

Chapter 27

The Shock

Xiangxiang's fragile hands became as hard as stone, Yu Peiyu's acupoints were sealed. He fell down and looked at Xiangxiang with shock and disbelief.

Xiangxiang gently patted him on his face and laughed softly: "She is dead now and I know that you won't want to live anymore too. I will let the two of you see each other again..." Yu Peiyu passed out now.

When Hai Dongqing returned he went straight to Xiangxiang's room.

All the courtesans were still there, their faces were red and they looked happy and tipsy. Hai Dongqing didn't see Zhu Lei'Er and Yu Peiyu, he wanted to ask Xiangxiang.

When Xiangxiang saw Hai Dongqing, she looked a bit melancholic and happy.

She pulled his sleeve, and said: "Young master Hai, you have changed a lot since the last time we saw each other. All the other sisters were scared to death by you earlier, why are you so cold?"

She continued: "After examining my room, you know I haven't concealed a man in there."

He flung aside her hand and said coldly: "What is the meaning of those red candles?"

Xiangxiang smiled: "Haven't you seen those candles before?"

Hai Dongqing scoffed: "You get "married" at least once everyday, why the candles?"

Her face turned red and her eyes were watery. She lowered her head and said: "Women like me are not fit to use these candles. I know you look down upon me, but you don't have to say such mean words."

Hai Dongqing said coldly: "Is it possible for you to be sad? I want you to understand that I am not here to look for entertainment. Spare me those feeble words! You should know that I'm not a gentleman."

Xiangxiang started to cry and said: "I... I... understand."

Hai Dongqing said: "Answer my questions clearly."

Xiangxiang said: "Yes, I will."

Hai Dongqing said: "What happened here?"

Xiangxiang said: "They got married."

Hai Dongqing asked: "Who are [they]?"

Xiangxiang said: "Your friends young master Yu and Miss Zhu."

Hai Dongqing was shocked and stunned, he lifted Xiangxiang and yelled with surprise: "Why would they get married here! Do you expect me to believe those lies!"

He used force in his hands, Xiangxiang called out in pain. She said: "I wouldn't dream of lying to you. Let me go, if you don't believe me you can ask them too."

Hai Dongqing asked: "Where are they now?"

Xiangxiang said: "They entered that room to consume their marriage. I can take you there."

He released her and looked stunned, shocked and sad.

Xiangxiang looked at him and laughed: "You're jealous, aren't you?"

Hai Dongqing said angrily: "What!"

Xiangxiang pouted: "I know that you're in love with Miss Zhu, but she... "

Before she could finish Hai Dongqing slapped her. She fell down and all the other courtesans were too afraid to speak.

Xiangxiang sobbed: "How could you? Why won't you just kill me?"

Hai Dongqing was very annoyed and shouted: "Don't think your tears will affect me. If you continue to cry I will kill you at once."

Xiangxiang stopped crying, she didn't dare to pout or create a scene anymore.

Hai Dongqing said: "Get up and take me to them."

Xiangxiang said: "Very well. But they aren't there anymore."

Hai Dongqing scoffed: "I knew your words were rubbish. Where are they now!"

Xiangxiang said: "Miss Zhu was very ill, young master Yu agreed to marry her to fulfill her final wish. So we agreed to help them prepare for their marriage."

Hai Dongqing believed this and sighed deeply: "What happened afterwards."

Xiangxiang said: "After they went into that room to consume their marriage, but when I entered with the wine... Miss Zhu..."

Hai Dongqing asked anxiously: "What happened?"

Xiangxiang continued: "I saw Miss Zhu fell down and blood was coming from her mouth, eyes and nose. She looked very eerie, young master Yu picked up her body and screamed and yelled. He suddenly turned mad and ran out of here, he was gone in a flash."

Hai Dongqing said: "Why didn't you tell me this earlier."

Xiangxiang said: "The other sisters don't know about this, so I did not want to tell them. I am afraid that when they know that someone died in this room, they won't want to use it anymore. And they might even tell the customers, that way it might affect the business of our establishment."

This was a very convincing story and Hai Dongqing believed her.

If the customers would hear that people died here, they might go to another brothel and stay away from the Apricot Pavillion.

And Zhu Lei'Er's death was something Hai Dongqing has anticipated and Yu Peiyu being grief-stricken was also logical.

Hai Dongqing wasn't someone who was easily tricked but this story sounded very convincing.

He stayed quiet and looked sad after awhile he said: "If I find out that you lied to me..."

Xiangxiang said: "You will kill me, right. I will be here waiting for you."

Hai Dongqing turned around and walked away, Xiangxiang said: "Are you leaving now?" She ran up and pulled his sleeve, Hai Dongqing said: "I'm leaving now."

Xiangxiang said softly: "My feelings for you are true, but why are you so heartless."

Hai Dongqing scoffed: "Do you take me for an idiot! You don't have any true feelings."

He flung her hand aside and walked out with big paces.

Xiangxiang waited when he was out of the Apricot Pavillion, she scoffed: "You think you're very smart, don't you. But in my eyes you're nothing but a big fool."

A courtesan walked up and said: "That youngster is mean and nasty, why won't you think of a plan to kill him? Why did you let him go?"

Xiangxiang sighed: "Although he is a fool, his martial arts are very good. We may not succeed in killing him, I just made sure he left this place."

Xiangxiang said: "But if he returns I will know how to deal with him, furthermore our cover is blown. We're about to leave this place anyway."

The courtesan asked: "Have you killed that Yu Peiyu?"

Xiangxiang said: "No, our superior wants him alive, that's why brother Xu is looking after him now."

Yu Peiyu gradually woke up and saw Xu Ruoyu sitting at a table drinking wine.

Xu Ruoyu laughed: "Brother Yu, you're awake. I was disappointed that you did not know how to drink this fine wine. You should sip and savour the wine slowly, if you drink it like how you did. You will get drunk very easily."

Yu Peiyu knew this too, but at the time he was too sad and did care about how to drink wine.

Xu Ruoyu smiled: "It is fortunate that you did not teach your friend how to drink this wine."

Yu Peiyu asked anxiously: "What do you mean?"

Xu Ruoyu said: "Look for yourself, brother Yu." Xiangxiang came in and she was holding a beautiful young girl, it was Zhu Lei'Er she was still alive.

Yu Peiyu called out with shock, surprise and joy: "You're not dead!"

Zhu Lei'Er didn't look up.

Xu Ruoyu smiled: "Because this Miss Zhu did not know how to drink this wine, she became weak and tipsy very fast. She wanted to slit her throat but because her hands became very weak. So instead of slitting her throat she made a cut on her chest and fainted of the wine and the pain. The cut wasn't deep and you were too shocked to take her pulse."

Yu Peiyu was filled with joy and wanted to hug her but he noticed that his acupoints were still sealed.

Zhu Lei'Er begged: "Xiangxiang, I beg you kill me please. I can't see him anymore."

Yu Peiyu said gently: "I don't blame you, Lei'Er. Don't say those things, I want you to live."

Zhu Lei'Er sobbed: "But it is my fault that you're captured by them. I... I... "

Xu Ruoyu laughed: "What a touching scene! Even I am touched, but this isn't the time for this sort of romantic nonsense."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "Granny Hu died because of him, and you hate granny Hu so you really should let him go. Please I beg of you."

Xu Ruoyu sighed: "I'm most grateful that brother Yu killed that awful wife of mine, but I have my orders not to release you."

Zhu Lei'Er sobbed: "Tell the mother of granny Hu to come here, I will talk to her."

Xiangxiang smiled: "I'm afraid it is too late, she is dead." Zhu Lei'Er said: "Did Hai Dongqing kill her?"

Xiangxiang said: "He doesn't have that sort of ability yet."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Where were you at the moment?"

Xu Ruoyu laughed: "When you stormed out through the roof, I entered the room you just left. You turned the entire brothel upside down but forgot to look for one place."

Yu Peiyu sighed and praised Xu Ruoyu for being clever in his heart.

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Who killed the old woman?"

Xu Ruoyu smiled: "It was I."

Zhu Lei'Er exclaimed with surprise: "You?"

Xu Ruoyu said: "I think by the time you came here her body was already rotting away."

Xiangxiang laughed but suddenly her voice changed: "Good! She is finally dead. I have told her many times not to kill innocent people anymore."

Zhu Lei'Er looked at her and said: "You were that old woman?"

Xiangxiang smiled sweetly: "That was me."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "After you escaped from that room, you removed your disguise and went back to your own room. No wonder Hai Dongqing couldn't find the old crone."

Xiangxiang said: "You're right."

Zhu Lei'Er said: "The two of you wanted to betray granny Hu for a long time, so when she left her home you killed her mother. And because of the old woman hardly revealed herself to others nobody suspected a thing."

Xu Ruoyu smiled: "As you know I married her because of her martial arts, I have learnt almost 90 percent of her skills. I couldn't stand her hideous face anymore and everytime when I saw her I wanted to throw up. Unfortunately the opportunity never arose, but now."

Xiangxiang said: "Originally we wanted to kill her after she returns but now this way saved us a lot of work."

Zhu Lei'Er blinked with her eyes and said: "But we helped you, you should really let us go."

Xu Ruoyu said: "As I said we have our orders from our superior."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Superior? Who is that?"

Xu Ruoyu said: "You will soon find out."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Do we know your master?"

Xiangxiang said: "I think you might have met."

Zhu Lei'Er looked at Yu Peiyu and Yu Peiyu looked at her, both thought of the same person: Yu Fanghe.

Yu Fanghe used a similar trick in the Heavenly Silkworm Sect.

Zhu Lei'Er said: "So do you not want to avenge granny Hu."

Xu Ruoyu yawned and rubbed his eyes, he said: "If we wanted to avenge the old crone we will look for Hai Dongqing."

Yu Peiyu asked: "Have you planned something against him."

Xiangxiang said: "If our superior wants us to deal with him, we will deal with him. If not, he is not worthy of our attention."

After awhile both looked very sleepy and tired, Xiangxiang looked like she aged with ten years in a short while.

They were yawning and rubbing their eyes, and Xu Ruoyu kept blowing his nose.

Zhu Lei'Er was surprised to see this sudden change in them.

Xiangxiang yawned: "Do you have something left?"

Xu Ruoyu said: "Hmm?"

Xiangxiang scoffed: "I knew you were hiding out on me, give me some if not you will be sorry."

Xu Ruoyu was even too tired to open his eyes, he yawned: "If I have hidden some, I am your son."

Normally these two would talk rather politely to each other, but now they were quite rough.

And what was that thing they needed.

Yu Peiyu was suspicious too, suddenly the courtesans said: "Our master is here."

Xu Ruoyu and Xiangxiang looked excited and walked to the door and stood there respectfully.

A group of nine people entered wearing long cloaks and big straw hats.

Zhu Lei'Er scoffed: "The chancellor of Wulin is even too afraid to show us our true face."

One of the nine said: "I'm not the chancellor of Wulin, at least not yet. But are you talking to me?"

The voice sounded clear and beautiful, it belonged to a young woman.

The nine removed their cloaks, they were all young pretty women. One of them was a bit taller than the other eight. And ten times prettier than the other eight women.

Zhu Lei'Er pouted: "Yu Fanghe, show yourself!"

The taller girl laughed: "Do you think I am Yu Fanghe?"

Yu Peiyu recognized this girl as the horrible and maniacal Ji Lingfeng, it was a long time since they met.

Ji Lingfeng smiled: "You are surprised to see me, weren't you expecting me?"

Yu Peiyu sighed: "I should have guessed it was you. When I saw their changes I should have guessed you had a hand in this."

Ji Lingfeng sighed: "It is too bad you did not have the time to taste my precious pills for a longer period."

Ji Lingfeng pointed at Xiangxiang and Xu Ruoyu and said: "Look at these two, the man is lecherous pig and the woman is a nymphomaniac. But I can tell you that these two do not have an affair and haven't even touch each other."

Zhu Lei'Er asked: "Why is that?"

Ji Lingfeng said: "Because their interest lies somewhere else now. And do you know what that is?"

Zhu Lei'Er stayed quiet, Ji Lingfeng continued: "Because they are addicted to my pills of happiness. And when they're addicted to my pills they won't have any interest except working for me."

Zhu Lei'Er asked with surprise: "Pills of happiness?"

Ji Lingfeng smiled: "It is a gift from the gods themselves. Do you wish to try?"

Zhu Lei'Er said: "I wouldn't mind tasting it, I like poisonous things. The more poisonous the better."

Yu Peiyu shouted: "Do you want to become like those two! Look at them because of those damn pills they are slaves of her! They don't have their freedom and lives anymore. For those pills they are willing to betray themselves!"

Zhu Lei'Er had never seen Yu Peiyu this angry before, he must really hate these pills she thought.

Xu Ruoyu and Xiangxiang lowered their heads, when they heard Yu Peiyu's words. They felt embarrassed.

Yu Peiyu said: "I was addicted to these pills too, it is possible to break free from it. If you have the courage and the tenacity you will succeed. You can regain your freedom and lives."

Xu Ruoyu and Xiangxiang looked anxious, they wanted to fight their addiction like Yu Peiyu said.

Ji Lingfeng took out a small box and took out a few pills. She said: "These pills were for you, but now you don't want them anymore. I will just have to give them to someone else."

Their ambition to fight it was gone now, they knelt down and started to kowtow to Ji Lingfeng. They begged: "I want them, I do not want to stop using those pills."

Ji Lingfeng said coldly: "So you have no intentions of rebelling against me."

Both of them said: "I wouldn't dare."

Ji Lingfeng said: "Are you willing to be my slaves for the rest of your lives?"

Both of them said: "Yes, I am willing."

Ji Lingfeng scoffed: "Useless slaves! Here take it!"

She threw the box and the pills on the floor, Xu Ruoyu and Xiangxiang were acting like dogs and were picking up those pills like frantic lunatics.