauty as his father, with a gentle temper, but he had more love and hate than his father.

After being a Queen for a lifetime, and knowing that the pain her heart could not be expressed on her face, Xi Lie Qing Hua no longer looked at Qin Xiu Zhi, but said to Xi Lie Yue, "How can the Queen raise the army at will? How will the Queen explain to the officials and the people?"

Xi Lie Yue smiled secretly; she obviously cared about him in her heart, otherwise she would not have rushed from her palace to come here at night, but now she looked like she wanted to make it difficult for Xiu Zhi. Xi Lie Yue lowered her head slightly and did not speak, but waited to see how the Imperial Mother would act and what ideas she would have.

Xi Lie Yue's mouth was smiling, but she remained silent while Qin Xiu Zhi was also silent, so no one answered her words for a long time. Xi Lie Qing Hua had to cough lightly and continued, "The army must not move rashly, but it is feasible to dispatch a thousand elite soldiers from the imperial guard to go abroad. However, the mission of the imperial guard is to protect the members of the imperial family, the Xi Lie family."

It turned out that Xi Lie Yue understood Imperial Mother's intentions, she was forcing Xiu Zhi to admit his identity. Sure enough, Xi Lie Qing Hua looked at Qin Xiu Zhi and asked in a cold voice, "Xiu Zhi, what is your surname?"

Qin Xiu Zhi kept his head down, so Xi Lie Yue could not see his expression clearly. It was just that the fists between his sleeves tightened and loosened, loosened and tightened. The resentment in his heart was self-evident, but still the Imperial Mother forced him like this, she was afraid that things would turn against her!

If he did not agree, she would not let him borrow the elite soldiers, so she was forcing him! If it were not for his father's wishes, he would not have come back to see her. He loathed this cold and dirty palace and even disdained a princely status. But Shang Jun... after calling this name silently in his heart, his heart would feel hot and painful, Shang Jun...

After a while, Xiu Zhi finally raised his head with his eyes full of indifference, while his mouth softened, "This son is... Xi Lie Xiu Zhi." The name he had long abandoned was squeezed out between his teeth, which also displayed to anyone that he did not have any other choice.

"Alright!" Xiu Zhi's unwillingness could be seen by everyone, but Xi Lie Qing Hua deliberately ignored it. Holding Xiu Zhi's hand, she gently laughed instead of being serious and gently said, "My son, get up quickly."

Xi Lie Qing Hua was in a good mood and smiled at Xi Lie Yue, "What does the Queen think about the transfer of elite soldiers?"

The Imperial Mother had already agreed, so what else could she say anymore? Xi Lie Yue said to the closest female officer next to her, "Pass my word, gather up a thousand elite soldiers, they will protect the Prince out of Hai Yu tomorrow."

"Yes." The female officer took a few steps, before Xi Lie Yue suddenly stopped her, "Wait, try to choose men."

"Yes."

Xiu Zhi gratefully said to Xi Lie Yue, "Thank you, Your Majesty." In any case, he could finally borrow some soldiers.