

E12 - The Eunuch and the Courtesan

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SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

SIGN Jade Pavilion

Maomao

[01:33] Jinshi

What should I do...

[01:35] Gaoshun

What should we do?

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.

[01:39] Jinshi

After Fengming's execution,

[01:41] Jinshi

her family's assets were confiscated,

[01:44] Jinshi

*and all underwent varying degrees
of corporal punishment.*

[01:49] Jinshi

*Fengming was determined to
be the sole perpetrator,*

[01:52] Jinshi

*so fortunately, her mistress
Concubine Ah-Duo was not blamed.*

[01:58] Jinshi

*And now, here is the list of Fengming's family
members and those connected to them.*

[02:04] Gaoshun

The list includes those
who did business with them.

[02:08] Gaoshun

They had many businesses
in addition to apiculture.

[02:11] Gaoshun

There are about eighty children of those
families here in the rear palace.

[02:15] Jinshi

Eighty out of two thousand, huh?

[02:18] Jinshi

That's quite a hit ratio.

SIGN Jade Pavilion

Maomao

[02:24] Jinshi

*The family that the apothecary was kidnapped
and sold off to was one such family.*

[02:30] Gaoshun

If you wish, we could conceal this.

[02:32] Jinshi

If "I" wish...

[02:35] Jinshi

Indeed.

[02:37] Jinshi

It doesn't matter if it's right or wrong.

[02:40] Jinshi

If I say so, it will be done.

[02:43] Jinshi

*Given how she likes to separate
the commoners from the nobles,*

[02:46] Jinshi

*she'd obey any order, no matter
how much she disagrees.*

[02:54] Jinshi

It would be simple to give the order.

[02:56] Jinshi

I should just simply give the order.

[02:59] Jinshi

*Conceal the facts, and keep
her at the rear palace.*

[03:03] Jinshi

But if that goes against her will...

[03:08] Jinshi

*How would she feel, if she learned she'd been
forced to stay in a place she disliked so?*

[03:18] Jinshi

*I'm so afraid of the rift between
the two of us widening any further.*

[03:24] Gaoshun

Master Jinshi.

[03:27] Gaoshun

I thought she was just a convenient pawn.

[03:34] Maomao

Mass layoffs?

[03:35] Xiaolan

Yep.

SIGN Episode 12: The Eunuch and the Courtesan

[03:37] Xiaolan

The daughters of anyone who did business with that family are being let go.

[03:42] Xiaolan

And it seems like there's quite a few of them.

[03:45] Maomao

Huh...

[03:47] Xiaolan

There are girls around who have to quit all of a sudden and are in a real bind.

[03:51] Xiaolan

I guess that family really did a lot of business.

[03:55] Maomao

I have a bad feeling about this.

[03:58] Maomao

Getting fired now would be bad.

[04:01] Maomao

It's just bad timing.

[04:02] Maomao

After Lihaku, I haven't been able to send any more paying customers to the old lady.

[04:07] Maomao

If I go back now...

[04:09] Maomao

I'm home.

[04:11] Maomao

You have a customer!

[04:14] Maomao

She'll sell me off for sure!

[04:17] Xiaolan

Maomao?!

[04:25] Maomao

Last I checked, the family on my paperwork were merchants.

[04:40] Maomao

If Fengming's family ran an apiary,

[04:43] Maomao

there might be some sort of connection...

[05:30] Maomao

Master Jinshi!

[05:42] Jinshi

That's rare. You're out of breath.

[05:46] Maomao

Uh...

[05:46] Jinshi

Calm down. You're red all over.

[05:49] Maomao

I would like to talk to you!

[05:52] Jinshi

Sure. Let's speak inside.

[05:57] Jinshi

This is about the mass layoffs, I take it?

[05:59] Maomao

Yes. What's going to happen to me?

[06:03] Jinshi

Here's the list.

SIGN Jade

Pavilion

Maomao

[06:08] Maomao

So, I'm being let go.

[06:12] Jinshi

What do you want to do?

[06:18] (Flashback) Gaoshun

I thought she was just a convenient pawn.

[06:26] Maomao

As Lady Gyokuyou's lady-in-waiting,

[06:28] Maomao

*I can test for poisons and
hang out in the medical office.*

[06:31] Maomao

I have to admit I'm enjoying my current life.

[06:35] Maomao

But I'm just a servant, after all.

[06:38] Maomao

I'm in no position to request to stay.

[06:43] Maomao

*I have to make sure
I don't appear like I'm begging.*

[06:47] Maomao

I am a mere servant.

[06:49] Maomao

I'll do as you order, whether it be
manual labor, cooking, or tasting.

[06:57] Jinshi

As I order...

[06:59] Maomao

Yes. I'll do my best, if ordered to do so.

[07:03] Maomao

If I take a pay cut, so be it.

[07:06] Maomao

As long as I can buy time before getting sold off, I'll figure something out.

[07:12] Maomao

So please, don't fire me!

[07:18] Jinshi

Understood.

[07:19] Maomao

Do you mean...

[07:21] Jinshi

I'll make sure you're compensated.

[07:25] Maomao

Huh?

[07:26] Narrator

Negotiation failed. Maomao is let go.

[07:32] Maomao

There we go.

[07:42] Gaoshun

How long are you going to stay like that?

[07:46] Gaoshun

Perhaps you should have ordered her to stay.

[07:49] Jinshi

Not another word.

[07:53] Gaoshun

A week after being fired,

[07:55] Gaoshun

Xiaomao went home to the pleasure district.

[07:59] Gaoshun

I heard she politely went around

[08:01] Gaoshun

saying her farewells to every single place she had business with.

[08:06] (Flashback) Gyokuyou

You're going to regret this.

[08:09] Gaoshun

Finding a new toy to replace his favorite one has always been a challenge.

[08:15] (Flashback) Young Jinshi

No! I want that one!

[08:19] Gaoshun

Or perhaps...

[08:21] Gaoshun

That girl should not be treated as the same as a toy.

[08:25] Gaoshun

He only let her go because he didn't want to treat her as a tool.

[08:30] Gaoshun

What a troublesome master he is.

[08:34] Gaoshun

If finding a replacement won't do...

[08:36] Gaoshun

Perhaps I can speak to that military officer.

[08:40] Jinshi

Wah, wah, boo-hoo, sob, sob...

[08:50] Meimei

You do look much better without your freckles.

[08:53] Pairin

You can use my lipstick.

[08:56] Joka

I never thought I'd be going
to a party with Maomao.

[09:00] Maomao

*My workplace tonight is a noble's
party outside the brothel.*

[09:05] Maomao

*Calling a courtesan to one's
own mansion costs quite a sum.*

[09:08] Maomao

In addition...

[09:10] Maomao

*A night of drinks with one of
the Verdigris House's Princesses*

[09:12] Maomao

costs what most make in a year.

[09:14] Maomao

So to call on all three at once...

[09:18] Maomao

*I guess there's no limit to
how rich a rich person can be.*

[09:21] Maomao

I'm going with you, but just
so you look better by comparison.

[09:26] Meimei

Here you go, Maomao.

[09:28] Maomao

*Because I was paid more than
expected when leaving the rear palace,*

[09:32] Maomao

*I was able to avoid getting
sold off immediately.*

[09:36] Joka

That's an important job, too.

[09:39] Meimei

Looking forward to it, Maomao.

[09:41] Pairin

Oh! So cute.

[09:43] Old Lady

It's time! Hurry up! Hmm?

[09:49] Old Lady

Well, well, that's not bad at all.

[09:52] Old Lady

You could take on customers
of your own too, you know.

[09:57] Maomao

*The old lady really wants me
to become a courtesan.*

[10:03] Old Lady

Go make a fortune!

[10:05] Maomao

I can't recite poetry or play the erhu.

[10:08] Maomao

Dancing is out of the question.

[10:10] Maomao

*I'm just an apothecary's daughter,
with no interest outside of medicine.*

[10:14] Maomao

*So why is she so insistent,
especially these past few years?*

[10:38] Maomao

This person sure is loaded.

[10:42] Maomao

*Every piece of furniture is
unimaginably expensive.*

[10:45] Maomao

*I'm sure they wouldn't notice
one thing taken as a souvenir...*

[10:48] Maomao

No! Knock it off.

[10:50] Guide

This room, please.

[11:01] Maomao

*I heard Master Lihaku introduced us
to these high-ranking palace officials.*

[11:05] Maomao

They're younger than I expected.

[11:07] Pairin

Yum.

[11:09] Meimei

Come, let's go.

[11:14] Maomao

If he knows so many rich people, he should have introduced them to me sooner.

[11:19] Maomao

With his connections, I could have lessened my loan amount.

[11:24] Maomao

Anyway, off to work.

[12:25] Maomao

Work is work, but staying all smiles is quite an ordeal.

[12:29] Maomao

Hmm? Is he bored?

[12:33] Maomao

Excuse me.

[12:34] Jinshi

Leave me alone.

[12:37] Jinshi

I want to be alone.

[12:39] Maomao

Huh? Where have I heard this voice before?

[12:49] Maomao

Master Jinshi?

[12:53] Jinshi

Why avoid me?

[12:54] Maomao

Please don't touch the courtesans.

[12:56] Jinshi

Do people tell you that makeup changes you considerably?

[13:00] Maomao

I do get that a lot.

[13:02] Jinshi

Besides, why are you dressed like that?

[13:04] Maomao

I'm working part-time.

[13:06] Jinshi

As a courtesan?

[13:08] Maomao

Yes.

[13:09] Jinshi

Does that mean you're...

[13:11] Maomao

This guy is really prone to casting doubt on my chastity.

[13:15] Maomao

I don't take personal customers.

[13:19] Maomao

Yet.

[13:20] Jinshi

"Yet..."

[13:22] Jinshi

So, what if I bought you out?

[13:25] Maomao

Huh? What kind of joke is—

[13:29] Maomao

That might be a good idea.

[13:32] Maomao

Working in the rear palace again
wouldn't be too bad.

[13:38] Jinshi

I thought you quit
because you hated it there.

[13:40] Maomao

Huh? When did I ever say that?

[13:44] Maomao

I tried convincing you to let me stay,
but you fired me anyway.

[13:48] Maomao

True, there was a lot of trouble.

[13:51] Maomao

But where else would I be able
to perform as a taster?

[13:55] Maomao

The only thing I missed
were my poison experiments.

[14:02] Jinshi

You should really stop
experimenting with poison.

[14:05] Maomao

He's even more childish today than before.

[14:09] Jinshi

That's right. That's the kind
of person you are.

[14:12] Maomao

What does that mean?

[14:13] Jinshi

Do people ever say that you
don't express yourself clearly?

[14:16] Maomao

I do get that a lot.

[14:21] Jinshi

So why flinch?

[14:23] Maomao

Rules are rules.

[14:24] Jinshi

Can't you bend them a bit?

[14:26] Maomao

No.

[14:26] Jinshi

It's not the end of the world.

[14:28] Maomao

It's ending my spirit.

[14:29] Jinshi

Just one hand. Just the tip of my fingers.

[14:32] Maomao

*That's right, this guy
can be really persistent.*

[14:37] Maomao

Fine, just the fingers.

[14:52] Maomao

This guy!

[14:54] Maomao

The color sticks!

[14:57] Meimei

Goodness, what's this?

[14:59] Pairin

Oh, Maomao.

[15:00] Joka

I can't watch.

[15:01] Maomao

Come on, big sisters!

[15:03] Maomao

Master Gaoshun?! What? Huh?!

[15:07] Maomao

I couldn't make sense of any of it.

[15:09] Maomao

*I don't remember much of
what happened after that.*

[15:12] Joka

So, who was that?

[15:13] Meimei

How do you know him?

[15:15] Pairin

Not bad, you!

[15:16] Maomao

*I do remember that it was really hard
answering all my big sisters' questions.*

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[15:27] Maomao

And...

[15:28] Maomao

I should make some, just in case.

[15:30] Maomao

Wandering around without
my freckles leads to no good.

[15:34] Maomao

That was winter last year...

[15:40] Maomao

Getting kidnapped was enough of a surprise,

[15:42] Maomao

but to be sold off
to the rear palace, of all places...

[15:47] Maomao

Then to get promoted to a lady-in-waiting.

[15:54] Maomao

I wanted to lay low until
my term was over, but...

[15:58] Old Lady

Maomao. Is it ready?

[16:01] Maomao

Yeah, here.

[16:04] Old Lady

I need you to take a look at
someone. Can you come with me?

[16:07] Maomao

Got it.

[16:22] Maomao

The rear palace, huh?

[16:24] Maomao

*I really wanted to avoid
that place at all costs.*

[16:32] Maomao

I wonder if everyone's okay.

[16:39] Maomao

Oh, I'll get out.

[16:41] Old Lady

Take your time. You don't get to
come here all the time.

[16:45] Maomao

Yeah.

[16:51] Old Lady

What are you going to do from now on?

[16:54] Maomao

I'll pay back my loans, I promise.

[16:55] Old Lady

That's a given!

[16:59] Old Lady

Are you going back to the rear palace?

[17:03] Maomao

I don't know.

[17:06] Maomao

But... the rear palace and
the brothels are pretty similar.

[17:11] Old Lady

Hmm.

[17:25] Luomen

Having trouble sleeping?

[17:28] Maomao

I'm going to go get some air.

[17:30] Luomen

Take care.

[17:32] Maomao

I will.

[18:04] Maomao

The rear palace and
the brothels are no different.

[18:08] Maomao

A garden, and a cage.

[20:16] Maomao

What's going to happen from now on?

[20:26] Maomao

It's freezing.

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[20:32] Narrator

*A few days later, a beautiful noble
comes to the pleasure district.*

[20:41] Narrator

*With him, he brings enough cash
to make the old lady's eyes glisten,*

[20:44] Narrator

and for some reason...

[20:49] Narrator

A strange herb growing from an insect...

[20:57] Narrator

And in exchange, he asks for a certain girl.

SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

SIGN Next Time

[22:46] Narrator

*Next time: "Serving in
the Outer Court."*

SIGN Episode 13: Serving in the Outer Court