

# E10 - Honey

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

**SIGN** The Apothecary Diaries

**SIGN** The Apothecary Diaries

**SIGN** This story is a work of fiction. The names of all of the characters, organizations, and so on are imaginary. It also bears no connection to any specific real-life events.

**SIGN** Episode 10: Honey

**[01:52] Xiaolan**

I heard about the servant  
who drowned. It was a suicide!

**[01:56] Xiaolan**

She was a servant at the Garnet Pavilion.

**[01:59] Xiaolan**

I heard she was the one who poisoned  
Lady Lishu's food at the garden party...

**[02:03] Xiaolan**

I wonder if she did it because  
she served Concubine Ah-Duo?

**[02:07] Maomao**

You mean, Pure Consort Ah-Duo?

**[02:09] Xiaolan**

Yeah. She's going to lose her title  
as one of the four consorts

**[02:12] Xiaolan**

to be replaced by a new,  
younger concubine, I hear.

**[02:16] Maomao**

*Concubine Ah-Duo is one year older  
than the emperor, at 35 years old.*

**[02:22] Maomao**

*She had a male baby with the emperor once,  
back when he was still a prince, but lost him.*

**[02:27] Maomao**

*It's too bad, but the whole rear palace  
system is built for creating many babies.*

**[02:33] Maomao**

Mother of a dead male baby.

**[02:37] Maomao**

*Will the same thing happen to Lady Lihua,  
if she can't have another baby?*

**[02:42] Maomao**

*There's no guarantee that Lady Gyokuyou  
will continue to have the emperor's love.*

**[02:48] Maomao**

*Even the most beautiful  
flowers wilt over time.*

**[02:51] Maomao**

*The flowers of the rear palace are  
meaningless unless they bear fruit.*

**[02:55] Xiaolan**

I gotta go now.

**[02:57] Maomao**

Oh. Take this, too.

**[02:59] Maomao**

They're leftovers from yesterday's tea party.

**[03:01] Xiaolan**

Thanks!

**[03:02] Xiaolan**

Enough snacks to have leftovers?  
Tea parties are awesome.

**[03:08] Maomao**

I'm not so sure.

**[03:10] Maomao**

*A tea party is definitely a form  
of work for a concubine.*

**[03:14] Yinghua**

Maomao, help us set up!

**[03:16] Maomao**

Another one?

**[03:18] Maomao**

You're working quite hard for this one.

**[03:21] Yinghua**

Obviously. This time,  
it's a high-ranked concubine,

**[03:23] Yinghua**

the Virtuous Consort, Lady Lishu!

**[03:26] Maomao**

*The politics of the rear palace  
is well-represented here.*

**[03:30] Gyokuyou**

Welcome, Concubine Lishu.

**[03:34] Lishu**

Thank you.

**[03:36] Maomao**

*Non-stop probing of each other's thoughts.*

**[03:40] Maomao**

*Is it part of the nature of being a woman  
to be cautious of the same sex?*

**[03:45] Maomao**

*To be honest, they seem more wary  
than when the emperor is here.*

**[03:50] Maomao**

*The way Lady Gyokuyou gleans  
information through polite conversation*

**[03:54] Maomao**

*shows how skilled of a concubine she is.*

**[03:57] Maomao**

*I heard she sends the information  
she gathers to her family back home.*

**[04:00] Maomao**

*Being a trade hub, it must be  
important to understand the times.*

**[04:14] Maomao**

*The taster at the garden party.*

**[04:16] Maomao**

*I'm glad to see she hasn't been  
too harshly punished.*

**[04:20] Maomao**

*I'm not going to bite her head off or anything.*

**[04:24] Maomao**

*The other servants aren't paying  
attention to their mistress at all.*

**[04:28] Maomao**

*That said, it doesn't seem like they're  
actively harassing her, either.*

**[04:32] Maomao**

*If my report to Master Gaoshun  
was mistaken, that's fortunate.*

**[04:37] Gyokuyou**

*Do you have any issues with sweets?*

**[04:40] Lishu**

*I love sweets.*

**[04:42] Gyokuyou**

*Great.*

**[04:45] Gyokuyou**

*It's cold out, so I was  
wondering if you'd like this.*

**[04:49] Gyokuyou**

*It's orange peels boiled  
in honey. It'll warm you up.*

**[04:56] Gyokuyou**

I hope you like it.

**[05:03] Maomao**

*Hmm? She can't handle honey, either?*

**[05:06] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 1**

Is she being a picky eater again?

**[05:08] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 2**

She won't even eat something served to her?

**[05:10] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 3**

I know, right?

**[05:22] Maomao**

Lady Gyokuyou.

**[05:25] Gyokuyou**

Oh, my. Ailan, I'm sorry.

**[05:28] Gyokuyou**

I think this one needs to  
be boiled a bit longer.

**[05:31] Gyokuyou**

Let me get you something else.

**[05:33] Gyokuyou**

How about hot ginger water?

**[05:36] Lishu**

Yes, that's fine.

**[05:40] Maomao**

*Unfortunately, it seems like*

*I wasn't wrong about the bullying.*

**[05:48] Yinghua**

We'll clean up here.

**[05:50] Ailan**

Maomao, you can rest.

**[05:53] Maomao**

*I can clean too, you know...*

**[05:56] Jinshi**

How was the tea party for  
Concubines Gyokuyou and Lishu?

**[06:00] Maomao**

*I thought it was odd how that  
tea party happened so suddenly.*

**[06:06] Maomao**

*So, it was this guy's idea, after all.*

**[06:09] Maomao**

They had a enjoyable time.

**[06:12] Jinshi**

I'm not done with you.

**[06:15] Maomao**

Could you please let go?

**[06:19] Jinshi**

Did you hear that

the garden party poisoning

**[06:21] Jinshi**

was done by the Garnet Pavilion  
servant who committed suicide?

**[06:26] Maomao**

I heard the rumors.

**[06:29] Jinshi**

Do you think she really committed suicide?

**[06:33] Maomao**

That's not for me to determine.

**[06:37] Jinshi**

Why would a common servant  
poison Concubine Lishu?

**[06:43] Maomao**

I don't know.

**[06:51] Jinshi**

Well then, can you go help out at  
the Garnet Pavilion, starting tomorrow?

**[06:56] Maomao**

*"Can" I? It's not like I have a choice.*

**[07:03] Maomao**

Understood.

**[07:06] Maomao**

*Mansions are painted in their  
masters' colors, figuratively speaking.*

**[07:10] Maomao**

*Concubine Gyokuyou's  
Jade Pavilion feels homey,*

**[07:13] Maomao**

*while Concubine Lihua's  
Crystal Pavilion felt refined and noble.*

**[07:17] Maomao**

*The Garnet Pavilion, home to Concubine Ah-Duo,*

**[07:20] Maomao**

*was practical and simple,  
yet polished and classy.*

**[07:24] Fengming**

My apologies for summoning you so suddenly.

**[07:26] Fengming**

I'm looking forward to working  
with you over the next three days.

**[07:30] Maomao**

*Master Jinshi didn't tell me  
to do anything specific.*

**[07:33] Maomao**

*I guess I should just work.*

**[07:35] Ah-Duo**

These are new faces.

**[07:37] Ah-Duo**

Fengming, who are they?

**[07:39] Fengming**

Temporary help for our big cleaning day.

**[07:43] Ah-Duo**

I see. Thanks for the help.

**[07:46] Maomao**

*Ah-Duo, the Pure Consort.*

**[07:49] Maomao**

*She's neither showy nor voluptuous,*

**[07:51] Maomao**

*but she has an androgynous,  
almost gallant kind of beauty.*

**[07:54] Maomao**

*She's really thirty-five?*

**[07:57] Maomao**

*If she dressed differently,  
she'd pass as a young civil servant.*

**[08:01] Maomao**

*She'd probably look better in a riding suit,  
instead of her skirt and dress.*

**[08:15] Maomao**

*Whoa, those longing stares.*

**[08:25] Maomao**

*Does she remind me of someone?*

**[08:32] Maomao**

*Lady Fengming, the head lady-in-waiting.*

**[08:35] Maomao**

*I expected the Pure Consort's  
head lady-in-waiting*

**[08:37] Maomao**

*to be from an important family,*

**[08:39] Maomao**

*but she's surprisingly approachable.*

**[08:42] Fengming**

Can you air the books out?

**[08:48] Fengming**

You can ask the eunuchs  
to handle the heavy items.

**[08:54] Maomao**

*She really is the oldest  
high-ranking concubine.*

**[08:57] Maomao**

*Despite the efficient look,  
the mansion has a whole lot of stuff.*

**[09:04] Maomao**

*Similar to the Jade Pavilion, the servants at the Garnet Pavilion are hard workers.*

**[09:08] Maomao**

*Certain fools who are all talk could learn a thing or two.*

**[09:23] Maomao**

Phew.

**[09:27] Maomao**

I guess that's it.

**[09:29] Fengming**

Incredible. You did this much already?

**[09:31] Fengming**

And so thorough, too. Can you help with the parlor, as well?

**[09:37] Maomao**

Yes.

**[09:38] Maomao**

*She's friendly, observant, and praises others well.*

**[09:42] Maomao**

*Seems like she's skilled at handling others as head lady-in-waiting.*

**[09:53] Maomao**

I haven't done so much physical labor in a while.

**[09:59] Fengming**

Good work. Thank you for your help today.

**[10:02] Maomao**

You're welcome.

**[10:03] Fengming**

Oh, I know. You'll be staying here tonight, correct?

**[10:06] Fengming**

Follow me, please.

**[10:16] Maomao**

*A sweet smell?*

**[10:18] Fengming**

Please use this. It'll get cold tonight.

**[10:22] Maomao**

Thank you.

**[10:24] Fengming**

Rest well.

**[10:36] Maomao**

*Master Jinshi didn't tell me to do anything specific.*

**[10:40] Maomao**

*But...*

**[11:01] Maomao**

*Is the mastermind behind  
the poisoning really here?*

**[11:05] Maomao**

*They really are all hard workers.*

**[11:08] Maomao**

*Not just the ladies-in-waiting, but...*

**[11:10] Garnet Pavilion Lady-in-Waiting 1**

*Lady Fengming! We can take care of that!*

**[11:14] Fengming**

*Don't worry about it.  
It's just something I noticed.*

**[11:18] Maomao**

*Lady Fengming is the leading example.*

**[11:20] Maomao**

*She's well past her prime,  
but would have made a great wife.*

**[11:25] Maomao**

*I wonder if she never  
considered getting married.*

**[11:28] Maomao**

*Did she choose to serve  
Concubine Ah-Duo for life?*

**[11:33] Maomao**

*Strong loyalty is a possible  
motive for the poisoning.*

**[11:38] Maomao**

*Now that a new concubine is about to enter,*

**[11:41] Maomao**

*the high-ranking concubine at  
the most risk is Concubine Ah-Duo.*

**[11:46] Maomao**

*But what if a vacancy  
opened up elsewhere first?*

**[11:49] Maomao**

*The emperor is only interested  
in ripened fruit.*

**[11:52] Maomao**

*He doesn't visit Lady Lishu.*

**[11:55] Maomao**

*That's fine, given her age of fourteen,*

**[11:58] Maomao**

*but one could also claim she's not  
serving her role as concubine.*

**[12:02] Maomao**

*If someone were to poison  
someone for Concubine Ah-Duo,*

**[12:05] Maomao**

*it wouldn't be out of the question  
to target Lady Lishu.*

**[12:09] Garnet Pavilion Lady-in-Waiting 2**

Can someone help me out here?

**[12:13] Maomao**

Honey?

**[12:14] Garnet Pavilion Lady-in-Waiting 2**

Lady Fengming's family runs an apiary.

**[12:18] Maomao**

No wonder there's so much honey here,  
despite it being so expensive.

**[12:23] Maomao**

*That must have been  
the sweet smell from last night.*

**[12:32] Maomao**

*Lady Lishu?*

**[12:33] Maomao**

*Accompanied by just the one taster?*

**[12:36] Maomao**

*Why is she at the Garnet Pavilion?*

**[12:38] Maomao**

*Coming to think of it, at the tea party...*

**[12:48] Maomao**

That's what happened at the Garnet Pavilion.

**[12:52] Jinshi**

I see.

**[12:54] Jinshi**

And?

**[12:56] Maomao**

That's it. No "and" or "but."

**[12:59] Maomao**

*I don't know what he wants.  
I'm just an apothecary.*

**[13:04] Maomao**

*If he wants a spy,  
he's asking the wrong girl.*

**[13:07] Maomao**

*What's with his casual  
attitude recently, anyway?*

**[13:15] Jinshi**

Let's change the question, then.

**[13:17] Jinshi**

If one of them could contact the outside  
using some special method,

**[13:21] Jinshi**

who would that be, you think?

**[13:23] Maomao**

*What a roundabout way of asking.*

**[13:26] Maomao**

I suppose the only possibility would be  
Lady Fengming, the head lady-in-waiting.

**[13:31] Jinshi**

Based on what?

**[13:33] Maomao**

She had bandages around her left wrist.

**[13:36] Maomao**

Those colored text plates were wrapped in  
a woman's dress with burns on the sleeves.

**[13:43] Maomao**

*Why would anyone make multi-colored fires?*

**[13:45] Maomao**

*One possibility is that it was a code.*

**[13:49] Maomao**

*Honestly, that gentle head lady-in-waiting*

**[13:52] Maomao**

*didn't seem like she was  
part of a conspiracy.*

**[13:56] Maomao**

*But that's just my opinion.*

**[14:01] Jinshi**

I suppose that's acceptable.

**[14:04] Maomao**

*I'm sure he knew this already,  
eating honey so ostentatiously.*

**[14:11] Jinshi**

A good child needs to be rewarded.

**[14:15] Maomao**

I r-respectfully decline.

**[14:17] Jinshi**

No need to be modest.

**[14:22] Maomao**

No, thank you! Please offer it to someone else!

**[14:25] Maomao**

*This guy thinks he can get away with  
anything because he has a pretty face!*

**[14:29] Maomao**

*Oh, right, that's the kind of  
pervert he's always been!*

**[14:34] Maomao**

Master Gaoshun!

**[14:37] Maomao**

*He's getting laxatives in his food later!*

**[14:39] Jinshi**

Do you not like sweets?

**[14:40] Maomao**

I like spicy foods.

**[14:42] Jinshi**

But you can eat this, right?

**[14:44] Maomao**

*Damn it, he won't listen...*

**[14:47] Maomao**

*If he weren't so high up,  
I'd kick him in the groin...*

**[14:49] Maomao**

*Wait, there's nothing to kick there.*

**[14:52] Maomao**

*Should I just accept this as an order?  
Or escape to maintain my dignity?*

**[15:01] Maomao**

*If this was aconite syrup,  
I'd have just accepted it.*

**[15:08] Gyokuyou**

*Do you have any issues with sweets?*

**[15:10] Gyokuyou**

*I hope you like it.*

**[15:32] Maomao**

*Honey?*

**[15:33] (Flashback) Garnet Pavilion Lady-in-Waiting 2**

Lady Fengming's family runs an apiary.

**[15:37] Maomao**

*Lady Lishu?*

**[15:39] Maomao**

*Syrup...*

**[15:44] Maomao**

Honey.

**[15:47] Jinshi**

Apothecary?

**[15:49] Gyokuyou**

What are you doing to my lady-in-waiting?

**[15:55] Jinshi**

Concubine Gyokuyou! I was just—

**[15:57] Gyokuyou**

On whose authority are you doing this?

**[16:04] Gaoshun**

Xiaomao, this was just a prank gone too far.

**[16:08] Gaoshun**

Could you forgive Master Jinshi?

**[16:11] Maomao**

In that case, next time you can do  
the licking for me, Master Gaoshun.

**[16:15] Gaoshun**

L-Licking? That's a bit...

**[16:21] Maomao**

Fine, you get the point.

**[16:23] Maomao**

Also, there are a few things  
I want to check on.

**[16:31] Maomao**

Excuse me.

**[16:32] Lishu**

Welcome, I—Oh?

**[16:35] Lishu**

Master Jinshi's not with you?

**[16:37] Maomao**

I'm afraid not. Apologies  
for the sudden intrusion.

**[16:41] Lishu**

So, what do you want,  
Jade Pavilion lady-in-waiting?

**[16:45] Maomao**

I have a question for you.

**[16:53] Lishu**

I remember you from the garden party.

**[16:57] Lishu**

What is it?

**[16:59] Maomao**

Do you dislike honey?

**[17:02] Lishu**

How did you know?!

**[17:04] Maomao**

I saw it on your face.

**[17:08] Maomao**

Did honey upset your stomach in the past?

**[17:11] Maomao**

It's common for someone to get food poisoning  
and have trouble with honey after that.

**[17:16] Lishu**

That's not it. I don't remember.

**[17:19] Lishu**

It was when I was a baby.

**[17:21] Lishu**

I heard it was life-threatening.

**SIGN** Banned

**[17:25] Lishu**

Since then, my nurses told me to not eat it.

**[17:28] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 1**

Where are your manners?

Probing Lady Lishu like that.

**[17:35] Maomao**

*Says the lady-in-waiting who didn't even try to protect her at the tea party.*

**[17:38] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 1**

What's with that look?

**[17:39] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 1**

There's no need to listen to her.

**[17:42] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 2**

That's right, she's being rude to the Virtuous Consort. We should expel her!

**[17:47] Maomao**

*So this is how they paint outsiders as the villain to pretend they are the only allies.*

**[17:53] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 2**

We're always looking out for Lady Lishu.

**[17:54] Maomao**

*It would be easy to trick a naive girl.*

**[17:56] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 1**

Who does she think she is?

**[17:59] Maomao**

*The isolated concubine has nobody to rely on but her ladies-in-waiting.*

**[18:03] Maomao**

*Not knowing she's being harassed...*

**[18:07] Maomao**

*It's a vicious cycle.*

**[18:10] Maomao**

I am here on orders.

**[18:13] Maomao**

If you have objections, please take them up with Master Jinshi.

**[18:17] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 1**

To Master J-Jinshi?!

**[18:19] Lishu's Lady-in-Waiting 2**

Directly?!

**[18:21] Maomao**

*He owes me this much, at the very least.*

**[18:24] Maomao**

*Let's see what reasons they come up with to approach the pervert eunuch.*

**[18:29] Maomao**

And one more thing.

**[18:33] Maomao**

Are you familiar with Lady Fengming,

**[18:36] Maomao**

head lady-in-waiting at the Garnet Pavilion?

**[18:54] Gaoshun**

Xiaomao?

**[18:55] Maomao**

Master Gaoshun, is there  
any way I can learn about

**[18:58] Maomao**

past events that happened  
in the rear palace?

**[19:04] Maomao**

I can search the court library.

**[19:08] Maomao**

Thank you.

**[19:15] Gaoshun**

*What did she figure out this time?*

**[19:18] Gaoshun**

*She's a smart girl, especially  
given that she's only seventeen.*

**[19:22] Gaoshun**

*Her knowledge and calm composure...*

**[19:24] Gaoshun**

*Her ability to logically think through  
and deal with various issues...*

**[19:29] Gaoshun**

*She does have some peculiarities,  
but it's still impressive.*

**[19:36] Maomao**

Seventeen years ago, when  
the current emperor was still a prince...

**[19:41] Maomao**

*He had a son with Concubine Ah-Duo.*

**[19:45] Maomao**

*The baby's already gone, but...*

**[19:48] Maomao**

He was born around the same time

**[19:49] Maomao**

as the prior emperor  
and empress dowager's son,

**[19:51] Maomao**

In other words, the current  
emperor's little brother.

**[19:55] Maomao**

*That was the only child  
the emperor had as a prince,*

**[19:58] Maomao**

*and Lady Ah-Duo was his only concubine.*

**[20:01] Maomao**

It says the current emperor and

Concubine Ah-Duo are foster siblings,

**[20:04] Maomao**

so that explains his attachment to her...

**[20:08] Maomao**

But it's surprising to learn a man that  
lustful only had one concubine back then.

**[20:13] Maomao**

Sixteen years ago, the baby died.  
The baby was delivered by...

**SIGN** Doctor Luomen

**[20:23] Maomao**

*I did have that hunch.*

**[20:27] Maomao**

*Several of the herbs growing in the rear  
palace were the same ones I used growing up.*

**[20:34] Maomao**

*Someone must have transplanted them.*

**[20:38] Maomao**

*A man who drags his feet like an old woman.*

**[20:43] Maomao**

*A doctor overqualified for the position  
of a pleasure district apothecary.*

**[20:49] Maomao**

*A former eunuch with a bone  
removed from one knee.*

**SIGN** ...Luomen, expelled...

**[20:55] Maomao**

What were you doing,

**[20:58] Maomao**

Dad?

**[21:06] ED Lyrics**

*Not just some superficial sweetness*

**[21:12] ED Lyrics**

*I want more warmth than I can even use, oh*

**[21:18] ED Lyrics**

*Having these selfish idealistic thoughts*

**[21:23] ED Lyrics**

*I swallowed them again today  
before putting them into words*

**[21:28] ED Lyrics**

*Still in my memories,  
the scent of fragrant olive*

**[21:33] ED Lyrics**

*The color of twilight in the city*

**[21:36] ED Lyrics**

*We were laughing...*

**[21:41] ED Lyrics**

*Filled with sadness,  
the tears welled up in my eyes*

**[21:53] ED Lyrics**

*I found a glow during those days*

**[22:01] ED Lyrics**

*I guess I took everything for granted*

**[22:06] ED Lyrics**

*The wind was so loud I covered my ears*

**[22:18] ED Lyrics**

*I gotta stop being like that*

**[22:25] ED Lyrics**

*Even if I stumble over the words of love*

**SIGN** Next Time

**[22:46] Narrator**

*Next time: "Reducing Two to One."*

**SIGN** Episode 11: Reducing Two to One

---

Revision #1

Created 2024-04-08 16:57:27 UTC by whimsee

Updated 2024-04-08 17:00:19 UTC by whimsee