

E22 - Blue Roses

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

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SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

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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.

[01:33] Maomao

*By the time we started
to smell spring in the air,*

[01:36] Maomao

*it became certain that
Lady Gyokuyou was indeed pregnant.*

[01:46] Maomao

*That's curious. Can she tell
there's a baby inside?*

[01:54] Yinghua; Guiyuan; Ailan

So cute!

[01:56] Hongniang

Maybe I also should start to...

[02:03] Maomao

Even if she did get a proposal,

[02:05] Maomao

they'd probably never let her leave.

[02:08] Maomao

*Being too good at one's job
can be a curse at times.*

[02:16] Maomao

Time flies when every day is so fulfilling.

[02:21] Maomao

*In comparison, the two months spent at
Master Jinshi's offices felt like forever.*

[02:30] Maomao

Would you like to draw pictures again?

[02:32] Lingli

Yes!

[02:38] Maomao

This is the woolly milkcap,

a poisonous mushroom—

[02:41] Maomao

Ow!

[02:43] Hongniang

Draw *normal* flowers, please.

[02:45] Maomao

Normal flowers, huh?

[02:50] Jinshi

A blue rose?

SIGN Episode 22: Blue Roses

[02:52] Lakan

Yes. Perhaps you've never seen one before?

[02:56] Lakan

The striking blue petals are so beautiful.

[03:01] Lakan

I used to see them in the palace often.

[03:05] Jinshi

Perhaps you were dreaming?

[03:07] Jinshi

Blue roses do not exist.

[03:11] Lakan

But in fact, they do.

[03:15] Lakan

Oh, how I'd love to appreciate them
with everyone again.

[03:19] Lakan

What do you think? Could it be done?

[03:23] Lakan

With your power, there must be
nothing outside your reach.

[03:27] Jinshi

Understood. If such a rose does
indeed exist, I'd like to see it as well.

[03:33] Lakan

Then it's settled.

[03:35] Lakan

Goodness, I can't wait!

[03:39] Lakan

Excuse me.

[03:44] Lakan

I hope to see it at next month's garden party.

[03:49] Gaoshun

You're already so busy.

You didn't have to take on more work.

[03:54] Jinshi

Don't rub it in. Please just go ask
every florist in the nation about this.

[04:04] Gaoshun

The florists say that roses are not in season.

[04:12] Jinshi

Sorry to call you up so suddenly.

[04:16] Jinshi

We were talking about getting together to admire blue roses.

[04:21] Maomao

Blue roses...?

[04:23] Maomao

I'm just an apothecary, you know.

[04:25] Jinshi

Yes, I'm aware...

[04:28] Maomao

*I wonder what prompted this?
He seems awfully tired.*

[04:33] Maomao

*Roses, huh? I do know
a thing or two about them.*

[04:38] Maomao

*I've sold them before to make some
quick cash with the courtesans. But...*

[04:44] Maomao

They really said they saw a blue rose?

[04:47] Jinshi

Yes.

[04:49] Maomao

Is there some new popular hallucinogen, or...?

[04:52] Jinshi

That'd ruin our whole nation!

[04:54] Gaoshun

Master Jinshi.

[04:59] Jinshi

Is it impossible?

[05:04] Maomao

What exactly is it that you desire?

[05:07] Jinshi

Can you find some by next month's garden party?

[05:10] Maomao

Next month? Roses bloom
two months later at the earliest.

[05:15] Jinshi

I know...

[05:18] Jinshi

I'll find a way to turn him down.

[05:22] Maomao

Master Jinshi's reaction, and this style of

forcing people to attempt the impossible...

[05:28] Maomao

Was this brought up by a certain strategist?

[05:35] Jinshi

Yes.

[05:37] Maomao

Understood. I will take this on.

[05:40] Jinshi

Are you sure?

[05:41] Maomao

I don't know if I can pull it off,
but I'll try my best.

[05:45] Maomao

I don't want to just run from him.

[05:51] Maomao

*I might as well take a swing at
smashing his creepy monocle.*

[05:56] Maomao

Master Jinshi, may I make a few requests?

[06:01] Maomao

Thank you for allowing me
to use it, Lady Lihua.

[06:06] Lihua

I don't mind. You were the one that
had it constructed in the first place.

[06:12] Maomao

It's been a while.

[06:14] Maomao

*I remember back then, I got them to
make a steam room for Lady Lihua,*

[06:18] Maomao

who was suffering from poison back then.

[06:20] Maomao

*I'm borrowing it now,
but I feel bad using it for free.*

[06:26] Maomao

This is the emperor's favorite book.

[06:29] Lihua

I appreciate this.

[06:32] Maomao

I'm glad I got it through the brothel.

[06:40] Jinshi

Take that side.

[06:42] Eunuchs

Yes, sir!

[06:43] Maomao

Master Jinshi.

[06:44] Jinshi

Ah, you're here.

[06:46] Jinshi

I had them build this as you asked, but...

[06:48] Jinshi

What is this for?

[06:50] Maomao

We're going to make the roses go mad.

[06:52] Jinshi

Make the roses go mad?

[06:54] Jinshi

What does that mean, apothecary?

[07:03] Maomao

We're going to let the sunlight in,
and blow steam inside through there.

[07:09] Maomao

The roses will grow in this warmed room.

[07:12] Maomao

This way, the flowers might
mistake it as the time to bloom.

[07:17] Jinshi

I see, so they'll "go mad."

[07:20] Maomao

I can't guarantee it, though.

[07:30] Maomao

Oh.

[07:33] Xiaolan

Maomao!

[07:36] Maomao

Xiaolan?

[07:37] Xiaolan

I'll help, too!

[07:39] Xiaolan

Is your leg okay?

[07:43] Maomao

Did he summon her to chaperone me?

[07:48] Maomao

*They did repeatedly tell me
not to push myself too hard.*

[07:53] Maomao

I'm fine. Sorry to make you help.

[07:55] Xiaolan

It's okay. It's been a while since
we've worked together, huh?

[07:59] Maomao

Yeah, it has.

[08:05] Maomao

We brought in over one hundred roses.

[08:11] Maomao

This is the last one.

[08:14] Xiaolan

Wow, this is a lot!

[08:17] Maomao

We diversified the species, selecting early-blooming ones where possible.

[08:21] Xiaolan

Will they all bloom?

[08:23] Maomao

I hope so.

[08:37] Maomao

Temperature control requires utmost care.

[08:41] Maomao

I got them to send some help, but this is a tough task to delegate to others.

[08:48] Maomao

If we make a mistake and kill them all, that would be the end of it.

[08:56] Maomao

On sunny days, we bring them outside to expose them to sunlight.

[09:02] Xiaolan

That must feel good!

[09:05] Maomao

Yeah.

[09:06] Gaoshun

How are you doing?

[09:09] Gaoshun

Here, a gift.

[09:14] Maomao

Thank you very much.

[09:17] Xiaolan

I get to skip work and eat snacks? This is great!

[09:22] Maomao

This is work too, though.

[09:27] Xiaolan

What's with them?

[09:29] Maomao

I don't know. Maybe they're just curious.

[09:32] Maomao

Or they want to be scared.

[09:37] Xiaolan

What should I do next?

[09:40] Maomao

If a seedling has a lot of sprouts
on it, can you pick a few?

[09:44] Maomao

It concentrates the nutrients into the
remaining sprouts and helps prevent sickness.

[09:49] Eunuchs

Ah.

[09:51] Eunuchs

Whoa!

[09:55] Xiaolan

It's fine.

[10:01] Eunuchs

Thank you.

[10:02] Xiaolan

Don't mention it!

[10:06] Maomao

Hurry!

[10:16] Xiaolan

It's taking them a long time to bloom.

[10:24] Maomao

On days where it gets cold,

[10:31] Maomao

I stay up all night to maintain the heat.

[10:41] Maomao

Weather can't be controlled.

[10:55] Xiaolan

Did you pull another all-nighter?

[10:58] Maomao

I did sleep, around dawn.

[11:00] Xiaolan

Dawn was just moments ago!

[11:02] Xiaolan

I'll do what I can,
so why don't you get some sleep?

[11:06] Maomao

I can't leave this alone.

[11:10] Xiaolan

They're looking at us again.

[11:13] Maomao

Every single day. Don't they get tired of this?

[11:16] Maomao

It's irritating.

[11:19] Maomao

I wonder if I can divert their attention...

[11:26] Xiaolan

Wow! So this is what a manicure is like!

[11:31] Maomao

Everyone does it in the pleasure district.

[11:34] Xiaolan

It sure is pretty!

[11:47] Guiyuan

Oh, you did it too, Maomao?

[11:49] Guiyuan

So cute!

[11:51] Ailan

It's been popular recently.

[11:54] Maomao

Indeed.

[11:57] Maomao

*The high-ranking concubines are always
at the cutting edge of fashion.*

[12:08] Hongniang

Seems like a waste of time.

[12:12] Maomao

Lady Hongniang prefers work over fashion.

[12:16] Maomao

I've finished tasting for poison,
so I'll go back to the Crystal Pavilion now.

[12:20] Gyokuyou

Already?

[12:21] Maomao

The garden party is coming up soon.

[12:24] Gyokuyou

I see...

[12:26] Hongniang

Oh, by the way, Lady Gyokuyou
won't be attending this time around.

[12:31] Hongniang

We're letting the focus of this event
be Lady Loulan's introduction.

[12:35] Maomao

To hide the pregnancy, right.

[12:38] Maomao

Understood. Excuse me.

[12:41] Yinghua

Hey, is everything alright
at the Crystal Pavilion?

[12:44] Guiyuan

You look worse for wear every day.

[12:46] Ailan

Don't push yourself too hard, okay?

[12:48] Maomao

Thank you.

[13:01] Xiaolan

Maomao!

[13:04] Xiaolan

Maomao, hurry!

[13:11] Maomao

A bud...

[13:12] Xiaolan

I found it just now.

[13:14] Xiaolan

Our first one, finally!

[13:18] Maomao

At this rate... We might just make it in time.

[13:23] Xiaolan

Maomao? Maomao!

[13:26] Xiaolan

Maomao!

[13:36] Jinshi

Has the apothecary sent any word?

[13:38] Gaoshun

No, nothing.

[13:40] Gaoshun

I haven't been able to visit her
for the past few days.

[13:43] Jinshi

We were both busy preparing
for the garden party.

[13:50] Maomao

Master Jinshi.

[14:21] Military Officer 1

So, that's Concubine Loulan,
daughter of Master Shishou.

[14:29] Bureaucrat 1

How splendid.

[14:44] Shishou

Regarding Concubine Loulan,

[14:49] Shishou

is there anything that needs improvement?

[14:53] Shishou

Please, hold nothing back.

[14:59] Loulan

Please.

[15:01] Empress Dowager

Oh.

[15:14] High Official 1

Blue roses?!

[15:15] High Official 2

It can't be...

[15:22] Jinshi

It may be entertaining

[15:25] Jinshi

to enjoy the beauty of these buds while
imagining how they look at full bloom.

[15:30] Emperor

Yes. They're beautiful.

[15:34] High Official 1

Hmph.

[15:34] Jinshi

The attention that "Jinshi" gets.

[15:39] Jinshi

Unlike some of the worthless officials,

[15:42] Jinshi

*many don't appreciate a young eunuch
hoarding attention, no matter how beautiful.*

[15:50] Jinshi

Lust is fine. It's easy to exploit that.

[15:57] Jinshi

Envy is fine, too. It's manageable.

[15:59] Jinshi

What's really troubling is...

[16:02] Jinshi

When I can't tell what they're thinking.

[16:05] Jinshi

*Shishou. Concubine Loulan's father, the man
favored by the mother of the former emperor...*

[16:11] Jinshi

*Even now, the emperor
can't look him in the eye.*

[16:14] Jinshi

*That's why I also can't let
my smile fade, either.*

[16:18] Jinshi

*And besides, the one who's more
worrying than Shishou right now is...*

[16:22] Jinshi

That man, Lakan.

[16:35] Lakan

How annoying.

[16:44] Yinghua

Are you awake?

[16:45] Maomao

Yinghua.

[16:47] Yinghua

Don't go to the Crystal Pavilion anymore.

[16:49] Yinghua

You always come back looking so exhausted.

[16:54] Maomao

I'm sorry.

[16:56] Jinshi

You're up.

[17:01] Yinghua

Excuse me.

[17:05] Jinshi

You can stay seated.

[17:09] Maomao

It was hard. I couldn't get them
to fully bloom.

[17:14] Jinshi

You're not apologizing to me, are you?

[17:19] Jinshi

Never mind. You did well.

[17:23] Jinshi

How did you do it, though?

[17:26] Maomao

I just dyed them.

[17:28] Jinshi

Dyed? But there's nothing on them.

[17:31] Maomao

Not on the outside. We dyed them from the inside.

[17:39] Maomao

All of these roses were originally white.

[17:44] Maomao

We mixed water with several colors
and had the white buds suck them up.

[17:49] Jinshi

So that's why there were
many colors, not just blue.

[17:53] Maomao

Yes. The leaves ended up coming out
black, so we plucked them all.

[17:59] Maomao

Then all we had to do was to fix cotton
soaked in the dyed water to the stems,

[18:03] Maomao

so they wouldn't lose their
vibrancy during the garden party.

[18:07] Maomao

It really was quite simple.

[18:09] Maomao

*What was actually difficult was
getting the roses to bloom at all.*

[18:14] Jinshi

Simple, indeed.

[18:17] Maomao

Also, because some officials might
have picked a quarrel about this,

[18:22] Maomao

I went ahead and revealed
the trick to the emperor.

[18:26] Maomao

He seemed to enjoy the fact that
he got to know the secret first,

[18:29] Maomao

and had a good time listening to me explain.

[18:32] Jinshi

So, about the story of the blue roses
being seen in the palace...

[18:36] Maomao

There must have been someone with a lot of
free time feeding blue water to the roses.

[18:44] Jinshi

Who would do something like that?

[18:47] Maomao

Who knows? Maybe they wanted
a gimmick with which to woo women.

[18:52] Jinshi

That's unexpected. Are you painting your nails?

[18:55] Maomao

It doesn't suit me, though.

[18:58] Maomao

*If I had some balsam and woodsorrel,
I could have made them look prettier.*

[19:03] Maomao

*Balsam is often used to dye fingernails,
and woodsorrel is nicknamed cat's foot.*

[19:08] Maomao

*Mixing them together and applying them
on the fingernails creates a vivid red.*

[19:12] Maomao

But then, even if I made them prettier...

[19:15] Maomao

This is better than it was before.

[19:19] Maomao

Master Gaoshun, what about
the item I requested?

[19:22] Gaoshun

Yes, as you wished.

[19:25] Maomao

Thank you.

[19:28] Maomao

Now the stage is set.

[19:30] Maomao

*All I have to do now is catch
that nasty creep off guard.*

[19:39] Lakan

I didn't expect my provocation to fail.

[19:51] Lakan

Most humans only look like go stones to me.

[19:55] Lakan

Men are black stones, women are white stones.

SIGN Pawn

SIGN Pawn

SIGN Pawn

SIGN Pawn

[19:59] Lakan

*Even my subordinates in the military
only appear as chess pieces, at best.*

[20:04] Lakan

Most are soldiers, pawns.

[20:07] Lakan

*As they gain ranks,
they become cavalry and cannons.*

SIGN River

[20:11] Lakan

Working in the military is easy.

[20:14] Lakan

I just need to know where to place the pieces.

[20:18] Lakan

*The right pieces in the right places.
Most wars can be won by that alone.*

[20:22] Lakan

*It's quite easy. Even if I were
completely useless,*

[20:27] Lakan

*as long as I placed others in the right places,
the work would get done on its own.*

[20:32] Lakan

My eyes hurt more than usual today.

[20:35] Lakan

A red color keeps flickering into my view.

[20:40] Lakan

Manicures...

[20:42] Lakan

*The manicures in my memories
aren't this overly flamboyant crimson.*

[20:48] Lakan

They're the soft color of balsam.

SIGN Advisor

SIGN Bishop

SIGN Next Time

[22:46] Narrator

Next time:

"Balsam and Woodsorrel."

SIGN Episode 23: Balsam and Woodsorrel

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