

E4 - The Threat

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

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SIGN The Apothecary Diaries

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[01:30] Lady-in-Waiting 1

How dare you try to feed
Lady Lihua such lowly food!

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.

[01:34] Lady-in-Waiting 2

Only the most luxurious foods
suit our Lady Lihua.

[01:39] Lady-in-Waiting 2

I'd hesitate to even *show* this to her!

SIGN Episode 4: The Threat

[01:42] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Who would ever think Lady Lihua
would enjoy something like this?

[01:45] Maomao

Yikes. What a pain.

[01:45] Lady-in-Waiting 2

We know best what Lady Lihua likes to eat.

[01:49] Maomao

*I'd never have come to the Crystal
Pavilion if I'd had a choice, but...*

[01:50] Lady-in-Waiting 2

How dare you try to sneak this
past us, servant. Shame on you.

[01:55] Narrator

*The night the emperor
visited the Jade Pavilion...*

[02:23] Maomao

There is no poison.

[02:26] Maomao

Excuse me.

[02:31] Emperor

Wait.

[02:33] Maomao

Uh-oh, the emperor directly addressed me for the first time.

[02:36] Emperor

I have a request for the famous apothecary.

[02:40] Maomao

Famous? I have a bad feeling about this.

[02:43] Maomao

Yes.

[02:44] Emperor

Concubine Lihua is not well.

Could you look after her?

[02:49] Maomao

By "look after her," he means "cure her."

[02:54] Maomao

The word of the emperor is the word of the heavens.

[02:57] Maomao

If I declined, that would be grounds for my beheading.

[03:00] Maomao

Yes, Your Majesty.

[03:03] Maomao

Why would he say that in front of another concubine?

[03:08] Maomao

His Majesty really is "an emperor" by nature.

[03:13] Maomao

That said, it's pretty incredible that they treat me like this. I'm here by imperial order.

[03:18] Maomao

Since they serve Lady Lihua, I suppose they hate me as a servant of Lady Gyokuyou.

[03:24] Maomao

Hmm?

[03:25] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Get out if you're done cleaning!

[03:28] Maomao

Boing boing.

[03:31] Maomao

Oh, well. Guess I have to cook it again.

[03:36] Xiaolan

Maomao, are you at the Crystal Pavilion now?

[03:39] Maomao

Yeah, I'm looking after Lady Lihua.

[03:41] Xiaolan

I see. Lady Lihua hasn't recovered yet...

[03:46] Maomao

The whitening powder's poison
must still be in her system.

[03:49] Xiaolan

The poisonous powder, huh?
I heard it was banned.

[03:54] Xiaolan

I heard the eunuchs took away all
the remaining powder in the rear palace.

[03:59] Maomao

I see. Good.

[04:02] Xiaolan

But a request from the emperor?
You're awesome, Maomao. I was surprised!

[04:09] Maomao

*He must really not trust the doctor
to rely on a girl like me.*

[04:15] Xiaolan

Maomao, you're going
to the kitchen later, right?

[04:17] Maomao

Yeah.

[04:18] Xiaolan

Good luck with the cooking!

[04:20] Maomao

Thanks.

[04:26] Maomao

Right!

[04:28] Maomao

*In looking after Lady Lihua, the first thing
I set out to do was to improve her diet.*

[04:30] Maomao

Um, excuse me.

[04:32] Cook

Yes?

[04:32] Maomao

*First I needed to expel
the poison still in her body.*

[04:36] Maomao

To do this, a porridge with lots of fiber,

[04:39] Maomao

plus a diuretic tea sounds good.

[04:41] Maomao

Not this. Not this either. This one...

[04:45] Maomao

And this one, too. But not this one...

[04:51] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Enough is enough!

[04:53] Lady-in-Waiting 1

This is no place for lowly girls like you.

[04:57] Maomao

Boing boing.

[04:59] Maomao

This is going to take a while.

[05:02] Maomao

In that case, let's try...

[05:04] Maomao

This one, that one, the other one, and this.

[05:11] Lady-in-Waiting 3

How many times do I have to tell you?!

[05:12] Maomao

Well, first, she needs to eat
something easy to digest—

[05:15] Lady-in-Waiting 1

No way! Sick people need *nutritious* food,
not cheap stuff like that. Obviously.

[05:22] Maomao

So that's her usual meal.

[05:24] Maomao

Sure, it's nutritious,

[05:27] Maomao

*but it's too heavy for a sick
person's weakened stomach.*

[05:30] Maomao

That's not hard to understand.

[05:33] Maomao

Why won't anyone stop them?

[05:36] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Lady Lihua, your meal is ready.

[05:40] Lady-in-Waiting 1

We brought you all the things
you like. Please try to eat.

[05:50] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Lady Lihua?!

[05:51] Lady-in-Waiting 2

Oh no, what do we do?!

[05:52] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Quick, bring water!

[05:54] Lady-in-Waiting 3

Are you all right, Lady Lihua?!

[05:55] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Lady Lihua, please have some water.

[06:02] Lady-in-Waiting 4

This is your fault, lowly servant!

[06:04] Lady-in-Waiting 5

Your presence ruins the atmosphere!

[06:06] Lady-in-Waiting 6

Get out! Now!

[06:09] Maomao

Boing boing.

[06:12] Maomao

*I won't even be able
to get near her at this rate.*

[06:16] Maomao

Now, what shall I do...

[06:24] Maomao

If I could at least do an examination...

[06:26] Lady-in-Waiting 1

No need. What if you make things worse?!

[06:32] Maomao

At that rate, she's bound to wither and die.

[06:36] Maomao

People die unless they eat.

[06:40] Maomao

*She probably lost the will to live
after losing her child.*

[06:50] Maomao

How many days do I have left,

[06:52] Maomao

*before my head bids farewell to my body
for defying the emperor's order?*

[06:57] Jinshi

It seems like you're in a bit of a bind.

[07:01] Maomao

Does it appear that way to you?

[07:03] Jinshi

It does appear that way to me.

[07:06] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Master Jinshi?!

[07:09] Lady-in-Waiting 4

What's with that girl?

[07:11] Lady-in-Waiting 5

Why is she with Master Jinshi...?

[07:12] Maomao

An annoying misunderstanding...

[07:18] Jinshi

Let's go inside, for now.

[07:22] Lady-in-Waiting 2

Oh...

[07:22] Lady-in-Waiting 1

M-Master Jinshi?!

[07:23] Lady-in-Waiting 4 & 5

EEK!

[07:24] Jinshi

It's not befitting of beautiful
and talented ladies like you

[07:27] Jinshi

to ignore the emperor's arrangements.

[07:32] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Oh! Oh no, we aren't ignoring...

[07:33] Lady-in-Waiting 4

Whoa! Eek!

[07:34] Lady-in-Waiting 2

Right. We were just, um...

[07:35] Lady-in-Waiting 5

H-Hey!

[07:38] Maomao

It's scary how women can change so quickly.

[07:48] Jinshi

There. Now go.

[08:20] Maomao

She does have the will to eat.

[08:23] Maomao

But she's weaker than I thought.

[08:26] Maomao

Maybe she can handle rice water instead.

[08:32] Maomao

Excuse me.

[08:35] Maomao

The same shade as before...

[08:57] Maomao

Are you the one in charge of
the concubine's makeup?

[09:00] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Indeed I am.

[09:02] Lady-in-Waiting 1

We want Lady Lihua to always be beautiful.

[09:05] Lady-in-Waiting 1

That is our duty as ladies-in-waiting.

[09:08] Lady-in-Waiting 2

It's all for Lady Lihua. Obviously.

[09:11] Maomao

I see.

[09:14] Lady-in-Waiting 1

What's wrong with you?!

[09:16] Maomao

Huh? Just punishing an idiot, obviously.

[09:19] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Ouch! You're hurting me! Stop! It hurts!

[09:31] Maomao

The poison will infect your
whole body after a while.

[09:34] Maomao

You should be glad. You'll be pretty too,

[09:38] Maomao

just like your beloved Lady Lihua.

[09:41] Maomao

Pale, bloodless skin, sunken eye sockets,
a body unable to even eat...

[09:48] Maomao

Don't you understand why this stuff was banned?!

[10:01] Lady-in-Waiting 1

I j-just thought it would
make Lady Lihua happy—

[10:06] Maomao

I told you, it's *poison*.

[10:08] Maomao

There are no thoughts in your head.
You just think you know everything.

[10:14] Maomao

Who would be happy poisoned with
the same thing that killed their son?!

[10:29] Maomao

Go rinse your mouth and wash your face.

[10:33] Maomao

Hey! This is bad for the patient.

[10:37] Maomao

Clean this floor up immediately!

[10:39] Ladies-in-Waiting

Y-Yes!

[10:44] Jinshi

It truly *is* scary, how women
can change so quickly.

[10:49] Maomao

Oh...

[10:52] Maomao

I've really done it now...

[10:55] Lady-in-Waiting 2

Let's go.

[10:59] Maomao

Lady Lihua's health was worse than I thought.

[11:03] Maomao

*I started by changing from
porridge to rice water.*

[11:06] Maomao

I forced the food into her mouth and had her swallow slowly, repeatedly.

[11:12] Maomao

No sense in worrying about manners at a time like this.

[11:17] Maomao

I did some ventilation, which thinned out the incense, revealing the smell of the sick.

[11:22] Maomao

Those incompetent fools can't even wipe down their mistress properly?

[11:25] Maomao

How do they even call themselves ladies-in-waiting?

[11:28] Maomao

There's so much they could have been doing before worrying about incense.

[11:34] Maomao

Hey. Hot water and cloth, now.

[11:37] Ladies-in-Waiting 2 & 3

Y-Yes.

[11:41] Maomao

You all, get to work.

[11:42] Ladies-in-Waiting 4; 5; 6

Y-Yes!

[11:50] Maomao

I had her drink tea every chance I could find.

[11:52] Maomao

Frequent urination helps flush the poison out of her body.

[11:56] Lady-in-Waiting 2

Um, are you sure Lady Lihua isn't in pain...?

[12:00] Maomao

It doesn't matter, she must drink.

[12:03] Maomao

She began to eat more, so I increased the amount of rice grains in the water.

[12:08] Maomao

When she began to be able to swallow them, I added soup and ground fruit.

[12:14] Maomao

I heard the lady-in-waiting was put in confinement.

[12:19] Maomao

Apparently, she'd hid the powder for Lady Lihua.

[12:25] Maomao

*The eunuch who was supposed to recover
the powder was punished by flagellation.*

[12:46] Jinshi

You seem tired.

[12:49] Maomao

Yes. Unlike a certain someone, I'm quite busy.

[12:53] Gaoshun

We brought gifts.

[12:57] Maomao

Thank you!

[13:00] Maomao

Wow!

[13:02] Maomao

He really knows what I want!

[13:04] Maomao

*It's considerate people like him
who become good husbands.*

[13:08] Maomao

He is a eunuch, though.

[13:11] Maomao

Compared to him...

[13:17] Jinshi

Do you need help with anything?

[13:20] Maomao

Well...

[13:23] Jinshi

What is it? Tell me anything.

[13:27] Jinshi

Over there, they need help. Someone please.

[13:31] Jinshi

Everyone, please hurry.

[13:33] Eunuchs

Yes!

[13:35] Gaoshun

A steam bath?

[13:37] Jinshi

Apparently, sweating is good for her.

[13:40] Gaoshun

Is it useful?

[13:42] Jinshi

I suppose it is.

[13:44] Maomao

We have to use whatever we have.

[13:56] Lihua

You... Why...

[14:01] Maomao

Yes, what is it?

[14:04] Lihua

Why wouldn't you...

[14:09] Lihua

let me just die?

[14:14] Maomao

You could stop eating, then.

[14:19] Maomao

But you eat the porridge
because you want to live.

[14:42] Lihua

I see.

[14:58] Lihua

You're right.

[15:48] Maomao

You.

[15:50] Lady-in-Waiting 1

I was released from confinement and am
permitted to serve Lady Lihua once again.

[15:57] Lady-in-Waiting 1

I will never make that mistake again. Ever.

[16:02] Lady-in-Waiting 1

I will take your place now. Please rest.

[16:07] Maomao

All right.

[16:16] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Lady Lihua.

[16:21] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Lady Lihua.

[16:27] Lihua

Ah...

[16:33] Lihua

Can you get me some water, if you could?

[16:41] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Yes.

[16:46] Lady-in-Waiting 1

Yes!

[16:53] Maomao

*After about two months, Lady Lihua
recovered enough to be able to walk by herself.*

[17:02] Maomao

She has self-respect, but isn't arrogant.

[17:06] Maomao

*After that matter with the prince,
I imagined her as a selfish princess,*

[17:11] Maomao

*but as it turns out, she has
a personality befitting a concubine.*

[17:50] Maomao

I will take my leave tomorrow morning.

[17:54] Lihua

I see.

[17:56] Maomao

I've already spoken to your
ladies-in-waiting about your food

[17:59] Maomao

and other things to be careful of.

[18:03] Lihua

Hey. Am I incapable of birthing another child?

[18:10] Maomao

I don't know. Perhaps you should try.

[18:14] Lihua

But His Majesty's love for me is gone.

[18:18] Maomao

I was sent here by a direct
order from the emperor.

[18:22] Maomao

Once I return to the Jade Pavilion,
perhaps the emperor will visit you.

[18:29] Lihua

I ignored those words of
advice and let my child die.

[18:34] Lihua

Will I be able to win
against Concubine Gyokuyou?

[18:37] Maomao

It's not a matter of winning and losing.

[18:42] Maomao

There are hundreds,
thousands of flowers in the world,

[18:45] Maomao

but who can decide whether a peony
or a bellflower is more beautiful?

[18:52] Lihua

I have neither her jade eyes
nor her bright hair.

[19:00] Maomao

You have other... assets.

[19:04] Maomao

Not just the sheer size, but the shape
and tension are truly magnificent.

[19:09] Lihua

Huh?

[19:11] Maomao

Could you lend me your ear?

[19:14] Lihua

Y-Yes.

[19:30] Maomao

Excuse me.

[19:37] Maomao

The knowledge I left with Lady Lihua was a secret technique taught to me

[19:37] Lady-in-Waiting

Lady Lihua, what's wrong?

[19:41] Ladies-in-Waiting

Lady Lihua?!

[19:42] Maomao

by my big sisters at the brothel.

[19:44] (Flashback) Pairin

You should learn this, just in case!

[19:47] (Flashback) Young Maomao

Huh?

[19:49] Maomao

Unfortunately, I don't have the sizable fruits to employ the technique.

[19:54] Maomao

It's perfect for Lady Lihua, though.

[19:59] Maomao

I hope it turns out to be useful.

[20:07] Maomao

I'm back.

[20:10] Gyokuyou

Welcome back.

[20:12] Yinghua

Maomao, are you all right?!

[20:14] Guiyuan

You've gotten so thin.

[20:16] Ailan

It must have been very hard.

[20:18] Jinshi

She completed the emperor's mission all by herself. Impressive.

[20:26] Narration

There was a period after that where the emperor's visits to the Jade Pavilion

[20:29] Narration

decreased in frequency quite significantly.

[20:34] Gyokuyou

Finally, released from sleep deprivation.

[20:39] Narration

Maomao couldn't keep a straight face, but that's another story.

[21:00] Eunuch

It's a curse...

SIGN Next Time

[22:46] Narration

Next time: "Covert Operations."

SIGN Episode 5: Covert Operations

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