

## All Hail 1061

### Chapter 1061: Leaving Xiangping

The content of this letter was a guarantee that Yin Huaixi had written after sending her to Quanzhou to officially visit the Xie Residence and have a secret discussion with her maternal grandfather.

He would not be disloyal, would not have any lust, and no children would be born after his death. They would be a pair for the rest of their lives.

Emperor Xianzong, who was loyal to only his wife, and his father, King Li of Zhou, added to the credibility of this document.

People liked to swear to the heavens. Those who respected the heavens and feared the earth naturally followed their heavenly oaths and restrained themselves.

For those who disrespected the heavens and feared the earth, oaths were empty words.

However, very few people swore on their ancestors and relatives, because no one could bear the consequences of betraying their ancestors.

Those who respected the heavens and feared the earth were loyal.

Those who respected their ancestors and feared their relatives only cared about themselves.

The development of the North was based on the Xie family's huge connections, channels, and family wealth. Without these, everything would be meaningless.

She seemed to have done a lot, but the Xie family had sacrificed even more for her. All her confidence came from Yin Huaixi and the Xie family.

Yin Huaixi gave her the courage to take a gamble.

The Xie family had given her the capital.

In order to help Yin Huaixi, the Xie family had spent generations of wealth. However, there were no promises of wealth and power on this thin piece of paper.

Old Madam Xie patted her back. "Long ago, the Jiazhou Residence colluded with the King of Liang and schemed against our family. Our family can't be alone anymore. Now, our family can establish ourselves in Liaodong under the protection of King Yue Fei. Our family is also intact. This is already the best outcome."

If they had no more money, they could earn more.

However, if they were gone, they would be nothing left.

"Everyone says that people's feelings change easily." Yu Youyao cried and fell into her grandmother's arms. "Grandmother, I'm afraid. I don't want to return to the capital. I want to stay in the Yu Garden forever..."

She and Yin Huaixi had been separated for more than a year.

More than 400 days and nights had passed. They were as long as every sleepless night that concerned her. They were long and made her suffer.

Princess Liyang's heart-wrenching words still left an indelible crack in her heart.

Old Madam Xie held back her tears. "Silly child, you and King Yue Fei were bestowed a marriage by the Empress Dowager. When the new emperor ascends the throne, he will establish the country, communicate his morals, and take charge of the world with great virtue. If the emperor and empress are united, their virtue will be boundless. King Yue Fei has only entered the capital for more than a month. Everything in the capital has yet to be settled and the matter of his ascension has yet to be settled, but he can't wait to send someone to bring you into the capital. It's obvious that he's also worried about you. I hope you can enter the capital as soon as possible."

Since ancient times, when a new emperor ascended the throne, he had to prepare for the coronation, offer sacrifices to the heavens, and perform ceremonies to announce the divine teachings of the ruler and the orthodoxy of the world. After that, he had to organize the court, pardon the world, and issue new policies.

It would take at least three to five months for the royal court to function again before he could care about anything else.

Yu Youyao only cried. Old Madam Xie did not persuade her. She just hugged her and stroked her back.

Nestled in her grandmother's arms and smelling her reassuring scent, she was in a daze as she realized that the sky had not fallen and the ground had not caved in. There was nothing to cry about.

No matter what, the Xie family would always be on her side.

Seeing that her emotions had stabilized a little, Old Madam Xie said, "Your maternal grandfather, your eldest uncle, and aunt plan to accompany you into the capital."

Her family was also worried about her entering the capital alone.

Yu Youyao felt a little relieved.

Old Madam Xie sighed softly. "The family's merchant ship will be entering the capital soon. If, if King Yue Fei goes back on his promise, you..." She paused and gritted her teeth. "At that time, you'll take a merchant ship overseas. I won't let you suffer."

Yu Youyao finally smiled and hugged her grandmother coquettishly.

Yin Huaixi had caused a huge commotion when he brought her into the capital. Not only did he ask Eunuch Zhu to prepare the etiquette for the Eldest Princess, but he also asked the commander of the Hidden Dragon Army to personally lead a thousand elite troops to escort her.

As soon as the group arrived in Xiangping City, the news had already spread like wildfire.

Yu Youyao also knew that she did not know when she would be able to return to the Yu Garden after this trip. She should pack up what she needed to.

This lasted for three days.

Eunuch Zhu couldn't sit still anymore and quickly saw the Eldest Princess. "His Highness is thinking about the Eldest Princess and hopes that she can enter the capital as soon as possible.

Eldest Princess, why don't you pack up the important things first? Later on, you can send someone to bring the items that are not important to the capital. There's no need to be in a hurry. Besides, you've brought too many things. The journey will be greatly delayed."

Before leaving, His Highness had repeatedly instructed the Eldest Princess to enter the capital as soon as possible. However, he was also worried that the weather would be cold, exhausting the Eldest Princess's body. He had repeatedly instructed Eunuch Zhu to take good care of her.

It was also because he was thorough that Eunuch Zhu was sent to pick up the Eldest Princess. His Highness was so worried that it was so obvious. How could he continue to delay?

Yu Youyao held her breath and nodded. "Alright."

Was there nothing in the capital?

Why did she need to bring so many things?

No matter how much delay there was, it was only a matter of time before they entered the capital.

Yu Youyao stood under the purple elm tree and looked up at the gray sky. She had left the capital at the age of 13 and was already 17 years old. She would turn 18 in the new year.

She had stayed in Liaodong for four years.

Liaodong was bitterly cold, and it was not any better than the capital. However, without the restraints of the rules, she was very comfortable. Now that she was about to leave Xiangping City, a strong sense of reluctance suddenly surged in her heart.

On the day Eldest Princess Shaoyi left Xiangping, the commoners cried. Tens of thousands of people sent her off.

The carriage set off from Xiangping City, passing through Fengtian and Jinzhou. It wasn't until the carriage left Huludao and Liaodong that the farewell team gradually disappeared.

Yu Youyao lifted the curtain of the carriage and looked in the direction of the capital. She felt sad. After five years of leaving the capital, she returned to the capital.

She was going to meet Yin Huaixi soon.

Yu Youyao's long-lost joy swept away the haze in her heart, and a smile finally appeared on her face.

No matter how confused and helpless she was in Xiangping City, and no matter how hesitant she was, she still missed him and kept looking forward to meeting him.

Yin Huaixi, who was in the palace, was busy.

Thief Liang started a massacre in the capital, and the Second and Third Princes were imprisoned in the palace.

The Fourth Prince, who had put on a show of "filial piety" with Empress Ning in the court, had originally wanted to use Empress Ning's power to rise to power. Unexpectedly, Empress Ning had only used him to stir up trouble in the court. After defeating Concubine Lan, she had given up on him and was "sick" in the palace.

Thief Liang beheaded them in public in the name of the princes fighting for the throne.

The dog emperor's corpse was also hung at the entrance.

Blood flowed like a river in the palace, and more than half of the palace servants died.

The remaining situation took more than half a month to clean up.

After the capital was settled, many ministers in the court returned to the capital to wait for the new emperor's edict. Yin Huaixi used some respected and famous old ministers to revitalize the rules of the Imperial Court.

The Ministry of Rites was also preparing for the coronation.

As he was busy eliminating the remaining traitors and those monsters in the capital, he also had to take care of the matters of the eastern and southern borders to prevent the Southern Barbarians and the Dongyi from causing trouble during the change of the new dynasty.

If it weren't for the fact that there were so many things in the capital that he really couldn't leave, Yin Huaixi would have personally gone to Xiangping City to pick Yu Youyao up.

The King of Liang and the King of Dongning were captured and locked up in the prison of the Ministry of Justice to be interrogated. Their families and a group of rebels who had participated in the rebellion were escorted into the capital one after another. Only then did Yin Huaixi arrange for the Ministry of Justice, the Court of Justice, and the Court of Investigation to cooperate in the trial. It was inevitable that their wealth would be confiscated and their families would be exterminated.

All of them were so capable that they even dared to rebel. They were probably extremely rich. If they put their assets into the treasury, it would be equivalent to three to five years of taxes from the commoners.

The wealth of the world should be obtained from and used by the people.

Eunuch Li came over to report again, saying that the ministers of the Ministry of Rites and the Ministry of Revenue wanted to see him and report the matter of the coronation.

Chapter 1062: Entering the Capital

Yin Huaixi, who had not slept for three consecutive days, rubbed his throbbing forehead.

"Everything during the coronation will be simple. What to do will be handled by the Ministry of Revenue and the Ministry of Rites. Don't ask me about such small matters in the future."

Eunuch Li's mouth moved. How could the coronation be a small matter?

All the major events in the Imperial Court combined were not as important as this matter.

However, the only person in the palace who could speak to the new emperor was Eunuch Zhu. He had been sent by the new emperor to Xiangping to bring Eldest Princess Shaoyi into the capital. Even if he knew that it was inappropriate, he did not dare to ask.

Yin Huaixi looked at the mountain of memorials on the table and felt a headache coming on. Seeing that Eunuch Li had returned again, his face darkened. "What's wrong now? Is it the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs or the Ministry of War this time? They've been studying hard for ten

years and have digested many principles. However, all of them live like parasites. They're making me worry. They have to discuss and decide everything with me. What are they doing?"

Eunuch Li's legs trembled as he quickly said, "Your Majesty, it was Eunuch Zhu who sent a message. The Eldest Princess has already arrived in the suburbs of the capital. Soon..."

Before he could say the word "enter the city", he saw the new emperor sitting on the dragon throne suddenly stand up and walk out of the Hall of Diligent Governance.

Eunuch Zhu was stunned for a moment before he quickly chased after him. "Your, Your Majesty, where are you going? Elder Yu and some old officials are still waiting for you to discuss matters in the Imperial Pavilion. You..."

When he chased the new emperor out of the Hall of Diligent Governance, he only heard a shout and watched helplessly as the new emperor whipped his horse and left.

Eunuch Li stomped his feet anxiously and shouted at the top of his lungs, "Someone, follow the emperor quickly. The emperor is leaving the palace. Hurry up and protect him..."

Yin Huaixi did not care. After he rode his horse out of the palace, his mind was filled with thoughts of "Yu Youyao entering the capital."

He had not seen Yu Youyao for more than a year since they parted in June last year.

Seeing that it was December and everything in the court was getting more and more complicated, and that Yu Youyao had yet to enter the capital, the anxiety in his heart deepened, and his killing intent deepened.

The capital was still under martial law, and the city gate was heavily guarded. Every arrow tower on the city wall had a large crossbow installed to escort Yu Youyao's army into the capital. As soon as they approached the city gate, the crossbows immediately adjusted their direction and pointed at them.

The soldier guarding outside the city went through his routine and shouted, "Who is it?"

The commander of the Hidden Dragon Army took off his waist token. "We, the commanders of the Hidden Dragon Army, are under the orders of the new emperor to go to Xiangping City in Liaodong to welcome Princess Yi back to the capital. This is the token."

The young general guarding the city took the token and identified it carefully. He bowed respectfully to Yu Youyao, who was in the carriage. "The martial law in the capital hasn't been removed. I've been ordered to guard the capital's city gate. We have to strictly investigate the people who come and go. I didn't mean to neglect you. Please forgive me."

Yu Youyao said slowly, "General, you are following orders. It's your duty. There's no need to say anything."

The general guarding the city shouted, "Open the door and welcome the Eldest Princess back to the capital."

The soldiers at the city gate made way. The heavy city gate slowly opened with a bang. The soldiers knelt on one knee in unison. "We welcome the Eldest Princess into the capital."

The carriage slowly entered the city. Yu Youyao lifted the curtain and looked at the wide and neat street, as well as the rows of houses on both sides of the street. It seemed to be no different from when she had left the capital. It was difficult to imagine that more than a month ago, this place had experienced a great battle for the rise and fall of dynasties.

The capital had just been settled, and the new emperor had yet to ascend the throne. He had sent a large number of troops to guard the streets. There was a sentry post every five steps, and there were also troops in heavy armor patrolling the streets.

Most of the commoners were hiding at home, and there were not many people on the streets.

However, Yu Youyao's carriage entering the capital still caused a commotion.

Yin Huaixi had prepared a residence for her. After entering the capital, she would go straight to the residence to settle down, so she did not have to return to the Yu Residence.

When the carriage arrived at the main road of Chang An Street, Yu Youyao heard a series of shrill cries. She lifted the curtain of the carriage and looked out. Coincidentally, she brushed past a long row of prison carriages. The sound of wailing was coming from the prisoners in the prison carriage. Some commoners gathered around and pointed at the prison carriage.

“What a sin. In this month, I've seen so many dead people. I don't know when this will end...”

“I heard that King Yue Fei is bloodthirsty and kills people like flies. Previously, it was said that he slaughtered the Di people...”

“Shh, how dare you say that? Do you want to die? Why are you calling him King Yue Fei? You have to call him the new emperor...”

Yu Youyao frowned and knocked on the wall of the carriage. She instructed Yin Shi, who was on the roof, “Go and ask around about the rumors outside. What has happened in the capital in the past month?”

Previously, when the vicious reputation of Yin Huaixi slaughtering the various tribes of the Northern Barbarians spread, there were rumors of King Yue Fei's ruthlessness in the Great Zhou Dynasty.

Most of the commoners in the North were harassed by the Di people all year round, and the hatred between them was deeply rooted. Such rumors seemed ridiculous in the North and she did not care too much.

Only the commoners of the North who had been ravaged by war had the right to speak.

Not long after, Yin Shi returned.

“After the new emperor entered the capital, he raided all the wealthy families in the capital and put all their wealth into the treasury. Anyone who resisted was dragged to the market to be beheaded in public. For a month in a row, blood flowed like a river every day, and the blood on the ground has never dried.”

“Yin Huaixi wouldn’t kill others for no reason.” Yu Youyao’s heart skipped a beat, and her face turned a little pale. However, she still said firmly, “It must be Yin Huaixi who found out that they were colluding with Thief Liang. Yin Huaixi found evidence of crime from their houses.”

No matter who broke into the capital, the ones who really needed to escape were the Yin Clan and some others like the Zhenguo Marquis Residence. They had been favored by the Great Zhou Emperor for generations and could not be separated from the imperial family of the Great Zhou. They had to coexist with the Great Zhou.

Most of them actually did not need to escape. No matter who became the emperor, as long as they offered their family wealth as proof of their allegiance and surrendered, it would be fine.

Those who could establish themselves in the capital all had a huge family fortune and accumulated a large number of connections and channels. These were what the new emperor valued, and also the foundation for them to regain their power.

Seeing that she did not look too good, Yin Shi opened her mouth, wanting to say something but hesitated.

Yu Youyao took a deep breath. “What else is there?”

“The new emperor also killed enemies in the past.” Yin Shi hesitated for a moment before continuing, “The killing on the battlefield is too heavy. In the end, it will harm the harmony of the heavens, and it’s inevitable that his temperament will be affected. Many soldiers are becoming more and more ruthless and bloodthirsty because of this. It’s as if there’s nothing that can’t be resolved by killing a few people.”

To people who had been on the battlefield, killing was so simple.

He raised his hand and the knife fell. Then, a human head would fall to the ground.

When someone died, no matter what tricky problem it was, it would be easily resolved.

Chapter 1063: Meet

“Every time there’s a war, there are people in the army who have gone crazy from killing too many people. The soldiers at the front line have to retreat to the back to rest every once in a while to avoid being exhausted and facing the enemy. It’s also to prevent the soldiers from being on a bloody battlefield for a long time and affecting their temperament.”

Yu Youyao clenched her fists tightly, her heart filled with pain.

The soldiers could switch to defense and retreat to the back to rest and dissipate their killing intent. However, as the commander-in-chief, Yin Huaixi had the lives of hundreds of thousands of soldiers on his back. He had no right to retreat.

When not in battle, he stood on the battlefield where corpses were everywhere and blood flowed like a river, rummaging through the corpses of the fallen soldiers.

During war, he would also rush to the front line.

Everyone in the world only knew that Yin Huaixi had offered a sacrifice on the Wolf Residence Mountain, but how many people really knew how difficult it was to defeat the Di people?

Yin Huaixi had planned for this for ten years.

For a full ten years.

From his childhood till he reached the age of 20, he had practiced the art of war, studied military formations, trained troops, nurtured elites, explored the enemy's situation, drawn maps... All of this was to pacify the Northern Barbarians and let the commoners live and work in peace.

Yin Huaixi was cruel for slaughtering the grassland, but in those years, the commoners of the border cities were killed because the Di people had repeatedly invaded the border. Soldiers had died in battle in order to protect their families because the Di people actively caused trouble and invaded. Some families had been destroyed because the Di people burned, killed, and looted their families. There was also every inch of land that had been dyed red with blood because of the war...

There was no right or wrong in war.

There was only victory and defeat.

After a long time, Yu Youyao heard her dry voice say, "Then what should we do?"

Yin Shi held her breath and suddenly relaxed. "As long as he returns to his normal life, his killing intent will gradually fade after a while."

After an unknown period of time, the carriage gradually stopped.

Chun Xiao and Xia Tao alighted one after another.

Just as Yu Youyao was about to get out of the carriage, she heard the sound of hooves rushing over. Then, the heavy curtain in front of the carriage was lifted forcefully.

A bone-chilling wind suddenly rushed into the carriage.

Yu Youyao shivered from the cold. Before she could react, she was hit by the coldness.

She hadn't seen Yin Huaixi for a long time, so she subconsciously pushed him away, wanting to see him. However, he pulled her into his arms with such force that it almost crushed her bones.

Yu Youyao cried out in pain.

However, not only did Yin Huaixi not let go of her, but he also became even more aggressive. His arms wrapped around her shoulders and tightened, as if he wanted to rub her into his flesh and blood.

"Be gentle, it hurts..." She punched his chest a few times.

Yin Huaixi buried his head in the side of her neck. His turbid breathing was rapid and heavy as he whispered into her ear, "Do you also think that I'm bloodthirsty, violent, and murderous?"



Where did this come from?

Yu Youyao opened her mouth and was about to speak when she heard Yin Huaixi's turbid voice. "Do you not want to enter the capital and want to stay in the Yu Garden to live a carefree life?"

Before she left, she was indeed filled with hesitation, but...

Yin Huaixi did not close his eyes for three consecutive days. His eyes were bloodshot and filled with a strong hostility. "I've always understood you. On the surface, you look obedient, but in your heart, you hate the restrictions of those rules. You pretend to follow the rules. You're the most unreasonable. If I give you some capital, you'll even dare to cause trouble today..."

If it weren't for this earth-shattering boldness, how could she have changed the ills and predicament of the previous dynasties in the North? She even opened a women's courtyard in the North and advocated female studies?

Others only thought that she was doing this to make women learn how to read and write.

It was not considered deviant.

However, he knew Yu Youyao so well.

The Ruoshui Mountain Courtyard had progressed so smoothly, and there were almost no obstacles in the process. It was because she had been planning it since a long time ago, but she had been suppressing it until now because of the poverty in the North.

The women's courtyard was a benchmark she had set.

It was a benchmark that allowed women to read and read openly, and accept teachings like men.

When more and more women obtained the opportunity to read, become literate, understand, and be virtuous like men, they did not need to advocate anything and change anything. Women who were sensible and virtuous would be treated differently no matter what.

Ye Yingqiu was an example.

At that time, the status of women would gradually improve under this trend. Society would also become more tolerant of women, and their situation would be better.

She had the heart to change everything.

He also had the heart to respect the heavens and the Dao.

He did not want everyone to be equal, but he wanted to let nature take its course. Respecting the development of all things was inaction.

He was good at plotting.

However, in terms of management, he was far inferior to Yu Youyao.

It was because he did not have Yu Youyao's sincerity.

Yu Youyao subconsciously wanted to refute, but Yin Huaixi did not give her a chance. "Although Xiangping City is a long way from the capital, it's very convenient for carriages to pass along the official road. At the beginning of November, Eunuch Zhu will set off to Xiangping City to pick you

up and bring you into the capital. You'll be able to enter the capital in half a month at most. You can't delay it until December..."

So, had she deliberately delayed entering the capital so late?

Was that what Yin Huaixi had been thinking for the past month?

Yu Youyao was so angry that she almost laughed. "What a mess. Why don't you take a look at what season it is now. It's cold in Liaodong. In some places, the roads are blocked by heavy snow, so we can only take a detour. It's easy for the carriage to slip in the snow, and it can't travel quickly on the way. I've suffered a lot along the way. You don't feel sorry for me, but you think I'm too slow..."

He was looking forward to meeting her as soon as possible.

Every day that passed, many doubts and speculations would arise in his heart for no reason. He couldn't help but feel a little anxious, and his emotions couldn't help but be irritable. He couldn't help but worry about gains and losses, so he didn't care about anything else.

Yin Huaixi's heart ached. He looked at her tired face and her palm-sized face that was a little pale. She was thin under her snow-white fox fur collar, making her eyes look big and bright. At this moment, her eyes were red and moist. Her haggard and pitiful appearance made his heart ache.

Even Yu Youyao's eyes turned red. She pushed him hard a few times, but he did not budge. She patted him twice, then her hands went numb. She felt so aggrieved that her voice choked.

"You're scolding me as soon as we meet. If I had known earlier, I wouldn't have come. Otherwise, you would have deliberately provoked me and schemed for your imperial harem, thinking that I was in the way of your happy days..."

As soon as she said this, Yu Youyao regretted it.

She lowered her head, not daring to look at Yin Huaixi.

The moment she said that she wouldn't come, Yin Huaixi's eyes turned red on the spot. He stared at her intently. "How can there be an imperial harem? As soon as I entered the capital, I was so busy that I didn't have the mood to care about those messy things..."

"What did I say wrong?" Yu Youyao couldn't stand it anymore. She suddenly looked up, and tears welled up in her eyes.

Chapter 1064: Heartbroken Words

Her voice was hoarse as she said angrily, "Didn't you also say that it's because you're busy that you don't have the mood to care about those things? When you're not busy anymore, will you have time and the mood to care? If you have such thoughts, why do you have to bring me into the capital? Let me live alone in the Yu Garden..."

Every word was simply heartbreaking!

A sense of ruthlessness surged in Yin Huaixi's heart. He pinched Yu Youyao's chin. "When did I say that? You took it out of context and even blamed it on me. As soon as I entered the capital, I

arranged for someone to bring you into the capital without even taking a deep breath. I wanted to reunite with you.”

As if feeling that he had gone a little overboard, he softened his voice. “I neglected the fact that it’s cold and difficult to walk on the road. It’s my fault for making you suffer and feel tired. But why are you so unreasonable? You’re framing me as soon as you open your mouth. It’s true that many emperors have an imperial harem, but there’s still Emperor Xianzong...”

“How am I unreasonable?” Yu Youyao raised her voice and interrupted him.

“Yes, Emperor Xianzong and the Empress are monogamous. In the deep palace, they’re like ordinary husband and wife. But why didn’t you tell me that Emperor Chengzong wasn’t born by the empress? The so-called loyalty is a joke.”

Yin Huaixi was stunned.

Yu Youyao looked at him deeply and stood up to leave.

Yin Huaixi held her hand and subconsciously asked, “Where are you going?”

“Back to Xiangping.” Yu Youyao turned around and large tears fell from her eyes. She raised her arm angrily and was about to shake off his hand. “I won’t come to the capital again.”

“Don’t leave.” Yin Huaixi hugged her from behind and refused to let her leave.

“Let go.” Her voice was hoarse, but there was no resentment in her tone. “Why are you still stopping me? When I leave, you can marry as many people as you want. I don’t care how happy you are. All of them are like beautiful snakes, pestering you and refusing to let go. Seeing that the world is circling around you, they treat you as a stallion and fight for the land. This is to fight for favor. They’ll give you some medicine. In order to give birth to a prince, they’ll crawl into your bed or simply give you some medicine to make you sick. Then, they’ll secretly make some red pills and squeeze you dry. The emperor has a short life because of this. I don’t care if you live or die...”

When Yin Huaixi heard her say this, he couldn’t help but feel his scalp go numb. He didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. “What do you mean by marrying as many people as I want? Just you alone is already enough for me.”

Yu Youyao’s heart ached, and she pursed her lips.

The height of the carriage was limited, so Yin Huaixi had no choice but to lower his head and bend his back. “The capital has just been settled, and there are many complicated matters in the palace. All the matters in the inner palace are handled by Empress Ning. After we hold the ceremony, I’ll issue a decree to send Empress Ning to the palace to recuperate.”

There was no reason for Princess Liyang to stay in the palace.

It was simple and straightforward, without any hesitation.

Yu Youyao's tense body couldn't help but soften a little, but she pursed her lips and said nothing.

"The dynasty has already changed. There's no need to respect the Empress Dowager of the previous dynasty as the Empress Dowager. She made you feel uncomfortable and allowed others to bully you. I worked hard to take down the country so that you don't have to listen to others and don't have to feel as aggrieved as when you were young."

Emperor Chengzong was not born by the Empress. This was a royal secret. Even very few people in the palace knew about it. How could Yu Youyao know such a secret from outside the palace?

Other than Princess Liyang, he could not think of anyone else.

It was not difficult to guess what Empress Ning and Princess Liyang were up to. They had even targeted Yu Youyao without his knowledge.

Yu Youyao was such a smart girl.

The pride of being born into an aristocratic family and the upbringing she had received since she was young would definitely not allow her pride to be easily broken by a few words from an outsider. It would ruin her upbringing and cause her to lose her composure.

She was also extremely angry with him, but she was also suspicious of Princess Liyang's one-sided words. She did not want to easily fall out with him because of Princess Liyang's instigation.

Princess Liyang did not have the final say in the so-called "imperial harem". His attitude was the key.

She had deliberately mentioned Emperor Xianzong to test him.

If he really did not have such thoughts, he would have understood how to react.

If he was disloyal, she wouldn't have caused such a commotion. They wouldn't have been entangled and she could have escaped unscathed after many years of relationship.

She was smart and rational.

However, it was heartbreaking. Yin Huaixi picked her up horizontally and placed her on his lap. "I promise that after I ascend the throne, I'll rectify the name of the Ning Residence. I'll ensure that the glorious life of Empress Ning and Princess Liyang will end. No matter what they plan, it's their own business."

Yu Youyao fell into his arms and sobbed. "You don't know this, but Princess Liyang came to me and said a bunch of things. I didn't believe it at first, but..." She was so angry that she punched him and couldn't help but feel angry. "She also mentioned the entanglement between you and your father with the Ning Residence. I..."

Yin Huaixi was very tolerant of Empress Ning, and many schemes against the palace avoided her.

All along, she had tried her best to avoid getting involved in the matters between him and Empress Ning.

If he didn't say anything, she wouldn't ask.

"Are you afraid that I'll agree to Empress Ning's scheme for the sake of so-called kindness and debt?" Yin Huaixi was a little angry with her distrust, but he also understood that this distrust stemmed from his secretive attitude towards Empress Ning. "What does the destruction of the Ning Residence have to do with me and my father? How can we owe her?"

Yu Youyao heaved a sigh of relief. She was afraid that Yin Huaixi would be too sentimental and not think clearly.

The Ning Residence was a henchman that the previous emperor had nurtured for the fifth son of the emperor. It was only right for them to support the fifth son of the emperor.

The Ning Residence was placed in an important position by the previous emperor. They rose from their fall and prospered. This was originally a deal between the Ning Residence and the previous emperor, and it was a huge gamble.

No matter who won or lost, it was their own choice. There was no so-called debt.

After the dog emperor ascended the throne, with the Empress Dowager's protection, it was impossible for him to kill the fifth son of the emperor. If he did not fall out with the Empress Dowager, the gains would not make up for the losses. The Ning Residence protected the fifth son of the emperor, so they took advantage of the situation.

The destruction of the Ning Residence stemmed from the dog emperor's suspicion.

It had nothing to do with others.

"My father indeed borrowed the protection of Duke Ning's old subordinates to establish himself in the North. However, all these years, my father has been taking care of Empress Ning in the palace, both openly and secretly, helping her escape all kinds of schemes by Imperial Consort Lu. I've also promised to clear the name of the Ning Residence and give Empress Ning a lifetime of glory. How much kindness can't be repaid?"

He did not say that after the Ning Residence was convicted, the old subordinates of the Ning Residence were not implicated because of the Empress Dowager's protection. His father had gone to the North to become a vassal state under the Empress Dowager's arrangements. Those old subordinates treated his father differently because of the Empress Dowager.

However, when others heard this, they couldn't help but feel a little ungrateful.

It was indeed not appropriate to say it directly.

Yu Youyao cried aggrievedly. "Why didn't you tell me that you've made me feel uncomfortable for so long?"

"Although that's the case, the two of us are indeed too entangled with the Ning Residence and can't settle many things clearly. Empress Ning is too scheming." Yin Huaixi gently rubbed the tears in her eyes with a helpless expression. "I

don't want you to know. If we're involved with them, some people are too dirty. It's better not to get involved."

Since she couldn't interfere in the matters of the palace, it was best not to get involved.

Chapter 1065: I Miss You

At the thought that she was outside the palace, although she was the Eldest Princess, she couldn't interfere in Empress Ning's matters. Then, she thought of Empress Ning's various actions and schemes in the past. Yu Youyao also felt that it was better to get involved less with Empress Ning and reluctantly accepted his explanation.

She stammered as she looked at Yin Huaixi and asked.

"You won't be unloyal, right?"

"Yes!"

"You won't have any lust, right?"

"Yes!"

"You won't have any children after my death, right?"

"I'll listen to you!"

Yu Youyao was overjoyed. Suddenly, she thought of Emperor Xianzong, and her face fell again. "If in the future, I can't..." What if she couldn't give birth at all, or couldn't give birth to a son?

However, these words were too embarrassing for her to say.

"There's no if's." Yin Huaixi frowned and interrupted her. "You're fine. Don't say such things again."

Uncle Sun took her pulse every month. In the past few years, she had been recuperating well.

Yu Youyao looked at him eagerly. "I mean if, if I..."

Yin Huaixi's expression darkened slightly. Seeing her red eyes and teary eyelashes, his heart softened. "Isn't the Yin Clan still alive? There are also many people from the same lineage as me. One of them can be adopted under our name, or we can simply arrange for a newborn child to be carefully chosen from the clan."

Yu Youyao pouted. If such a thing could be done easily, Empress Mingxian wouldn't have gone so far back then to be so distant from her husband.

Yin Huaixi knew her very well. As soon as she pouted, he could guess what she was thinking. "Do you know what the world says about me? I'm bloodthirsty and ruthless, and I kill people like flies." His lips twitched slightly, and his smile was so cold that it made one's scalp tingle. "I'm not Emperor Xianzong."

At the very least, after entering the capital, no one in the court dared to disobey him.

“That smile is really ugly.” Yu Youyao smiled through her tears and reached out to cover his mouth. “Don’t say that about yourself in the future. I know you’re not that kind of person.”

Yin Huaixi looked at her steadily.

Her bright black eyes were filled with sparkling water, as if they were soaked in clear spring water. Her small cheeks were tear-stained, but they were red. She looked even more delicate and beautiful than if she had applied rouge. Her lips were curved, and her smile was gentle and sweet. Just looking at her made one’s heart soften involuntarily and their bodies go numb.

The ruthlessness in his heart was suddenly replaced by extremely soft feelings.

Suddenly, he saw her with tears in her eyes again, as if she was complaining. “Don’t be fierce to me in the future.”

“Okay,” Yin Huaixi emphasized. “I won’t be fierce to you.”

Yu Youyao saw that the depths of his eyes were red, and even his eyes were red and bloodshot. She also knew that he had not been having an easy time recently. Her heart couldn’t help but ache.

Her voice was sweet and soft. “I’ve missed you.”

Yin Huaixi’s heart heated up. He endured it again and again, but he couldn’t help but press her down on the couch and kiss her slightly pouty lips, making them look plump and charming.

It was time to prepare for the inauguration ceremony.

The carriage, which was originally very spacious and looked like a small house, suddenly became extremely narrow.

The air also became sticky, humid, and muggy.

After a while, Yu Youyao was drenched in sweat. The fragrance of lotus on her body was tinged with charm and gradually became thicker. As the sweat dripped from her jade-like skin, the fragrance slowly seeped out.

Yin Huaixi slowly felt his way up along her fair wrist. His large palm held her round shoulders and gently rubbed them. The clothes on her shoulders loosened bit by bit because of his actions.

A thin bone that was in a beautiful shape was revealed.

Yin Huaixi’s breathing quickened, and his hand on her waist trembled slightly before letting go. His fingertips pinched the belt around her waist and paused for a long time. In the end, he couldn’t help but pull gently...

After who knew how long—

The fragrance of the lotus filled the entire carriage.

Yu Youyao was sweating profusely. Her hair was wet and stuck to the side of her cheek, and there was still a strand of it between her soft lips. Her cheeks were red, and her soft body seemed to have no bones as she leaned weakly into Yin Huaixi’s arms.

She looked like she had been doted on.

It was not an exaggeration to say that she was lively and beautiful.

In the end, Yin Huaixi suppressed his surging feelings. His fingertips pinched the lapel of her shirt that had slid down her small arm and slowly pulled it up to her shoulder, blocking the red marks on it.

Yu Youyao was a little sleepy from the commotion.

Yin Huaixi reached out to help her comb her messy hair and gently brushed the hair by her cheek behind her ear. He saw that she was in a daze and her small hand was weakly tugging at his shirt. Her lips curled up slightly as she fell asleep.

After staring at her for a long time, Yin Huaixi held his forehead and chuckled.

If there was a next time, he couldn't guarantee that he wouldn't be able to take it.

The ceremony could not be delayed any longer.

Yin Huaixi took off his cloak and wrapped the sleeping girl in his arms from head to toe. He lifted the heavy curtain outside the carriage and carried her out.

The maidservants all retreated around the carriage and guarded not far away.

Chun Xiao and Xia Tao hurriedly went forward to pick up their master, only to see that their master was wrapped in His Highness's cloak and was in his arms. Her face was buried in his arms, and she was wrapped tightly. There was a faint fragrance in the air.

Yin Huaixi glanced over and stopped Xia Tao from blurting out. He carried Yu Youyao into the corridor and walked along the long corridor to Yu Youyao's room. He carefully placed her on the couch and covered her with a blanket.

Yu Youyao groaned, wrinkled her nose, and fell asleep again.

Yin Huaixi rested his forehead on his hand and sat by the bed. He stared at her cute appearance without blinking. He rubbed her soft little hand, pinched the tip of her nose, and twirled her soft earlobes. His gaze landed on her slightly swollen lips.

In the end, he couldn't suppress the desire in his heart. He leaned over and pecked her from her little mouth to her forehead. He simply left the bed and kicked off her long boots. He leaned against the edge of the bed and raised her head domineeringly to rest it in the crook of his arm. He pulled her petite and soft body into her arms and looked at her up close.

How could it be enough? Yin Huaixi sighed softly.

When Yu Youyao woke up, it was already dark and Yin Huaixi was no longer around. She stretched and stared blankly at the familiar palace lamp by the bed.

The lamp that Yin Huaixi had given her for the first time was already old. Later, he had made an even more beautiful octagonal palace lamp for her.

Chun Xiao came in to help her put on her clothes.

Yu Youyao subconsciously asked, "Has Yin Huaixi left?"



It would have been better if she hadn't mentioned it, but at the mention of it, many charming and infatuated scenes appeared. Only then did she realize that there were so many embarrassing tricks between men and women. He coaxed her until she was confused. After making a fuss, most of her clothes were off. Yu Youyao covered her face and her body tilted. She fell back onto the couch and pulled the blanket over her.

#### Chapter 1066: Feeling the Fragrance of Lips First

Chun Xiao hurriedly pulled her out and said, "Young Miss, don't be angry. His Highness hasn't left yet. Just now, Eunuch Li specially went to the Eldest Princess's residence to invite the emperor back to the palace. The emperor refused to leave and asked Eunuch Li to send all the memorials from the palace to the Eldest Princess's residence. He even said that he would stay in the Eldest Princess's residence during this period of time. If there's anything, report it to the Eldest Princess's residence."

She was making a fuss because she had not seen the emperor for too long and thought that he had left.

Unexpectedly, after the blanket was pulled away, she saw her master crying out in frustration, "He didn't leave? Then tell him to leave. Go far away, lest others worry..."

How could Chun Xiao not know that her master was making a fuss? How could she really let the emperor leave?

Young Miss's personality was used on the emperor.

However, one was willing to fight, and the other was willing to suffer.

Chun Xiao suddenly recalled that previously, in front of the flower gate, the emperor had glared at her with an irrefutable dignity. He was like a majestic and unreachable mountain that weighed down on her head, making her feel suffocated and afraid.

This was probably the might of an emperor.

Seeing her Young Miss's heartless expression, Chun Xiao's mouth moved, wanting to remind her master that things were different now. The emperor's status was different. They had the relationship of a ruler and his ministers. How could he still be like before? However, when she thought of the emperor's dignified and cold gaze, as if it was a warning, she could only suppress these words.

Previously, in the carriage, she had been disturbed by him for a long time and had sweated a lot. Yu Youyao felt tired and asked Chun Xiao to prepare to take a bath.

When Yu Youyao took off her clothes and soaked in the medicinal bath, she saw the red marks on her shoulders. They were like peach blossoms, charming and ambiguous, and she felt embarrassed again.

After returning to her room, Liu'er prepared a charcoal cage for her to dry her hair. She took a large towel and helped her Young Miss dry her hair. Then, she took out some green fruit oil and rubbed it evenly in her palm. When it was hot, she applied it all on Young Miss's bright black hair and helped her massage her scalp.

Yu Youyao sighed in comfort.

However, Xia Tao leaned over tactlessly. "The emperor sent me over to take a look. Miss, are you done washing up? You can also instruct the kitchen in advance to heat up the food again."

"Alright, I understand." Yu Youyao touched her hair. It was already dry, so she sat down at the dressing table.

Xia Tao leaned over, looking like she wanted to say something but hesitated.

Yu Youyao glanced at her angrily. "If you have something to say, just say it. It's annoying to see you like this."

Xia Tao giggled. "The emperor hasn't seen you for a long time. He must be thinking about you so much that he can't leave you for a moment. When you fell asleep in the afternoon, the emperor had been guarding your bed and reading the memorials, not taking half a step away from you. He only went to the study in the front courtyard after summoning the ministers of the Ministry of Rites for a meeting."

Yu Youyao's heart softened. She glared at her. "You talk too much. Alright, go and reply to him. Get the kitchen to prepare dinner. I'll be there soon."

Xia Tao heaved a sigh of relief. Her life was finally saved.

Yu Youyao had only combed her long black hair into a simple bun and tied it behind her head with a long hairpin. There were a few hairpins at her temples, making her look gentle and bright.

She sat upright in front of the mirror and saw that she was not looking as good as usual. She took out some flower dew and pressed it on her face. Then, she applied a layer of fragrance paste. Her pale face seemed to have drunk enough water, making it look full and smooth.

Seeing that Young Miss had taken another brush, Chun Xiao opened her mouth to remind her that the emperor was still waiting.

Thinking about it, she did not have to dress up carefully just because the emperor was waiting.

Yu Youyao adjusted the brow powder. The green color spread among her eyebrows like mist in autumn water, revealing a mellow state. She looked at it carefully from left to right, as if she was not satisfied. She took the brow brush and modified it, but she was still not satisfied. "The eyebrows I draw are never as good as others'."

Since she felt that she didn't look good, why didn't she let another person do it?

It probably depended on who this "other person" was!

In the past, when he was in Xiangping City, the emperor had lived in the Yu Garden for a while and had often drawn Young Miss's eyebrows.

"I'll help you draw." Yin Huaixi's voice came from behind.

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. She suddenly turned around and saw Yin Huaixi walking over. He reached out to take the brush from her hand and held her shoulder. "Sit properly."

Yu Youyao turned around and sat down in a daze.

It had been a long time since Yin Huaixi had drawn her eyebrows.

The tall figure behind her was reflected in the bright glass mirror. He leaned in front of her lovingly. He was very close. Yu Youyao blinked and saw that his thick long eyelashes cast a row of shadows under his eyelids. They trembled again and again. When he breathed lightly, the faint fragrance of pine wrapped around her.

Her heart skipped a beat.

Yin Huaixi finished drawing her eyebrows. Seeing the luxuriant green among her eyebrows, which was tender like water and moving, he couldn't help but lean closer.

Yu Youyao wanted to dodge.

Yin Huaixi held her head and sucked on her lips. After sucking her lips for a while, he let go of her.

Yu Youyao's face turned red with embarrassment. She asked softly, "You, why are you here again? Didn't I tell you to wait?"

"You weren't coming." Yin Huaixi's voice was hoarse and a little obscure. He looked up. "I didn't feel at ease. I had to take a look to feel at ease."

She hadn't seen him for too long and kept feeling worried.

Yu Youyao hugged his waist. "I said I wanted to return to Xiangping because I was angry. It's not true. I'm here with you. I'm not going anywhere."

Yin Huaixi nodded.

Under Yin Huaixi's unwavering gaze, Yu Youyao hurriedly picked out a small ball of rouge and spread it on the side of her cheek. A faint blush appeared on her fair face. When his gaze landed on her red lips, her face heated up again. She covered it up by picking out some lipstick and applying it on her lips. Her beautiful lips were like rouge, and she did not look so awkward anymore.

Yin Huaixi observed carefully and suddenly asked, "What lipstick is this? I've never seen you use it before."

Yu Youyao glared at him angrily. "Why do you care so much about the lip gloss that a girl uses?" After saying that, she softened her tone. "It's a rare dye from overseas. I heard that it's a small worm that grows on a cactus. It's the color of pills and like cinnabar. In the Great Zhou, it's called the rouge worm. The rouge worm can be eaten. After it's dried, it's grounded into powder and used to make lip gloss. It doesn't stain the cup or rub off. The color is bright and beautiful."

It was indeed brighter than the rosy lipstick, making her lips look full and bright, making her look fresh and tempting.

Yin Huaixi pinched her chin and admired it for a long time. "It's very beautiful."

He kept staring at her. His eyes seemed to be glued to her, as if he was worried that if he blinked, she would disappear.

Yu Youyao couldn't stand such a greasy gaze and quickly got up. "Let's go eat!"

Chapter 1067: Coronation

Yin Huaixi held her hand.

Yu Youyao looked up. "What's wrong?"

"Your lips haven't moved, but I can smell the fragrance." Yin Huaixi leaned closer and took a whiff. A unique sweet fragrance immediately entered his nose, making him feel tipsy. "Let me try it."

Yu Youyao's lips subconsciously moved.

He gently wiped the redness from her lips with his finger and placed it into his mouth to taste it carefully. Yin Huaixi narrowed his eyes. "It's sweet."

He clearly did not like sweet food, but he liked her lipstick. Usually, no matter what lipstick she used, he would always eat it. She did not know what was wrong with him.

Yu Youyao was both angry and annoyed. "I put a lot of beeswax on my mouth. Of course it's sweet."

"It can be sweeter." Yin Huaixi stared at her lips.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and smiled. "This is lipstick, not honey. Why does it have to be so sweet? Aren't you tired of it? Don't you want to eat? Why aren't you leaving?"

"When the way you eat is different, the taste will naturally be different." Yin Huaixi's eyes were deep.

"Isn't that how lipstick is? Are there different ways to eat it?" As soon as she finished speaking, Yu Youyao suddenly thought of something. Before she could react, Yin Huaixi had already lowered his head and sucked on her lips. He only let her go after finishing the lipstick on her lips.

Yu Youyao was furious. "I just applied lipstick..."

Yin Huaixi laughed and rubbed her lips. Her soft lips made him a little restless again. Seeing her angry expression, he quickly opened the eggshell porcelain box, picked out some lipstick, and applied it on her lips, using his fingers to apply it carefully.

After applying the lipstick, Yin Huaixi lifted her chin and admired her for a while. He opened the makeup box and picked out a large camellia flower. It was inserted diagonally at her temples, like a flower made of onyx, making her skin look bright and delicate. After admiring it for a while, there was a strong sense of joy in the corners of his eyes.

Yu Youyao studied it for a while and also felt that it looked good, so she let him be.

Yin Huaixi held her hand. "Let's go eat!"

There was a lamp in the corridor, and the waning light shone on the delicate woman beside him, making her look obscure and illusory. Yin Huaixi couldn't help but squeeze his hand. The softness of his fingertips made him feel a little more real.

Five days later, Eunuch Zhu personally went to the Eldest Princess's residence to welcome Yin Huaixi back to the palace.

The second day after returning to the palace, Yin Huaixi led a group of officials to pay their respects to the altar. Then, he held a sacrificial ceremony at the altar to show that he had the right to be orthodox.

The third day was the day of the coronation.

On this day, the capital was under full martial law, and troops were sent to guard the various gates of the Imperial City.

At dawn, the nobles and ministers were already wearing court clothes. They were examined by the imperial guards and entered the Imperial City.

All the doors of the Hall of Supreme Harmony were open. In the large hall, bright yellow flags fluttered in the wind. The emperor's imperial flags were spread along the long red carpet until they reached the door.

Elder Yu and a few cabinet scholars entered the Hall of Supreme Harmony with the officials of the Ministry of Rites. They wrote the emperor's edict for the coronation, their congratulations, and the emperor's seal, all of which would be put on display in the hall.

The auspicious time had arrived.

The musician began to play music. The bells, flutes, and dozens of other instruments played a grand and solemn tune.

Yin Huaixi was wearing a black crown uniform with twelve embroidery patterns. He walked along the long line of flags and stepped on the long red carpet. He slowly entered the Hall of Supreme Harmony and stood at the foot of the steps of the Hall of Supreme Harmony, accepting the kneeling and kowtowing of the ministers. "Long live our emperor."

After that, Yin Huaixi issued an edict.

A new dynasty was established, and its name was the Great Zhao. To show their virtue, the year was changed to the first year of Zhaoyong. Furthermore, an ancestral temple called "Great Ancestor Zhao" was built to show that their ancestors had contributed greatly.

After the coronation ceremony.

From then on, a new dynasty was established.

After Emperor Zhaoyong ascended the throne, he first announced the appointment of Yu Youyao, Eldest Princess Shaoyi, and ordered the officials of the Ministry of Rites to step up their supervision.

In fact, after the Eldest Princess returned to the capital, the officials of the Ministry of Rites had already been preparing for the ceremony. First, they had to prepare the golden books and treasures. Then, the cabinet scholars would write imperial books and precious books.

They were so busy that they did not even take a deep breath.

Then, Emperor Zhaoyong pardoned the world. Depending on the severity of the crime, criminals were given a reduction or exemption from punishment. Those who were wronged would be punished with 20 strokes of the cane. Then, their cases would be re-examined.

Once the case was settled, other than beating the drum and obtaining the emperor's permission, it was usually not allowed to be reopened.

The crime was basically fixed.

One had to be punished with 30 strokes of the cane for beating the drum. Ordinary people usually couldn't take it, causing the drum to be useless. Only a few people dared to hit the drum.

The reduction to 20 strokes of the cane was something that an ordinary person could endure if they gritted their teeth and endured.

Later, Emperor Zhaoyong abolished the original state and prefecture governance. He used the six-level management system by Cao Cao, which consisted of provinces, cities, counties, townships, towns, and villages. This made official governance and the responsibilities of officials clearer. Everyone's rights were differentiated, preventing officials from overstepping their authority.

At the same time, he had also set up the administrative center of the cabinet in the court, or in short, the cabinet. It led the ministers and was the highest-ranking leadership body in the court. It was controlled by the Grand Secretary.

The General Court of Political Affairs, or the "Political Affairs Court", was the highest executive body of the court. It was controlled by a second-in-charge.

The cabinet had leadership over the political affairs court, but the political affairs court had a certain amount of authority over the cabinet.

They restrained each other.

The Privy Military Affairs Department, or simply the Military Affairs Department, was the highest military institution. It greatly reduced the restrictions of the Ministry of War on military matters and strengthened the emperor's direct control over the military power. It was directly under the emperor's jurisdiction.

With such a division, the rights and responsibilities of every official were clearly divided. No one could think of crossing the line. The situation of the cabinet's struggle for supremacy in the past would never happen again. No matter which side wanted to cause trouble, they could not bypass the other two sides. The three sides kept one another in check, and their interests were constantly involved.

As long as one side was corrupted and disregarded the law, they could follow the vine of duty and go up, greatly reducing the corruption of politics.

All three sides were directly under the emperor's control.

No matter what happened in the country, it could not be hidden from the emperor.

This system further strengthened the emperor's control over the military, politics, and local officials on the basis of the cabinet.

All the ministers in the court were as obedient as quails.

Then, Emperor Zhaoyong executed benevolent governance.

First, he implemented the “Single Whip Law” proposed by Prime Minister Zhang of the previous dynasty. He would allocate the land tax, corvée, and other miscellaneous taxes into one, combining them. Silver would be collected from the people based on how many acres of land they had.

As soon as this initiative was issued, the country celebrated.

The rewards and corvée collected by the Imperial Court mainly included land tax, poll tax, and corvée for various items.

In detail, it was a mess.

The large number of taxes would be collected together. Based on how much land a family had, they would be taxed according to the rules. Other than the food that the government needed to collect, it would all be counted in units of silver.

Chapter 1068: Returning to the Old Place

The Ministry of Revenue was in charge of the entire country’s household registration and farmland. The Ministry of Revenue was also clear on how much taxes each place should pay every year.

The tax system was simplified to facilitate the collection of taxes, making it difficult for local officials to cheat and embezzle, and increasing their revenues.

To a certain extent, it had greatly curbed the corruption of local officials.

It was the same for conscription. When the government office needed soldiers, a number of people from the family would be sent according to the rules. If they did not want to send anyone, they could also pay for it.

They restrained local tyrants and landowners to avoid the development of private land, making land transactions more and more capitalized. They prevented landowners from colluding with the government to forcefully occupy the land of the commoners and avoid the corresponding taxes.

However, the “Single Whip Law” was an act of rich countries, but it also increased the value of silver while reducing the value of grains. It was inevitable that merchants would raise the price of silver and harm the people.

Thus, the assessment of farmland was born on the basis of the Single Whip Law.

Emperor Zhaoyong abolished the “poll tax” and personally wrote that he would never use it. If he had unfilial descendants among his descendants who wanted to collect the poll tax, they had to consider their filial piety for their ancestors.

The poll tax accounted for more than 30% of the taxes paid by the commoners. Without paying the poll tax, it had substantially reduced the burden on the commoners. Just this alone made the commoners grateful.

The poll tax was also the greatest way for corrupt officials to be corrupted. It was simple and easy to do. Abolishing the poll tax was equivalent to abolishing the greatest way for corrupt officials to squeeze the commoners dry.

As soon as the notice was released, the commoners knelt on the ground in excitement and shouted, “Long live our emperor.”

From then on, the world pledged their allegiance.

No one mentioned Emperor Zhaoyong's ruthless and bloodthirsty reputation.

Meanwhile, the assessment according to farmland was an extension of the Single Whip Law.

How was the land divided?

It would be divided based on the number of people. The more children there were, the more fields they would receive. There was no need to pay the poll tax. Thus, receiving more fields for more children was to increase the population and productivity of society. It would further curb the collusion of officials and merchants, which caused corruption to become a common occurrence. This would reduce a channel for corruption and strengthen the control of local officials.

At the same time, the increase in population and productivity was enough to make up for the loss of the human tax.

The increase in productivity would make the resources in the country more abundant. It could also make up for the increased value of silver and reduced value of grains, which was harmful to the people.

These two political affairs were both lessons from the Great Zhou Dynasty. They were undergoing drastic reforms to ease the conflicts in society and promote production and development.

In addition, Emperor Zhaoyong had also issued the land-sharing law.

Desolate or confiscated land would be used as public land and distributed to the commoners according to the number of people in each family. Soldiers would receive 50% of the land, commoners would receive 40%, and the lonely and disabled would receive 30%. The landowners would not occupy too much land, let alone allow it to be desolate. Violators would be charged with occupying land by force, further freeing the commoners from the control of the local powerful landlords and strengthening the centralization of the Imperial Court.

These three items made up the benevolent governance for the commoners, putting agricultural development first.

Yin Huaixi also issued a tax law that specially targeted the taxes paid by landowning officials.

The original exemption clause was abolished. Instead, various taxes were waived, reduced, and handed over according to one's merit and official position.

For example, after becoming an elementary Scholar, the farmland under one's name originally did not need to be conscripted. However, now, it was changed such that up to five acres of land would be exempt from conscription. If one's amount of land exceeded five acres, it would depend on the size of their merits and the number of acres they owned.

Based on the amount of farmland, the more farmland the family had, the more taxes they would have to pay.

In short, even the emperor's father had to pay taxes according to the law.



If anyone was discovered to have missed out on paying, paid less, or not paid, depending on the size of the tax and the seriousness of the case, they would be punished ten times over or exiled or beheaded according to the law.

Yin Huaixi also planned a business tax.

The first to bear the brunt was the tariffs. All the road checkpoints set by the Imperial Court were set up with tariffs. One had to pay a certain amount of money to pass through. The commoners would receive 10% of the tax, and the merchants would receive 30% of the tax.

This move strengthened the control of the various passes and also increased the collection of the treasury.

The port tax for water trade depended on the number of goods and their value. Thirty percent of the value of the goods was charged. This was really disadvantageous to the merchants. However, at the same time, they opened up the trading quota for salt, tea, cloth, porcelain, and other items, allowing the merchants to trade freely, greatly increasing the development of trade.

At the same time, with the opening of foreign markets, the narrow Yu Pass became the first testing point.

There were more taxes, but there were also more business opportunities.

The new decree issued by Yin Huaixi was borrowed from history books, but the dynasties were different, and the national situation was also different. He couldn't copy everything.

Yu Youyao was proficient in agriculture, industry, and business. In the past few years, she had done many good deeds that benefited the country and the people in Liaodong. Every time Yin Huaixi issued a new policy, he had to discuss it with her and listen to her opinion. Then, he would brainstorm and discuss it with the cabinet ministers. Only then could it be implemented.

One after another, government decrees were issued, gradually putting the Great Zhao on the right track.

As the Ministry of Rites was preparing for the post-coronation ceremony, men and women were not allowed to meet before marriage. Yin Huaixi had no choice but to return to the palace after Eunuch Zhu's repeated urging.

Yu Youyao sent someone to send a message to the Yu Residence, planning to return to the Yu Residence. She was also endlessly involved with the Yu Clan, so there was no reason for her to not return to the capital.

This message caused a huge commotion in the Yu Residence's two residences.

After the edict was issued, Yu Youyao wanted to return to the Yu Residence. Madam Jiang immediately panicked and went to look for Yu Zongzheng.

When the new dynasty was first established, the new emperor mobilized many officials from the previous dynasty one after another, especially a large number of the Yu Clan, placing them in an important position in the court.

Elder Yu was promoted to Grand Secretary.

Yu Shande was personally appointed as the Grand Secretary of the East Pavilion and entered the cabinet. He was promoted to a third-grade official and became the Left Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Works.

The Ministry of Works was in charge of building a large number of buildings, the repairs of the main city, repairs using soil and wood, the craftsmen's program, the salt pools in the fields, the dams in the rivers and canals, the irrigation and aerial affairs, and other fortifications. These were most important.

The current Minister of Works was already more than 50 years old. Anyone could tell that Emperor Zhaoyong had the intention to train Yu Shande. Emperor Zhaoyong was just waiting for a few years to gain experience and master the matters of the Ministry of Works before Yu Shande could take over as the Minister of Works.

Yu Shande was experienced in human relationships but was a little lacking in the ways of the world. However, he had deep roots in the people's hearts. To him, the Ministry of Works was a place where he could expand his reach and fulfill his ambitions.

The Yu Clan members who had been in the court in the past had also been placed in an important position. Meanwhile, Yu Zongzheng had returned to the capital for two months, but he had never received an edict to be employed. He had been idle at home.

Therefore, when he heard that Yu Youyao was returning to the residence, he couldn't help but perk up. "Although the imperial decree has been issued after the conferment, the gift hasn't been completed, so it's not appropriate to overstep the etiquette system."

What he meant was that as long as there were no mistakes in etiquette, it was fine.

When Madam Jiang heard this, she composed herself and quickly went down to make arrangements.

Three days later, the two residences of the Yu Residence opened their doors early in the morning and swept the courtyard. It was estimated that when it was time, Yu Zongshen would bring the old and young families of the first and second houses and wait outside the residence to welcome Yu Youyao.

## Chapter 1069: Things Look Different

When Yu Lianyu and Yu Fangfei, who were already married and had left the Second Mansion, received the news that their Eldest Sister was returning to the residence, they also informed their husbands and elders and brought their husbands and children to the Yu Residence early in the morning.

As a result, the sparsely populated Yu Residence became much more lively.

As soon as they arrived, a team of guards was the first to guard both sides of the street in front of the Yu Residence. Immediately after, the sound of hooves could be heard. A six-wheeled carriage pulled by four horses slowly approached the Yu Residence. Warriors in heavy armor guarded at the side. The palace servants in front and behind raised the flags of the Eldest Princess.

This scene made the people from the Yu Residence, who had been waiting for a long time, immediately feel anxious. They subconsciously bent down, and even became reserved.

That made sense. The post-coronation ceremony was imminent. When Eldest Princess Shaoyi entered and left, guards had to be by her side to warn and intimidate the world. She had to retreat and not offend the nobles.

The carriage slowly stopped at the entrance of the Yu Residence.

Liu'er and Xia Tao alighted from the carriage on both sides and lifted the curtain. The sound of the hanging pearls and jade rings was extremely pleasant.

As soon as Yu Youyao alighted from the carriage, she went forward and bowed to Yu Zongzheng and Madam Yao.

The people from the Yu Residence were waiting to welcome her because she had been conferred the title of the Eldest Princess. She had a noble status and could not be neglected. However, she was also a daughter of the Yu Clan, so it was only right for her to bow to her elders.

After the etiquette was done, Yu Zongzheng welcomed Yu Youyao into the residence.

After the tea, Yu Zongzheng personally opened the ancestral hall and welcomed Yu Youyao into the ancestral hall to pay her respects. After kowtowing three times and bowing nine times, she offered a stick of incense and left the ancestral hall with red eyes.

Madam Jiang looked at Madam Yao and saw that she was standing in the courtyard with her head lowered.

After her Second Uncle's death, Madam Yao was not as glorious as before.

Her two sons were not young anymore, but their futures were uncertain.

Her most beloved second daughter actually had a bright future ahead of her, but she was asked to enter a nunnery.

The clan was also very dissatisfied with her.

Madam Jiang thought about it and could only smile. She quickly went up to her. "Eldest Miss hasn't returned to the capital for many years, and the residence has changed a lot." As if feeling that these words were a little inappropriate, she quickly added, "The Old Madam's An Shou Hall and the Jade Courtyard where Eldest Miss used to live are still the same. The family has always been taking care of it. Do you want to go take a look?"

Yu Youyao pressed the corners of her red eyes and said in a hoarse voice, "Thank you for your trouble, Madam. I haven't returned to the capital for many years, so I naturally have to take a look."

Madam Jiang had known in the past that the Eldest Miss of the residence was polite and appropriate to others. She would not embarrass them or show them any displeasure. She interacted with them very easily. After so many years, the former Eldest Miss had become the County Head, the Princess, and the Eldest Princess. She was about to become the Empress. Although she had an imposing aura, she was still the same as before.

Madam Jiang couldn't help but feel relieved. She warmly brought Yu Youyao to the An Shou Hall in the north courtyard.

The An Shou Hall was still the same, but because its owner had passed away, it still looked a little desolate even though it was often taken care of.

Yu Youyao felt sad. She couldn't help but think of everything that had happened with her grandmother. She couldn't help but feel uncomfortable again and cry on the spot.

She looked at the couch that her grandmother often sat on in the past. "My Grandmother wasn't in good health in the past, so she couldn't sit for long. Most of the time, she lay crooked on this couch, and the peony-patterned armrests on both sides of the couch became smooth and shiny..."

It had only been more than four years since her grandmother had passed away. The once smooth and glossy peony-patterned armrest seemed to be covered in a layer of dust, no longer as bright as before.

Yu Youyao stayed in An Shou Hall for a long time before returning to the Jade Courtyard.

The Jade Courtyard was still the same as before she left. However, the tall parasol tree in the courtyard was no longer around, and the Yu Residence had planted a new purple elm tree.

Seeing that she was staring at the purple elm tree, Madam Jiang's heart tightened. She hurriedly said, "After the parasol tree in the courtyard was cut down, your father sent someone to find a few more parasol trees and planned to plant them in their original places. For some reason, he planted them a few times, but none of them survived. Later, Madam Clan Chief said that you planted a purple elm tree in the Yu Garden in Xiangping. This purple elm tree is resistant. It has been alive since it was transplanted over. Over the past two years, it's been growing better over time."

Yu Youyao smiled. "Good."

Madam Jiang felt relieved. Her eyes darted around. "The brothers and sisters at home are also talking about you. It's rare for the Eldest Miss to come back, so go have a good chat with them. I'll go to the main kitchen in the front courtyard to take a look first."

Madam Jiang was still as tactful as before. Yu Youyao smiled and nodded. "I have the same intention. Madam, go ahead and do your work. You don't have to accompany me all the time. The Yu Residence is also my own home, so I don't live here. When I come back to my own house, there's no need to be polite."

Not long after Madam Jiang left, Yu Shanyan, Yu Shanxin, Yu Lianyu, and Yu Fangfei from the Second Mansion arrived at the Jade Courtyard.

The Yu Residence was still the same as before, but things were different.

Yu Youyao felt a little uncomfortable. She smiled and chatted with her brothers and sisters in the family. In the end, they had not seen one another for many years and were distant. Due to their different statuses, it was inevitable that they would be reserved.

After growing up, siblings also had a lot of etiquette to observe. They could no longer laugh and play like when they were young.

Yu Shanyan and Yu Shanxin also felt a sense of disappointment. They only exchanged a few words with her before leaving.

Yu Shanjing, who was born to Madam Jiang, was a little more than three years old this year. He was a round little person. He looked at her curiously with his bright black eyes. When she looked over, he pretended to be a little adult and bowed with his hands folded. He called out in a childish voice, "Hello, Eldest Sister."

Yu Youyao couldn't help but pinch his soft face. "How cute."

Yu Shanjing's face puffed up like a bun as he looked at her accusingly.

This made Yu Youyao burst out laughing. She immediately took out an incense token from her waist and gave it to Yu Shanjing.

Yu Shanjing was overjoyed to receive the gift. He said like a little adult, "Thank you, Eldest Sister."

Yu Shanming was already seven years old and looked very much like Yu Zongzheng. Since he was young, Yu Zongzheng had been raised by him, so he was a little rigid.

He often heard from the servants in the residence that he was very close to his Eldest Sister when he was young. However, he was still young at that time and no longer remembered what had happened when he was young.

Seeing how imposing his Eldest Sister was, he couldn't help but feel a little reserved.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but sigh. "Brother Ming has also grown up."

Yu Shanming smiled awkwardly, not knowing how to answer.

Yu Youyao felt disappointed and asked about their recent situation with a smile.

Yu Lianyu lowered her eyes. "Although my husband's family is a poor family, they're still a polite family. My father-in-law and mother-in-law treat me very well. When I got married, my mother-in-law helped to buy a dowry. My Eldest Sister also asked someone to buy a few shops for me. My husband studied hard. When everything in the Imperial Court is settled and he takes his official position, I plan to go down for reference..."

The Yu Residence's family status was not low to begin with, so her husband's family naturally did not dare to underestimate her. Even though her first child was a daughter, the family did not say anything and only asked her to be raised well.

Now that her Eldest Sister was about to be promoted, her husband's family did not dare to neglect her.

#### Chapter 1070: Filial Father and Daughter

Yu Fangfei also said, "The Jiang family is a farming family. As there's a layer of in-laws around, the elders in the family are also very close to me. My husband is also someone who knows what's good for him. He treats me very well and has yet to have a concubine..."

Her stomach was also heaving. After marrying into the Jiang family for a year, she had a son in one go.

As they chatted, Yu Fangfei suddenly mentioned Yu Qingning. "Two years ago, my Eldest Aunt made the decision to marry your Fourth Sister into a good family in the Jiang Clan. Your Fourth Sister refused to listen and even caused a commotion in front of your Eldest Uncle. Your Eldest

Uncle was so angry that he scolded her and locked her in the courtyard until she was released on the day of her marriage. I've heard that she's not bad."

It was only on account of her Eldest Sister that she could marry into such a family. She knew that her Eldest Sister cared about their sisterly relationship. No matter how bad Yu Qingning was, she had never been tortured in the residence in the past. She had been given all the respect she should receive.

It was obvious that outsiders were not allowed to torture her sister.

No matter how much Madam Jiang disliked Yu Qingning, she had to plan carefully for her.

Yu Youyao nodded and said nothing.

Yu Qingning's personality was neither good nor poor. She stayed in the capital and did not know how to cause trouble. Madam Jiang was still kind enough to marry Yu Qingning far away to Jiangxi. Her husband's family was well-off and she would not suffer. Madam Jiang would take care of her from time to time and restrain her personality, so that her life would be good.

Yu Youyao's voice was dry. "Is my Second Sister doing well?"

Yu Lianyu looked a little sad. "When the news of the Fourth Prince being beheaded in public spread in the previous dynasty, the clan sent your Second Sister to the family nunnery. Her mother made a fuss, but she couldn't stop her. Although life in the nunnery was bitter, the Clan Chief's wife often took care of her. It's just that it was a little bitter after all..."

The Eldest Sister had a good relationship with her Second Sister in the past. The Clan Chief's wife also gave the Eldest Sister face and was not harsh on her. The clansmen did not dare to bully her.

Outsiders did not know the details, but everyone in the family knew who had the true "phoenix fate".

The phoenix tree grew in the Eldest Sister's courtyard, and her grandmother doted on the Eldest Sister the most. Grandmaster Hui Neng had seen her grandmother a few times, and it was always related to the Eldest Sister.

Her father and her mother were separated because of the phoenix fate.

Her mother had also been reprimanded by the Clan Chief in front of the entire clan because of this matter. From then on, she could no longer raise her head in the clan.

If it weren't for the fact that her father had begged the old Clan Chief before he fell sick and asked her sister to be devoted to Buddhism in the future, she would have long been hung.

Yu Youyao felt a sense of sorrow. "Is that so..."

Yu Shuangbai had inherited the "phoenix fate" and was given a marriage to the Fourth Prince. She had become a chess piece for Empress Ning to deal with Concubine Lan. When Thief Liang broke into the capital, the first to bear the brunt of it were the three princes. The three princes were all beheaded in public.

Although the marriage was only in name, everyone understood that Yu Shuangbai had a phoenix fate and was once engaged to the Fourth Prince of the previous dynasty. Her future was pretty much over.

In this world, there was only one “destined phoenix girl”, and only one phoenix fate could belong to her. If Yu Shuangbai was the “destined phoenix girl”, what would Yu Youyao do?

After Yu Youyao was conferred with her title, she would have the true phoenix fate. Yu Shuangbai, who had once inherited the phoenix fate, would become a complete taboo.

If the new emperor pursued this matter, what awaited Yu Shuangbai was only suicide by imperial favor.

Even if they did not pursue the matter, the Yu Clan had to take the initiative to avoid it.

Yu Shuangbai would spend the rest of her life devoted to Buddhism, in case the “theory of the phoenix fate” offended the Empress and caused the world to criticize her, causing the dignity of the Empress in the Central Palace to be damaged. The status of the Empress would not be good, and she would not be able to face the four seas and be a mother to the world.

Yu Youyao could ignore it, but the ministers of the court and the commoners of the world would not treat it lightly. If the Empress could not be in the central palace, it would be the greatest taboo in the world.

To Yu Shuangbai, devoting herself to Buddhism was already the best outcome.

In her nightmare, Yu Shuangbai had replaced her and inherited the phoenix fate. In the end, she had ascended to the throne and become the mother of the world.

Everything was predestined.

In the end, Yu Shuangbai had to pay for the bitter fruit of Madam Yao’s brew for the rest of her life.

Yu Youyao felt terrible. “In a few days, I’ll go to the clan to visit my Second Sister.”

All these years, she had been in Liaodong and had always been in close contact with the clan. She had also received a lot of care from the clan. She was originally a daughter of the Yu Clan, so it was inevitable that she would return to the clan to walk around.

After finishing the conversation, Wen Zhu came over to report, “Young Miss, Master wants you to go to the study in the front courtyard.”

Yu Youyao slowly stood up, tidied her clothes, and said calmly, “Let’s go!”

Her voice was as gentle as before, but it exuded a dignified aura. Wen Zhu couldn’t help but hold her breath and subconsciously bend her back.

Yu Zongzheng was waiting for her in the study.

Yu Youyao stepped forward and bowed. Yu Zongzheng quickly reached out to help her. “There’s no need for such formalities between father and daughter.” He changed the topic and said, “You’ve been in Xiangping for four years, and the family has been worried about you. It’s rare for you to return to the capital, so I invited you over to ask about the situation in Liaodong these past few years.”

Yu Youyao followed suit and mentioned some things about Liaodong.

Initially, he didn't call her to listen to this. After hearing her brief explanation, Yu Zongzheng took the opportunity to say with concern, "I've heard in the past that Liaodong is very bitter and cold. Every year, it's already winter in August and September. All these years, it's really been hard on you. In the past, you also grew up in a noble family..."

After that, she talked about many things that happened to Yu Youyao at home, most of which happened after she was in charge of the household.

Yu Youyao listened with respectful attention. After she was in charge of the household, Yu Zongzheng trusted her very much and valued her very much. He handed over all the big and small matters in the family to her to handle and often praised her for being thorough and polite. The relationship between the father and daughter had also been repaired a lot. It was a scene of a loving father and filial daughter.

Of course, this was all Yu Zhengzong's wishful thinking.

Yu Youyao knew very well that Yu Zongzheng had suddenly played the card of "filial father and daughter".

Yu Zongzheng kept talking until his mouth was a little dry. He picked up his tea and took a few sips before saying, "After the new emperor ascended the throne, he employed many old ministers of the previous dynasty. I heard that the role of the Left Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs is still empty. I used to be the Left Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs..."

Not only did he want to enter the royal court again, but he also wanted to fill the gap in the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs. He was really shameless.

Yu Youyao put down her teacup. "There are many things in the court when the new emperor ascends the throne. The emperor has his own considerations and has to discuss with the cabinet. You really shouldn't ask me about this. Father, if you're anxious to wait, why don't you ask Elder Yu? He definitely knows more about the court than me."

Yu Zongzheng's expression darkened. "The emperor has already issued an edict to make you the empress..."

Everyone in the world knew that the new emperor doted on Eldest Princess Shaoyi very much. As soon as the world was settled, before the Imperial Court was stable and everything was complicated, he couldn't wait to establish the Eldest Princess as the empress. He actually couldn't wait for a moment.

Due to this matter, there was a lot of criticism in the court. They felt that after the new emperor ascended the throne, the priority was to stabilize the country. The relationship should wait until the new dynasty was settled.