

E13 - Serving in the Outer Court

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

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(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.)

[00:15] Jinshi

Are you serious?

[00:18] Emperor

So, what would you do?

[00:20] Emperor

After all, you're the gardener
maintaining my flower garden.

[00:28] Jinshi

He truly is cunning.

[00:35] Jinshi

How ironic.

[00:38] Jinshi

*No matter how hard I try,
both in intellect and martial arts,*

[00:41] Jinshi

*I can only slightly
outperform a regular person.*

[00:44] Jinshi

*Instead, I am granted an appearance
more beautiful than anyone.*

[00:51] Jinshi

*The things I truly want
are so far out of reach.*

[00:59] Jinshi

*I was dissatisfied at first,
but I've gotten over it.*

[01:03] Jinshi

My sweet gaze, my sweet voice...

[01:07] Jinshi

I'll use my superior tools to my advantage.

[01:13] Jinshi

*I'm aware that ultimately, I'm just a child
floundering on the emperor's palm.*

[01:20] Jinshi

As you wish.

[01:22] Jinshi

*I'll manage his rear palace,
or whatever else he wants.*

[01:27] Jinshi

That's the only way I can choose my own path.

SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

SIGN Verdigris House

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.

[03:06] Maomao

I don't need this much, Big Sis.

[03:08] Meimei

Sure, sure. Take this, this... Oh! And this, too.

SIGN Episode 13: Serving in the Outer Court

[03:13] Maomao

I'm not going to be using lipstick.

[03:15] Meimei

What do you mean? Can't you put in
the least bit of effort to look proper?

[03:19] Maomao

Only courtesans have to get
prettied up to go to work.

[03:25] Maomao

I want to work with herbs...

[03:27] Maomao

Ow!

[03:28] Meimei

You've landed such a nice job at the palace!

[03:33] Meimei

And you're telling me you can't dress up
appropriately for the position?

[03:37] Meimei

You have to be thankful
for that every day.

[03:39] Meimei

Otherwise, you'll lose your great customers.

[03:42] Maomao

Meimei is really convincing.

[03:46] Maomao

*She's old enough to start considering
retirement as a courtesan,*

[03:49] Maomao

but her popularity hasn't waned at all,

[03:52] Maomao

because she has the intellect

[03:54] Maomao

*to entertain her customers
through song, chess, and go.*

[03:57] Joka

Maomao.

[03:59] Pairin

Wow, what a huge package.

[04:00] Maomao

Pairin, Joka.

[04:09] Joka

I'm glad you found a good
workplace. Go make a fortune.

[04:15] Maomao

Got it.

[04:17] Meimei

If you could bring back some paying
customers, that would be great too!

[04:20] Joka

Find some good, rich guys.

[04:23] Pairin

Someone with vigor, pretty please!

[04:26] Maomao

Uh, yeah...

SIGN Verdigris House

SIGN Verdigris House

[04:32] Maomao

*My new workplace... Or should I say,
the workplace I'm returning to,*

[04:36] Maomao

*is the area in the palace
called the rear palace.*

[04:40] Maomao

*It's a garden of women who are there
to have children for the emperor.*

[04:43] Maomao

*I was supposed to work here
as a lowly servant girl, but...*

SIGN You with the freckles, stay here

[04:46] Maomao

*I solved the mystery of the dying
infant heirs, which drew attention.*

[04:50] Maomao

*I was promoted to lady-in-waiting
for Lady Gyokuyou,*

[04:52] Maomao

*then got sucked into various
troubles as a food taster.*

[04:57] Maomao

*After that, a bunch of stuff happened,
leading to me getting fired.*

[05:00] Maomao

Who would've thought I'd be back again?

[05:06] Maomao

*I succumbed to the allure
of the caterpillar fungus,*

[05:09] Maomao

*but looking back, that might
have been careless of me.*

[05:12] Maomao

*Of course, seen from the outside,
it's a huge lucky break.*

[05:16] Maomao

*I do have some reservations about leaving
my dad behind to go live elsewhere for work,*

[05:20] Maomao

but the rules are a lot less strict this time,

[05:23] Maomao

and I'm not treated as missing anymore.

[05:26] Maomao

Dad also said I should do as I like, but...

[05:34] Maomao

What did he mean by that, I wonder?

[05:38] Maomao

I'm home.

[05:44] Luomen

They loaded you up, didn't they?

[05:46] Maomao

*What should I do? I definitely need
my mortar and pestle, and my notebook.*

[05:52] Maomao

I can't bring less underwear—

[05:55] Luomen

Maomao, you probably can't take those with you.

[05:59] Maomao

Huh?

[06:00] Luomen

You're not a doctor.

[06:01] Luomen

*Having such things would make you appear
like you're plotting a poisoning.*

[06:09] Luomen

Come now, don't make that face.

It was your decision to go.

[06:13] Luomen

You can't back out now.

[06:16] Maomao

Really?

[06:17] Luomen

You should be able to gradually get permission to bring more things in.

[06:21] Luomen

Get ready and go to sleep.
Tomorrow is your first day.

[06:26] Maomao

Fine...

[06:40] Luomen

Well, you haven't done this in a while.

[06:44] Luomen

I thought you weren't a baby anymore.

[06:47] Maomao

Well, it's cold.

[06:51] Luomen

We'll be lonely again.

[06:53] Maomao

Not really. This time,
I can come back any time I want.

[07:01] Luomen

You're right. You can come
home any time you want.

[07:07] Maomao

I have no mother.

[07:09] Maomao

But I have a caring dad, a nosy old granny,

[07:13] Maomao

*and a lively group of big sisters
to keep me company.*

[07:18] Maomao

I can come home any time.

[07:27] Maomao

Thank you for waiting, Master Jinshi.

[07:40] Meimei

Please take care of our little girl.

[07:43] Pairin

We got her all dolled up for you.

[07:46] Old Lady

Don't you forget, Maomao.

[07:49] Maomao

I know. Good customers, right?

[07:52] Old Lady

Good. Now go on.

[07:54] Maomao

What a way to start the morning.

[07:58] Maomao

Let's go.

[08:01] Jinshi

Uh, yeah.

[08:02] Joka

Take care.

[08:05] Maomao

I'm off.

[08:07] Onlooker A

She's pretty.

[08:08] Onlooker B

Have you ever seen her at
the Verdigris House before?

[08:15] Maomao

This is your fault, Master Jinshi.

[08:17] Jinshi

Hmm?

[08:18] Maomao

I got a lot of unwanted attention.

[08:20] Jinshi

That's because you're...

[08:28] Maomao

What is it?

[08:29] Jinshi

Nothing.

[08:49] Jinshi

Good work. May we proceed?

[08:51] Guard A

Yes!

[08:55] Jinshi

Apothecary. While you're here,
go back to your usual freckled face.

[08:59] Maomao

Huh?

[09:01] Maomao

Understood.

[09:13] Coworker A

Hey, I heard the manager of the rear palace

[09:16] Coworker A

bought out a courtesan
from the Verdigris House.

[09:18] Coworker B

The Verdigris House? Is that where
the famous Three Princesses are?

[09:22] Lakan

The Verdigris House?

[09:29] Maomao

What is this guy doing?

[09:34] Maomao

And this is?

[09:36] Jinshi

My house.

[09:38] Maomao

Huh?! Why?!

[09:40] Jinshi

This is your new workplace.

[09:44] Maomao

Master Gaoshun, I was under the impression we were returning to the rear palace...

[09:49] Gaoshun

We fired you once already, so we can't just put you back in the same position.

[09:53] Gaoshun

You will be working in the outer court now.

[09:56] Maomao

The outer court...

[09:58] Gaoshun

Yes. The rear palace is considered the inner court.

[10:01] Gaoshun

The outer court lies outside of that.

[10:04] Gaoshun

There are many public offices there. I'll show you around later.

[10:09] Suiren

Welcome home. It must have been cold.

[10:19] Suiren

I am Suiren, his attendant. You must be Xiaomao.

[10:24] Maomao

Y-Yes.

[10:27] Maomao

Xiaomao?

[10:33] Suiren

There are two separate buildings,

[10:35] Suiren

one with the office and one with the personal residence.

[10:38] Suiren

The area ahead is the young master's room, but...

[10:42] Maomao

"Young master?"

[10:44] Suiren

You should be all right.

[10:48] Maomao

This room's about the same size as the one I used at the Jade Pavilion.

[10:51] Maomao

If this place had a stove and a nearby well...

[10:55] Maomao

Still, this place seems too well-built for a servant girl's quarters.

[10:59] Suiren

Xiaomao?

[11:01] Maomao

Yes.

[11:02] Jinshi

I don't intend to make you do servant labor.

[11:06] Maomao

Huh?

[11:07] Jinshi

I told you, you're going to work in the outer court.

[11:18] Jinshi

You're going to take the court lady exam.

[11:21] Maomao

C-Court lady exam?!

[11:38] Maomao

A cotton garment? That's generous.

[11:53] Maomao

Good morning, Lady Suiren.

[11:55] Suiren

Oh, good morning, Xiaomao.

It's good that you wake up early.

[12:00] Maomao

I'll help.

[12:01] Suiren

It's fine, I'm almost done.

[12:04] Suiren

Can you just help serve?

[12:06] Maomao

Yes. Um, where are the other attendants?

[12:10] Suiren

There are none.

[12:12] Suiren

The office side is fine, but I couldn't let anyone handle the personal side.

[12:17] Suiren

The young master's food is especially out of the question.

[12:21] Maomao

So, you do all of this work by yourself?

[12:24] Suiren

We had some new girls a few times,

[12:27] Suiren

but well, things happen, and they don't last.

[12:31] Maomao

Did they lace his food with aphrodisiacs?

[12:33] Maomao

Or try to steal things?

[12:35] Suiren

I mean, who likes finding
unfamiliar underwear in their closet?

[12:40] Maomao

Huh?

[12:42] Suiren

On top of that, it was made of hair.

[12:46] Maomao

That sounds like a lot.

[12:48] Suiren

Yes, it certainly was.

[12:51] Suiren

Come, young master, please wake up.

[12:53] Suiren

It's time for breakfast.

[13:03] Maomao

So much wasted sex appeal...

[13:06] Maomao

*I can see why only Master Gaoshun
and Lady Suiren enter this room.*

[13:11] Maomao

A woman who saw this would lose herself easily.

[13:14] Maomao

A man would pounce on him right away.

[13:17] Maomao

He truly has a sin-inducing air about him.

[13:21] Maomao

Sort of like an insect in mating season.

[13:24] Maomao

*I wonder if I could collect this eunuch's
scent and sell it as an aphrodisiac?*

[13:30] Jinshi

If you want, I can get you a new room.

[13:34] Maomao

What brings this about?

[13:36] Maomao

I don't get it, but is this my chance

to get a stove and well?!

[13:43] Maomao

*He needs to tell me clearly
if he wants me to understand.*

[13:46] Maomao

*I can manage the stove somehow,
so for starters...*

[13:52] Maomao

*In that case, how about
a stable with a well nearby?*

[13:57] Jinshi

A stable.

[13:59] Maomao

Yes, a stable.

[14:03] Jinshi

No stables.

[14:10] Gaoshun

So, shall we?

[14:12] Maomao

Yes, please.

[14:15] Maomao

Master Jinshi got left behind.

[14:19] Maomao

*I assumed he had nothing to do, since
he was always loitering in the rear palace,*

[14:22] Maomao

but he's actually pretty busy.

[14:25] Gaoshun

*There are many military officers
on the east side of this area,*

[14:30] Gaoshun

so please stay away if possible.

[14:33] Maomao

Understood.

[14:35] Maomao

The palace he showed me around was huge.

[14:37] Maomao

I needed more than all my fingers and toes

[14:39] Maomao

*to count all the named buildings
and departments.*

[14:42] Maomao

Can I learn them all?

[14:45] Maomao

*My ability to learn about things
I'm not interested in is below average.*

[14:53] Gaoshun

This is the Director of Waters.

[14:55] Gaoshun

It's the department in charge of rivers,
dams, and water utilization projects.

[14:59] Maomao

I see.

[15:02] Maomao

The rear palace had more medicinal ingredients.

[15:07] Maomao

*My dad must have planted them
while he worked there.*

[15:11] Gaoshun

Xiaomao, when you become a court lady,
the outer court will be your workplace.

[15:15] Maomao

Yes.

[15:17] Maomao

Court lady, huh?

[15:28] Suiren

Oh, good timing, Xiaomao.

[15:30] Suiren

Can you take this charcoal to the office?

[15:33] Maomao

Yes.

[15:38] Maomao

Excuse me.

[15:46] Maomao

So, this is Master Jinshi's office.

[15:50] Maomao

It's not extravagant,
but everything here is top class.

[15:53] Maomao

How high up is our young master?

[16:02] Maomao

Sizing up the new girl? Not a good atmosphere.

[16:09] Maomao

*The court ladies of the outer court
are like secretaries.*

[16:13] Maomao

*They have the right qualifications,
background, and education.*

[16:17] Maomao

*They're nothing like the hodgepodge
of female officials at the rear palace.*

[16:20] Maomao

Which explains their high self-esteem...

[16:25] Maomao

Hmm?

[16:28] Maomao

And therefore, they won't go out of their way to clean, since that's not their job.

[16:35] Court Lady A

Just who do you think you are?

[16:39] Maomao

I guess they grow well when they're fed well.

[16:43] Court Lady A

Are you listening?!

[16:44] Court Lady A

Why is someone like *you* assigned directly to Master Jinshi?!

[16:50] Maomao

I guess staying quiet would irritate them more.

[16:55] Maomao

In other words, you're all jealous of me?

[17:01] Court Lady A

Watch your mouth!

[17:03] Maomao

Wrong choice of words.

[17:06] Maomao

Fine, then.

[17:08] Maomao

Are you implying I'm getting special treatment?

[17:12] Maomao

There's no way that could be right.

[17:15] Maomao

Why would he, a heavenly maiden of a person, fall for an ugly girl like me?

[17:22] Maomao

Does the noble figure in your mind have such bad taste?

[17:27] Maomao

Would he go out of his way to eat meatless chicken bones,

[17:30] Maomao

when there are heaps of delicious abalones and boar meat in front of him?

[17:34] Maomao

If that's the case, well, he must have some *interesting* proclivities.

[17:39] Maomao

I don't really get it myself, but does he truly have "special tastes"?

[17:44] Maomao

I see, so it's a "special taste"—

[17:45] Court Lady A

T-That's impossible!

[17:47] Court Lady B

R-Right!

[17:48] Suirei

Why did he hire you, then?

[17:56] Maomao

This is the reason.

[18:04] Maomao

*I just tried out some burn
medicine the other day,*

[18:07] Maomao

so it's really messed up right now.

[18:09] Maomao

Stings!

[18:11] Maomao

That heavenly maiden
has a heavenly heart, too.

[18:16] Maomao

He gives a person like me
a way to make a living.

[18:22] Court Lady A

Let's go.

[18:32] Maomao

Done and done.

[18:34] Jinshi

"Interesting proclivities..."

[18:37] Jinshi

Do you get harassed like that a lot?

[18:41] Jinshi

Besides, why are you raising your left arm—

[18:44] Maomao

I'm off to my next cleaning duty.

[18:47] Jinshi

Are you studying?

[18:49] Maomao

Sneak, sneak.

[18:51] Jinshi

Hey!

[18:52] Maomao

Sneak, sneak!

[19:13] Suiren

Xiaomao.

[19:16] Suiren

Please be quiet.

[19:25] Narrator

And thus, the day of the exams came.

[19:31] Jinshi

Why did you fail?

[19:34] Maomao

Why did you think I'd pass?

[19:37] Narrator

Maomao became Jinshi's personal servant.

[19:42] Gaoshun

What should we do?

[19:44] Suiren

What should we do, indeed?

[20:17] Maomao

Ow!

[20:20] Suirei

There shouldn't be any reason
for you to go beyond this point.

[20:24] Maomao

Could you say that before you hit me?

[20:28] Maomao

*The scent of sandalwood, mixed
with another, distinctly bitter smell.*

[20:44] Maomao

The military, huh?

SIGN Next Time

[22:46] Narrator

*Next time: "The New
Pure Consort."*

SIGN Episode 14: The New Pure Consort

SIGN

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