

Chapter 26

Looking At Flowers From A Balcony

Zhu Lei'Er was furious by his remarks, this man was belittling her in front of Yu Peiyu.

She hated when someone would belittle her in front of Yu Peiyu, but she didn't know what to say to him.

Yu Peiyu hoped that they would continue to talk, he hoped that Hai Dongqing could make Zhu Lei'Er forget about her tragedy. Furthermore he hoped Zhu Lei'Er forgot about himself.

Yu Peiyu also noticed that this proud and arrogant Hai Dongqing had a wonderful charisma.

He hoped that those two would get together when Zhu Lei'Er was cured again.

He knew that Hai Dongqing was a reliable man.

After travelling for a few hours they reached a wall, Hai Dongqing asked them: "Can you leap over this wall?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Over this wall?"

Hai Dongqing said: "Granny Hu lives here in this city, you would expect her to hide in a remote place."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "I can leap over here with no problem, but your four-legged friend cannot."

Hai Dongqing said: "If you can do it, my friend can do it too."

Zhu Lei'Er scoffed: "I would like to see that."

She turned to Yu Peiyu and said gently: "I'm feeling a bit woozy, could you hold me hand please."

The truth was she wasn't feeling woozy, she was afraid Yu Peiyu was still too exhausted and may not make the leap.

Yu Peiyu patted her hand and said gently: “Everyone thinks you’re a naughty and playfull young girl, but in fact you’re really gentle and kind girl.”

Zhu Lei’Er blushed, and she felt warm and touched inside. But Yu Peiyu meant those words for Hai Dongqing to hear.

Hai Dongqing had passed over the wall with granny Hu’s body without effort.

Zhu Lei’Er laughed coldly: “Look at his arrogant behaviour, he just learnt some martial arts and can’t wait to display his skills to everyone.”

Yu Peiyu smiled: “It is not surprising that he’s a bit arrogant, young men should feel proud for their superior martial arts.”

Zhu Lei’Er said: “But you’re very young too and your martial arts are very good. But you’re not arrogant.”

Yu Peiyu said: “Because I’m not as good as brother Hai.”

Zhu Lei’Er said sincerely and gently: “In my opinion one Yu Peiyu is better than ten Hai Dongqings.”

She didn’t give him the chance to answer and they both leapt over the wall.

Because this was an era of peace, China is prospering now. The soldiers are very lazy now and didn’t pay any attention to their duties. The four of them could easily escape their notice.

Zhu Lei’Er asked Hai Dongqing: “Well, how will your horse leap over the wall.”

Hai Dongqing smiled: “Since when have you heard that horses can learn the art of levitation.”

Zhu Lei’Er was stunned and said: “You said your horse could do it.”

Hai Dongqing said: “I was just telling a joke to a young girl.”

Zhu Lei’Er was very angry and couldn’t retort, if she did she would become a petty girl again.

Hai Dongqing was really getting on her nerves.

It was late in the evening, the streets were deserted. After a few streets, they heard some loud noises.

They saw some drunken men leaving a brothel, some fancy-dressed young women were smiling and talking to rich men. And the servants of the brothel were smiling respectfully to the customers.

Some of those conversations were quite lecherous and disgusting.

Zhu Lei'Er had never seen this before and didn't know what they were doing. So she asked: "What are these people doing here?"

Hai Dongqing said: "This is the world's oldest profession."

Zhu Lei'Er was still confused and wanted to ask more. In awhile she understood what he meant and pouted: "Why do you take us to this place?"

Hai Dongqing said: "This is the place we are looking for."

Yu Peiyu was shocked: "This is where granny Hu lives?"

Hai Dongqing said: "Unbelievable isn't it?"

Yu Peiyu smiled wryly: "Of course, this is the last place where her enemies will look for her. She opened a brothel to fool her enemies, what a cunning woman."

Hai Dongqing said: "Also when people enter a brothel and see the courtesans they will relax and won't be that vigilant. That's how granny Hu gain her information on Wulin."

Zhu Lei'Er scoffed: "You know a lot about this place, you must be a regular."

Hai Dongqing said calmly: "You're right, there are a least seven, eight courtesans who I regularly visit."

Zhu Lei'Er pouted, Yu Peiyu asked: "Brother Hai, how did you find out that this is granny Hu's home?"

They walked ahead and saw the characters *Apricot Pavillion*.

Two men dressed in servant's clothes were attending the front door, suddenly a forty year old man who looked very handsome and distinguished came out.

It is strange that such a character would be a pimp in this place, when a servant saw Hai Dongqing he said: "Young master Hai, you haven't been here for months. Let me tell the Miss Xiangxiang that you're here."

Another servant said: "It is a good thing that Miss Xiangxiang hasn't slept yet."

Hai Dongqing ignored them, and walked to that handsome man said coldly: "You're the proprietor of this place."

The man smiled: "Yes, indeed. Have we met before?"

Hai Dongqing said: "No, because most people who come here are for the courtesans. They're not here for mere servants."

That man still smiled, but he knew something was amiss.

He wanted to turn around and leave, Hai Dongqing yelled: "Stand still!"

The man said: "I'm just about to call Miss Xiangxiang."

Hai Dongqing said: "I'm here to see you."

The man was surprised and said: "Me?"

Hai Dongqing said: "I know who you are."

The man said with an enforced smile: "Did one of our girls offend you, sir?"

The man said: "Who was it, Xiangxiang? Xiaoxiao?"

Hai Dongqing kept shaking his head and said: "No, a granny. Namely granny Hu."

The man's face changed but laughed: "You must be joking, sir."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "Don't harass this man! Tell granny Hu's husband to come out."

Hai Dongqing asked: "Do you know who this is?"

Zhu Lei'Er said with shock: "He is the husband of granny Hu."

The husband of that old crone is this handsome middle-age man.

Hai Dongqing continued: "Do you know why he is hiding here and doesn't want to see anyone?"

Zhu Lei'Er shook his head: "I don't know."

Hai Dongqing said: "Because he used to be a famous orthodox martial artist. If his family and friends would know he is a pimp here. (*Humph)."

Zhu Lei'Er was curious now and asked: "Who is he? How famous was he?"

Hai Dongqing said: "He's rather famous, he used to be the young master of *The Myriad Wood Manor* on Mount Huang. The famous *Flower Swordsman* Xu Ruoyu."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "Nice name! However it is a shame that his wife is the hideous granny Hu."

Hai Dongqing said: "You know that young women sometimes marry old men about thrice their age. This is a similar case."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "That is different."

Hai Dongqing said: "It is no different those young girls marry to the old men for their wealth. He married granny Hu because of her martial arts."

Xu Ruoyu stood there looking a bit embarrassed, Zhu Lei'Er thought he would attack Hai Dongqing. But after a minute Xu Ruoyu composed himself and said with a smile: "Please enter my house for a cup of tea."

Hai Dongqing scoffed: "We were about to enter anyway even without your invitation."

He gave the body of granny Hu to the two servants, Hai Dongqing had wrapped the body in a cloth to avoid attention from local authorities.

The two servants were a bit startled when they were handed this strange thing.

Zhu Lei'Er smiled: "It is a priceless gift."

One of the servant smiled: "It must be a present for Miss Xiangxiang from young master Hai."

Zhu Lei'Er joked a bit with those servants, the servants felt inappropriate to answer anymore and remained silent.

After passing a few corridors they reached the main courtyard of the Apricot Pavillion. It was nicely decorated and looked very tranquil, however there were loud noises of laughter and heavy panting and moaning.

The sounds of moaning and panting were coming from lots of rooms from upstairs.

Zhu Lei'Er turned to Hai Dongqing and said coldly: "Those girls upstairs must be your friends."

Hai Dongqing grunted, Zhu Lei'Er said: "You really should pay them a visit, now that they're ill."

Hai Dongqing was stunned and repeated: "Ill?"

Zhu Lei'Er looked a bit annoyed and said: "Of course, they're ill. Can't you hear their moaning and panting? If they aren't ill why would they make such noises."

Hai Dongqing was very much amused and started to laugh.

Zhu Lei'Er looked at him very annoyed and said: "Why are you laughing? What is so funny?"

Hai Dongqing looked at her again and his laughter was gone. There was compassion and sadness in his eyes now.

Yu Peiyu sighed too in his heart, this young girl grew up under tragic circumstances. She is very innocent and naive, she is like an unspoiled white piece of paper.

Zhu Lei'Er figured out that she said something wrong but didn't know what that was. She didn't want to ask, so she remained quiet and was angry.

Xu Ruoyu came to her help and said: "I would convey your friendly messages to the girls. Thank you, Miss."

Zhu Lei'Er said loudly: "I'm not really interested in their health, so you don't need to convey any message. I know very well why and what they caught."

Although she said that but she had no clue why those people were moaning but she was grateful that Xu Ruoyu came to her help.

Before long they reached the private quarters of this brothel, the two servants put the body of granny Hu on the floor and wanted to leave.

Hai Dongqing said coldly: "Carry it inside."

One of the servant said: "These are the private quarters of the old Madame, we cannot enter."

Xu Ruoyu laughed and patted the two men on the shoulders and said: "It doesn't matter, do as you're told."

The two men picked up the body of granny Hu and walked inside and put it down again.

Yu Peiyu turned to Xu Ruoyu and sighed: "You're a very vicious man."

Xu Ruoyu couldn't smile anymore and praised: "You have very sharp eyes, sir."

Yu Peiyu ignored him and turned to the servants and asked: "Do both of you have a family?"

One of them replied: "Ding San is still single, but I have a wife."

Yu Peiyu sighed: "I suggest that you go home immediately, you might be able to see her for the last time."

Both men were stunned and didn't know what he was talking about.

Yu Peiyu said sadly: "The two of you already know too many of his secrets, he won't let you live."

They looked at Xu Ruoyu and asked: "Sir, what is he saying?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Look at your shoulders and you will understand."

They quickly took off their clothes and saw bruises on their shoulders, and a small puncture.

Black blood dripped out of their wounds and it smelt awful.

They begged for their lives, Hai Dongqing's eyes were filled with admiration and praise when he looked at Yu Peiyu. He now knew that Yu Peiyu was much more vigilant and observant than himself.

Xu Ruoyu smiled to Yu Peiyu: "You have very sharp eyes, but you're wrong about one thing. Even now they won't make alive out of this yard."

The two servants ran as quickly as they could but after a few paces they fell down and died.

Xu Ruoyu closed the door and said: "Please take a seat."

This man wouldn't think twice about killing a few men about a trivial matter, Yu Peiyu disliked him at once.

Zhu Lei'Er sighed: "You and granny Hu are really made for each other."

Xu Ruoyu smiled: "I did manage to pick up a few abilities from her in our marriage."

Zhu Lei'Er sighed again: "So she should have learnt your eloquence when she had the opportunity."

Xu Ruoyu thanked her, Zhu Lei'Er continued: "However silencing those two won't do you any good. You should kill another three extra people to secure your secrets."

Hai Dongqing said: "He doesn't want us to live either. That is why he invited us in here. But he doesn't have what it takes to deal with us."

Xu Ruoyu remained quiet and kept smiling. Hai Dongqing asked: "You know whose body this is, right."

Xu Ruoyu smiled: "If my guess is correct, it should be my wife."

He didn't seem to be sad about her death, in fact he sounded a bit happy too.

Zhu Lei'Er asked with surprise: "Aren't you sad or something?"

Xu Ruoyu said calmly: "She has this coming for a long time, she made many enemies and I knew she would die at the hands of her enemies sooner or later."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "You... you... are fine with this."

Xu Ruoyu laughed lightly: "You do know that I married because of her skills, if I pretended to be sad now you'll probably laughed at me."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "In that case, we even helped you regain your freedom?"

Xu Ruoyu smiled but didn't answer, but that smile said it all.

Zhu Lei'Er said: "It is bad enough that you married because of her martial arts, you could have run away after learning it. But why do you want to see her dead."

Her voice sounded sad, and she attacked him ferociously. Xu Ruoyu quickly glided away from her attacks and said with surprise: "Miss, why are you suddenly this angry?"

Yu Peiyu gently intervened now.

Zhu Lei'Er yelled: "Men like you deserve to die!"

Hai Dongqing was also a bit surprised by Zhu Lei'Er's actions, but he didn't know that this incident reminded her of her own parents.

Hai Dongqing frowned and said: "Don't you want the antidote anymore?"

Zhu Lei'Er said angrily: "I want to kill him first."

Suddenly an old voice said: "Who is poisoned? This must be the work of my little girl again."

This person called granny Hu [a little girl], she can only be the mother of granny Hu.

A very old woman came out in an old expensive brocade, she was holding a Buddhist rosary and held a dragon-headed staff in her other hand. Two maids accompanied her.

It was quite a surprise to see this elderly, distinguished and amicable old woman to be the mother of that awful granny Hu.

Xu Ruoyu respectfully walked up and whispered something in her ear.

Old Madame Hu trembled and pointed at the body, she said: "That... that is her."

Xu Ruoyu said: "Indeed."

Old Madame Hu said: "Good! She is finally dead. I have told her so many times to stop harming innocent people, but she wouldn't listen. She sought her own death."

She started to weep, she said: "Take her outside and bury her. I don't want her near me again. I will just pretend I didn't have this daughter."

Yu Peiyu was surprised to see that the mother of granny Hu was such a reasonable woman. Although he hated granny Hu, he was feeling a bit sad for old Madame Hu now.

Old Madame Hu asked with a trembling voice: "Who is poisoned here?"

Xu Ruoyu said: "This Miss over here."

Old Madame Hu looked at Zhu Lei'Er and sighed: "Such a shame, how could she? Ruoyu, take a look and see what type of poison she used."

Xu Ruoyu wanted to walk over, but Zhu Lei'Er said: "She used the poison under her nails."

Old Madame Hu cried out: "She scratched you? Where and when?"

Zhu Lei'Er answered: "Tomorrow morning it will be the third day, and she scratched my hand."

Old Madame Hu felt relieved and said: "We are not too late."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Can she be saved?"

Old Madame Hu said gently: "Yes, of course. The Jade Emperor is merciful and will be benevolent to good people."

Yu Peiyu was very happy, all the trouble wasn't in vain. But now his fatigue kicked in, he almost fainted.

Yu Peiyu composed himself and said: "I am most grateful that old Madame Hu is so considerate. But there is something I have to tell you."

Old Madame Hu asked gently: "What is it?"

Yu Peiyu said: "We did not kill granny Hu, she committed suicide with her final breath. I have even brought along her final words, in there she mentioned the antidote."

Old Madame Hu smiled: "You're afraid that I won't rescue this young Miss, right?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Anyway I am most grateful for your help, thank you."

Old Madame Hu said: "You must be tired now, rest here I will get the antidote."

The maids carried granny Hu's body away and Xu Ruoyu accompanied old Madame Hu away.

Yu Peiyu wanted to say something but he was too tired and sat back into the chair.

Hai Dongqing said: "Don't worry, she will give us the antidote."

Zhu Lei'Er pouted: "If she doesn't?"

Hai Dongqing said coldly: "If she doesn't I will make sure she does. And she doesn't have the courage to do anything against us."

Zhu Lei'Er scoffed: "She doesn't even know who you are."

Hai Dongqing said arrogantly: “When she sees the wooden board with granny Hu’s final words, she will know.”

Suddenly they heard a series of **Bang!** Hidden doors came down and sealed off the doors and windows in this room.

Yu Peiyu immediately jumped up and yelled: “We’re tricked!”

Hai Dongqing said angrily: “This woman is even slyer than her daughter.”

Zhu Lei’Er said coldly: “Furthermore she isn’t afraid of the famous Celestial Wolf.”

Hai Dongqing walked to the door and looked very angry and generated his full power to his fist and struck the doors.

They heard a loud clap but the extra wall stayed intact, it was made from iron.

Hai Dongqing turned pale, Zhu Lei’Er ran into Yu Peiyu’s arms and cried: “This is all my fault... I... I... ”

She couldn’t continue and started to cry louder. She was like this for days now, she wanted to say something but in the end she wouldn’t.

There was even strange smoke coming in from different sides of the room, Yu Peiyu yelled: “Poisonous gas!”

They quickly held their breaths. But how long can they hold their breaths.

Hai Dongqing gritted his teeth and used his palms, fists to hit the walls. But in vain.

The entire room turned into an oven now, it was very hot inside. Zhu Lei’Er was starting to sweat at her forehead, Yu Peiyu used his sleeve to wipe it away. Suddenly he saw that his sleeve was white, it was cement but where did it come from. When he looked up he saw a small hole in the roof.

Hai Dongqing’s powerful energy couldn’t punch a hole through an iron wall, but he made the ceiling shake and the ceiling was covered with iron plates.

Yu Peiyu leapt up and used his body and palms to smash a bigger hole in the roof, Hai Dongqing did the same.

After that, Hai Dongqing, Yu Peiyu and Zhu Lei’Er escaped through the hole on the top.

They were standing on the roof, Hai Dongqing looked around and couldn’t see anyone.

Zhu Lei'Er frowned and said: "The old hag and Xu must know that that room couldn't keep us trapped for long. They must be gone now."

Hai Dongqing said angrily: "I won't believe that they're willing to leave this place. They will return sooner or later."

With that he leapt of the roof and continued his search, Yu Peiyu and Zhu Lei'Er came down too.

Zhu Lei'Er scoffed: "He is so arrogant and thinks he knows everything. But in fact he knows nothing."

Yu Peiyu said softly: "You mustn't forget about his good sides, he did save us back there."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "It was you who saw the hole in the roof, he should thank you."

Yu Peiyu smiled, he gently caressed her hair and said: "I will go upstairs again for a look."

He didn't want to use the word antidote, he was afraid he would make her unhappy with those words.

Zhu Lei'Er sighed: "It is no use, they've already left. They wouldn't leave behind the antidote and we don't even know what the antidote looks like."

Yu Peiyu said sadly: "But they left in a hurry so they might not have the time to pack things. They might even have hid themselves somewhere in the brothel."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "Maybe you are right."

Yu Peiyu said: "I will start my search now."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "No, I don't want you to look."

She pulled his hand, Yu Peiyu said gently: "But why?"

Zhu Lei'Er didn't answer and just look in front of her daydreaming.

Yu Peiyu followed her look, it was dawn.

The three days are up, at any moment Zhu Lei'Er would die.

Zhu Lei'Er said sadly: "Do you now understand why I don't want you to leave me?"

Yu Peiyu said: "I... will stay."

His voice changed, he really hoped a miracle would happen. Could Hai Dongqing bring back Xu Ruoyu and the old woman.

Zhu Lei'Er said: "I've never drunk wine before, I would like to drink to my heart's contend. Would you accompany me?"

Yu Peiyu was still too shocked and said: "Where is wine?"

Zhu Lei'Er said sweetly: "This place is bound to have wine."

She pulled Yu Peiyu's hand and they walked through a few corridors. It was ironic to see that the flowers in the courtyard are withering away.

Suddenly they heard sounds of people being slapped and cursing. A group of men ran out with their clothes in their hands, Zhu Lei'Er smiled: "What is that strange cold youngster up to again."

Yu Peiyu thought it was a funny sight too, but he couldn't laugh.

Zhu Lei'Er laughed: "If he thinks that old woman would hide there, he is too stupid."

In a flash he stood in front of them, he looked rather tired and he was sweating.

Zhu Lei'Er laugh at him, Hai Dongqing looked at her and didn't argue with her. What is the point in argueing with someone who is about to die.

Yu Peiyu asked: "No sign of them?"

Hai Dongqing shook his head and said: "I will see if they have left the city. The two of you stay here, they can't escape."

He was gone again, Zhu Lei'Er said: "Just a minute."

Hai Dongqing stopped and asked: "What else?"

Zhu Lei'Er said: "I want to know where Miss Xiangxiang is."

Hai Dongqing was a bit surprised but pointed at a room and he was gone again.

Zhu Lei'Er said: "I think the wine of Miss Xiangxiang is very good, let us go there."

She walked ahead and pulled Yu Peiyu's hand.

Xiangxiang had a birdcage with a parrot, the parrot said: "Xiangxiang come out! You have visitors, if you're too late I will break your legs."

Xiangxiang said: "Naughty bird!"

She laughed and came out, she looked rather pretty. Zhu Lei'Er recognized her as one of the courtesans they saw earlier.

She seemed to be an entire different person, she was a good host and prepared wine for Yu Peiyu and Zhu Lei'Er.

She was talking and smiling with Zhu Lei'Er, it seemed that they were old friends.

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Haven't you noticed that something happened?"

Xiangxiang said: "I heard some noises, but that is it."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Do you know what is going on? Aren't you afraid?"

Xiangxiang smiled: "In our line of work we have to keep our customers happy no matter what. If not we won't receive our payment. No matter how we feel we still have to entertain our guests."

Zhu Lei'Er laughed: "Do you mind entertaining me?"

Xiangxiang smiled: "I would love to be friends with a sweet and beautiful girl like you."

Zhu Lei'Er smiled: "Initially I wanted to pester you because of a particular man. But now... nevermind!"

Xiangxiang said: "I would rather chit-chat with you than entertain any rich client."

Zhu Lei'Er smiled: "Let us drink."

Xiangxiang said: "That is a coincidence, I have a few bottles of fine wine here. An excellent vintage, unfortunately there aren't any fine dishes here. I will see what I can find in the kitchen."

These courtesans have been trained to be very eloquent and being a naive and innocent girl, Zhu Lei'Er is totally mesmerized by this Xiangxiang.

When the feast was prepared, Zhu Lei'Er wanted Xiangxiang to leave. But she didn't know how to say that. But Xiangxiang understood and smiled: "I really should stay here and be a good host, but I think you want to discuss something first. I will drop by later."

She walked out and closed the door, Zhu Lei'Er smiled to Yu Peiyu: "I thought she would try to entertain you, but she totally ignored you."

Yu Peiyu smiled faintly.

Zhu Lei'Er laughed: "Perhaps she saw that I have a terrible temper, that's why she is afraid to entertain you."

She doesn't know that courtesans like Xiangxiang can distinct in a flash who she should flatter to and how to use her "kind and considerate" character.

Many men have lost their fortunes because of her so-called kind and considerate character.

The wine was great, but Yu Peiyu could only taste the bitterness, after a few cups Zhu Lei'Er started to blush.

She smiled: "Now I know why so many people like to drink wine, it makes me feel so happy and free."

Yu Peiyu said softly: "If you like it, drink a few more cups."

Initially he wanted to advise her not to drink too much, but when he realized she was about to die he didn't want to spoil her fun.

Zhu Lei'Er said sweetly: "Drink with me."

Yu Peiyu said with an enforced smile: "I will always drink with you."

Zhu Lei'Er stayed quiet for some time and said: "You don't want to stay by my side."

Yu Peiyu said: "Why would you say a thing like that."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Why are you this sad?"

Yu Peiyu said: "I... "

He didn't know what to say, he couldn't be happy now.

Zhu Lei'Er said softly: "I know that I'm not very important to you."

Yu Peiyu said sincerely: "Don't say that... "

Zhu Lei'Er said: "What do you want me to say? I don't even know whether you truly like me."

Yu Peiyu said: "Of course I truly like you."

Zhu Lei'Er lowered her head and pulled her own sleeve and asked softly: "Why do you like me?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Because... because... "

Zhu Lei'Er continued: "I know why you can't say it. It is because you don't love me."

She started to cry softly, Yu Peiyu gently caressed her hair and said gently: "Who says I don't love you."

Zhu Lei'Er lifted her head and her eyes were glowing with joy.

She looked deeply in his eyes and asked slowly: "Do you really love me?"

Yu Peiyu said: "Of course I love you."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Do you love me enough... to be my husband."

Yu Peiyu was taken by surprise.

Zhu Lei'Er said gently: "I'm a dying woman, but I will be your loving and faithful wife till my last breath. And after I'm dead I won't mind if you would remarry immediately."

Yu Peiyu's heart ached, her every word were like needles piercing through his heart.

She looked at Yu Peiyu and said: "If you don't want to I won't blame you."

Yu Peiyu said suddenly: "Nothing would make me more happier."

Zhu Lei'Er trembled with joy, she asked with surprise: "Really? You're not doing this out of responsibility."

Yu Peiyu said gently: "No, I am doing this because I love you. It is the wish of every man to have an enchanting wife like you."

Zhu Lei'Er looked at him with her dreamy eyes and she suddenly hugged him: "I am so happy. I am too happy! I want everyone to know about my happiness. I want to share my joy."

She ran to the door and called: "Xiangxiang! Could you tell your friends to come here. I want them to attend my wedding banquet."

All the courtesans came and brought different gifts, they said the most auspicious words.

Although those weren't expensive gifts, but Zhu Lei'Er had never seen them before. She was thrilled when she received them.

This was happiness which Zhu Lei'Er had never experienced before.

All the courtesans were filled with admiration and envy, Yu Peiyu was the husband that every woman was looking for.

But only Yu Peiyu's heart was filled with sorrow.

Zhu Lei'Er pulled Xiangxiang aside and whispered something in her ear.

Xiangxiang said: "Allright, I will take you there."

Zhu Lei'Er went over to Yu Peiyu and said: "I will come back in awhile."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Where are you going?" Zhu Lei'Er blushed and said: "You won't understand."

Xiangxiang smiled: "He should start to learn."

Zhu Lei'Er smiled and disappeared out of the door with Xiangxiang.

Yu Peiyu felt melancholic when he saw her gone through the door, the courtesans all whispered: "Miss Zhu is very fortunate to marry a perfect man like young master Yu."

"Look he can't even bear to be separated from her for a short moment."

Yu Peiyu's heart was filled with sorrow when he heard their whispering.

Yu Peiyu was very tired and the only thing that kept him awake was his concern for Zhu Lei'Er.

He was hoping she would come back soon, but for a long time he didn't see her returning.

After another short time he heard footsteps and Xiangxiang came back. Yu Peiyu asked: "Where is she?"

Xiangxiang laughed: "Don't worry! Your bride won't run away."

Yu Peiyu felt a bit embarrassed but asked anyway: "When will she return?"

Xiangxiang said: "She is upstairs, she is doing something... She asked me to give you this letter."

All the girls were giggling.

One of them said: "Some say not seeing for one day is like not seeing for three Autumns."

With Zhu Lei'Er around those girls ignored Yu Peiyu. But now they're swarming up to Yu Peiyu. Yu Peiyu was trembling when he read that letter. He read the following:

Dear Peiyu,

For the past few days I have been trying to tell you something. But everytime when I want to tell you my secret, I was afraid you would scold me and hate me. I was never poisoned by granny Hu, that little poison of her cannot harm me. I pretended to be poisoned to test your feelings for me. I wanted to see whether you really cared for me or not. But when I saw the impossible trials we had to endure, even almost losing your life several times. I was too afraid to tell you the truth. At several occasions I wanted to tell you everything, but when I saw the trouble you went through I was afraid to tell you. I know you must detest and hate me very much, however I do not care because my

wish has been fulfilled I was your wife.
My biggest wish has been fulfilled, I can leave with a peaceful heart. I want today to last forever, there is only way to do that. By dying that is the only way I can repay and make up for my mistakes...

His sight became blurry, his tears were clouding his vision. Yu Peiyu stormed out the room and yelled: “LEI’ER YOU CANNOT DIE! WAIT... ”

But Zhu Lei’Er couldn’t hear him anymore, when he stormed open the door he saw Zhu Lei’Er holding a dagger. And her robe was red with her blood.

If Yu Peiyu was still the stubborn young man he would kneel to Zhu Lei’Er’s body and cry loudly.

But now he didn’t know how to express his sadness and sorrow anymore, he just stood there completely broken. He felt he had nothing to live for now.

Xiangxiang said coldly: “She is dead and you’re just standing here. Although you didn’t kill her, but she is dead because of you.”

Yu Peiyu said in a stunned way: “Yes, I know.”

Xiangxiang said: “She used death to repay you, how do you plan to repay her.”

Yu Peiyu just stood there and didn’t answer.

Xiangxiang scoffed: “You agreed to marry her because she was dying. If she wasn’t poisoned you would have never given her any consideration.”

Yu Peiyu didn’t know how to answer her.

Xiangxiang said sternly: “So you admit it! You’re the most heartless man I’ve ever seen. I want to kill you.”

She raised her hand and wanted to slap Yu Peiyu. He didn’t want to avoid that slap, he felt he deserved it.

He wanted to be hurt, he wanted someone to hit him. That way he felt that in this way he would be punished accordingly.

But the hand of Xiangxiang didn’t hit his face, in fact her index and middle finger sealed the acupoints on Yu Peiyu’s chest.