

All Hail 1071

Chapter 1071: Old Dreams

There were even some rumors that the new emperor valued sex over the matters of the country.

However, because of Eldest Princess Shaoyi's reputation as a virtuous person and the new policies that had been issued one after another after the new emperor ascended the throne, these rumors were ultimately unfounded.

His daughter was valued by the new emperor, so there was no reason for her not to do him a favor.

The empress's father did not have an official position and was only idle at home. It was not good for the empress's reputation. As long as the new emperor cared about the dignity of the Eldest Princess, he would express something.

Which daughter in the palace did not seek power for her family?

It was only right.

Therefore, Yu Zongzheng sounded a little self-righteous when he mentioned this. "The new emperor is busy every day. Perhaps he forgot for a moment and only asked you to mention it. There's no need to say anything to make things difficult for you..."

Yu Youyao couldn't be bothered to say anything else. "In my opinion, it's good for my Father to spend a lot of time cultivating at home. As the saying goes, only by cultivating one's body and managing one's family can one govern the country and bring peace to the world."

Yu Zongzheng's expression changed, and he couldn't help but sound a little angry. "What do you mean?"

When Yu Youyao reached the door, she suddenly stopped in her tracks. With her back facing Yu Zongzheng, she asked softly, "All these years, have you ever repented for the deaths of my Mother and Grandmother?"

Yu Zongzheng's eyes widened as he stared fixedly at her back, almost piercing through it.

Yu Youyao understood.

She actually knew.

She actually knew.

So after so many years, was the so-called "filial piety of a father and daughter" also an act?!

"I don't think so!" Yu Zongzheng would only feel guilty and not repent. Yu Youyao chuckled. Her faint tone was as cold as a knife. "You didn't repent in the past. From now on, you should repent. For the rest of your life, you'll have a lot of time to repent for the evil things you've done in the past. The reason why people are different from animals is because if a person doesn't cultivate his character, he'll be no different from a beast."

There was only a small difference between humans and beasts. If one did not cultivate their character, they were no different from beasts.

These words cut off Yu Zongzheng's future.

"Yu Youyao—" Yu Zongzheng was like a furious lion as he roared loudly, "Unfilial daughter, you unfilial daughter..."

Yu Youyao turned to look at his incompetent and furious expression. She said word by word, "Ever since I was young, my Father has always called me an unfilial daughter and an evil creature. I've always been unconvinced in the past, but now, I feel that everyone in the world has their own fate. Everything is destined and can't be forced. My Father really has foresight."

The so-called affinity was caused by her previous life and took effect in this life.

It was destined that she was not close to anyone in this life.

She was stupid. It had taken her nearly ten years to understand this logic.

Yu Zongzheng was so angry that his eyes darkened. His blood rushed to his head. He clutched his chest and raised his hand, pointing at Yu Youyao with a trembling finger. "You..."

Yu Youyao bowed slightly. "Father, take care!"

With that, she turned around and left the academy. There was a crashing sound behind her. It seemed that Yu Zongzheng had smashed things quite happily.

After returning to the Jade Courtyard, Yu Youyao was a little tired.

Xia Tao moved a rocking chair to the corridor. Yu Youyao leaned against it and looked at the scenery in the courtyard, thinking of many things from the past.

Ever since she moved into the Jade Courtyard, all her memories were related to Yin Huaixi.

She fell asleep in a daze and even dreamed of Yin Huaixi.

In her dream, she had "pushed" Yu Jianjia, causing Yu Jianjia to have a fever, but she was completely fine. She was scolded harshly by Yu Zongzheng and grounded for a month.

After she was released from her grounding, she found out that a sickly cousin had come to Youzhou.

She was overjoyed. She quickly prepared a lot of expensive medicinal herbs and supplements and rushed to the Lotus House to visit her cousin.

Her cousin was very good-looking and treated others well, but he was very cold and distant. Cousin Zhou lived under someone else's roof and caused a lot of gossip in the residence. Perhaps because they were in the same boat, she liked to run to the Lotus Courtyard.

Even though Cousin Zhou ignored her, she did not feel sad. Every day, she rambled on and said many miscellaneous things.

Cousin Zhou must be annoyed to death with her.

Sometimes, when Cousin Zhou was really annoyed by her, he would guide her in some studies and calligraphy so that she would shut up. Every time this happened, no matter how unwilling she was, she would pout and listen obediently, not daring to anger Cousin Zhou.

As time passed, she gradually became close to Cousin Zhou.

Of course, this was her wishful thinking.

Cousin Zhou's health was deteriorating, and she was very anxious. She wrote many letters to Quanzhou and asked her grandfather to help find famous doctors, wonderful medicine, and supplements.

Her maternal grandfather had sent two Lingxi Bugs to the capital for her. She had learned to use the Lingxi Bug's medicinal liquid as medicinal cuisine to nourish her body and help Cousin Zhou nourish his body.

However, even so, Cousin Zhou's body was completely ruined in less than three years.

On the first day that Cousin Zhou left the capital, he had given her a box of brow powder that he had personally made. He had also taken an eyebrow pencil and carefully drew her eyebrows for her. The green brow powder spread out among her eyebrows, like a mountain that had just cleared after the rain. It made her pure eyes look bright and beautiful at night.

She sat in front of the mirror and bragged for a long time. "Cousin, your eyebrow makeup is really beautiful. I don't care. In the future, when I run out of eyebrow makeup, you have to be responsible for making new ones for me."

Cousin Zhou looked at her pure eyes carefully, and a pale smile appeared on his lips.

However, she, who was immersed in love, did not notice.

The next day, after she got up, she specially used the brow powder that her cousin had given her and happily went to the Lotus House to look for him. Only then did she find out that her cousin had already left the residence and returned to Youzhou before dawn.

Everyone in the residence knew that she was the only one who was kept in the dark. She was ignorant and still delusional, thinking that she would get her cousin to make brow powder in the future.

Yu Youyao broke down and ran out of the house, crying until her face was covered in snot and tears.

She had been knocked unconscious by a servant and brought back.

Perhaps it was because the scene in her dream was too painful, but Yu Youyao felt a sharp pain in her heart. She slowly woke up and turned around to see Yin Huaixi sitting beside her.

Thinking of the scene of separation in the nightmare, Yu Youyao couldn't help but cry.

"Why are you crying?" Yin Huaixi frowned and gently wiped her tears.

He had only just arrived and saw that Yu Youyao had fallen asleep under the corridor with a smile on her lips. She looked pure, bright, and extremely beautiful. He guessed that she must have had a beautiful dream and couldn't bear to disturb her.

Unexpectedly, she suddenly woke up.

Tears streamed down her face at the sight of him.

It made him a little flustered.

“I had a nightmare just now.” Yu Youyao threw herself into his arms. As she whimpered softly, she told him about the dream intermittently.

In her dream, she was as not close to Yin Huaixi as they were in reality.

Yin Huaixi was distant.

Her grandmother was bedridden. She had to attend to her grandmother’s illness, so she couldn’t keep pestering him.

Chapter 1072: Deep Love

However, she had clearly seen a smile on “Yin Huaixi’s” pale lips because of her arrival in her dream.

He also saw that every time he sat in a wheelchair and stared at her back as she left, he would not be able to see her once she left.

She saw him forcing his sick body to write copybooks for her to practice her calligraphy.

She also saw “Yu Youyao”’s happy expression when she received her cousin’s calligraphy.

She saw her learning how to make medicinal cuisine for her cousin.

She also saw how she was anxious about her cousin’s health and asked the Xie family to find a famous doctor.

The “them” in her dream seemed to be them in reality. “They” had done many things that they had done in the past.

Yin Huaixi listened carefully to the scene in her dream and suddenly found it funny.

He could roughly guess that when he entered the Yu Residence, Yu Youyao was grounded. The two of them had missed the opportunity to meet. When Yu Youyao was released from her grounding, the rumors about a cripple like him coming to the Yu Residence to take advantage of the situation must have caused a commotion for a long time, causing him to be filled with wariness and dislike for the people of the Yu Residence. When he saw Yu Youyao again, he inevitably became a little cold.

However, Yu Youyao was very familiar with him. Even though he treated her coldly, she did not care much. She often became thick-skinned and came to look for him.

The little girl’s heart was like glass, pure and flawless. After interacting with her for a long time, he definitely couldn’t be indifferent.

However, as he did not have the spiritual dewdrop to nourish his body, his body was deteriorating and it was difficult for him to hold on. He must have buried this thought deep in his heart and did not show it at all.

It wasn’t until the day he left for the capital that a box of brow powder illustrated all of his feelings.

Some things were destined.

Yin Huaixi kissed her forehead lightly. “Dreams are the opposite. In the nightmare, I left the Yu Residence, but in reality, I came to the Yu Residence.”

Yu Youyao looked at him with red eyes. Only then did she ask belatedly, "Aren't you in the palace? Why are you suddenly here? Didn't Eunuch Zhu stop you?"

According to the rules, men and women were not allowed to meet before marriage.

"I heard that you were here at the Yu Residence, so I came over to take a look." As for Eunuch Zhu, it depended on whether Eunuch Zhu could stop him. "I haven't returned to the Yu Residence for many years. I'm afraid I won't have the chance to come over in the future."

His tone inevitably sounded a little regretful, as if he had recalled that back then, he had used his crippled and sickly body to replace Zhou Linghuai's identity and moved into the Yu Residence with the hatred of disloyalty. He had originally thought that he would die in hatred.

However, there was a little girl squatting in front of him. She looked up at him with pure eyes and asked him with heartache, "Cousin, does it hurt?"

After that, his life lit up.

Yin Huaixi held her hand. "Come with me to the residence!"

After returning to this old place, too many memories surged into his mind.

The two desks, one big and one small, were still placed side by side in the study. It was as if when he was writing, painting, and reading, he could always see the little girl supporting her chin with her head tilted and looking at him with sparkling eyes. Her lips curved into a smile.

"Cousin, you've been reading for a long time. Take a break."

"Cousin, your hands must be sore from writing for so long!"

"Cousin's painting is really good. Can you give it to me?"

"Cousin, the teacher praised my handwriting."

"Cousin, quickly try my medicinal tea."

When he looked up, he could still see dense books on the tall bookshelf. He seemed to be able to see the little girl leaning on a stool, tiptoeing, and extending her arms to help him find books on the high shelf. Every time, he was on tenterhooks.

Sometimes, she would even deliberately be mischievous and pretend that she was about to fall off the stool. After making him worry, she would giggle smugly. If she angered him, she would pretend to be pitiful. As she hooked his finger, she would admit her mistake obediently and softly. She was like the brown sugar glutinous rice dumplings that his mother had made when she was still alive. When he took a bite, it was sweet and sticky. He clearly did not like to eat sweet food, but every time, his father would fight for it, making his heart soften.

Yin Huaixi smiled and held her hand as they walked.

When they arrived under the purple elm tree, he couldn't help but think of the scene of the parasol tree that had grown here in the past and her burning incense, playing the zither, reading, and painting under the tree.

On the lotus lake, there was the amusing incident of them picking lotus flowers as they went boating in the lake.

As they walked, they arrived at The Green House.

The roses and Chinese roses in the corner climbed up the eaves. Most of the leaves on the vines had fallen, but there were still some leaves stubbornly growing. In the cold, they looked especially green.

The grape vines were bare and old branches were knotted, entrenched on the shelf.

It was as if he could still see the little girl sitting under the green leaves and vines. Her bright skirt fluttered in the wind like blooming flowers, bright and beautiful. He could hear the little girl's clear and pleasant laughter.

When the grapes were ripe, the entire courtyard was filled with the fragrance of ripe fruits. The little girl stepped on the ladder and picked the grapes with small golden scissors to eat the grapes.

The lotus flower that was raised in the vat was not bad-looking either. However, the fat red koi fish that had been raised in the past had been changed to a thin and long pine leaf koi fish that was even more agile and elegant. The silver-white koi fish was like a layer of white frost on a pine needle.

At some point, snow had fallen from the sky.

"It's snowing." Yin Huaixi held her hand and walked to the corridor. The long stems and leaves of the hanging orchids hung down and brushed against the top of her head.

When he pushed open the door, the room was still the same as before he left.

Memories that had been sealed in this small courtyard came one after another.

They met at each other's most sorry states. At the right time and place, they met the right person. They stunned the years and gentled the time. Bit by bit, they became better.

If love could make people better.

This was probably the best appearance of love.

Yin Huaixi turned to look at her.

As if sensing something, Yu Youyao looked up and met his gentle eyes. "What's wrong?"

She was still as charming as before.

Yin Huaixi's heart surged. He opened his arms and pulled her into his arms. "The Ministry of Rites set the post-coronation wedding on the 26th of the first lunar month, but I rejected it. The Imperial Astronomer picked an auspicious day again, and the wedding is set for the 16th of the first lunar month."

Yu Youyao couldn't help but be stunned. "The Lantern Festival has just passed. Isn't that inappropriate?"

“The moon is round on the 15th, and it’s rounder on the 16th.” Yin Huaixi smiled. “When the moon is full, so will the people. It’s time for us to reunite.”

No matter how long it took, he couldn’t wait.

The two of them stayed in The Green House for a long time.

Xia Tao came over to report, “A family banquet has been prepared in the front courtyard. Master and Madam asked me to come over and ask the emperor and the Young Miss if they want someone to prepare dinner.”

Yin Huaixi turned to look at Yu Youyao. “Are you hungry?”

Yu Youyao nodded. “It’s getting late. It’s a family banquet after all, so I can’t make my Father wait too long.”

Her call of “Father” carried a hint of indifference, as if it was just a meaningless code name and not a relative related to her.

Yin Huaixi was already used to her attitude. He knew that she did not have any father-daughter relationship with Yu Zongzheng, but he did not want anything to go wrong with her etiquette.

Chapter 1073: In the Yu Clan

He said calmly, “Let’s set the table!”

Xia Tao quickly left.

Thinking of Yu Zongzheng, who had followed him and wanted to accompany him just now, Yin Huaixi’s gaze darkened. “What do you plan to do with Yu Zongzheng?”

“A person without virtue is not worthy of taking power because their virtue is not worthy of their status,” said Yu Youyao calmly. “How else should we arrange it?”

Yin Huaixi pinched the tip of her nose lightly. “You’re right. It’s just that he’s your father after all. If I don’t treat him well, others will inevitably think that I’ve treated you lightly, but I don’t want to invite such gossip.”

A married daughter was still connected to her maiden family.

Yu Youyao sighed softly. “Tomorrow, appoint an imperial physician with brilliant medical skills and a reputation to treat him in the Yu Residence. Then, tell outsiders that he has a chest disease.”

As a patient, of course he had to stay at home obediently to recuperate.

Yin Huaixi smiled. “You’re a little mischievous.”

His chest disease could be severe or minor. As his heart veins were blocked, he had chest pain, tightness in his chest, shortness of breath, and other symptoms. He had to avoid fatigue and worry, and needed to recuperate.

The two of them went to the front courtyard hand in hand, and the servants along the way knelt on the ground.

After a while, they arrived at the front hall.

Yu Zongzheng brought the people from the east and west residences and quickly knelt down to welcome them.

Everyone in the capital knew that when the new emperor was young, he had once used the name of his cousin, Zhou Linghuai, to live in the Yu Residence. He was hidden in the abyss and was taken care of by the Yu Residence. Therefore, he had formed a good relationship with the Yu Residence and the Eldest Miss of the residence.

Therefore, after the new emperor ascended the throne, he treated the Yu Clan well. Almost all the Yu Clan members who had been officials in the court in the past had a good future.

Meanwhile, the Yu Clan valued agriculture and industry. Ever since Duke Zhonglie stepped up, they had always been diligent and pragmatic. They were also quite practical. They played an important role in pushing the new emperor to implement the new policy.

The emperor personally visited the Yu Residence in his white dragon uniform, causing a huge commotion in the east and west residences.

The emperor had repeatedly emphasized that he was just visiting his old place and was just here to take a look. Thus, there was no need to trouble everyone. However, everyone in the residence was really in a mess.

Madam Jiang quickly searched for the family banquet menu that the Eldest Miss had prepared when “Young Master Zhou” was still in the residence. She ordered someone to make the dishes.

No matter what, according to the Eldest Miss’s previous family banquet menu, there was definitely no mistake.

There must be some of “Young Master Zhou’s” favorite dishes.

Yin Huaixi said calmly, “Rise. I’m just wearing my white dragon uniform and revisiting my old place. I’ll avoid some superficial etiquette if I can.”

Yu Zongzheng stood up trembling. Madam Yao and Madam Jiang followed closely behind, followed by the juniors in the family.

Yin Huaixi pulled Yu Youyao to sit at the head of the table. “You guys sit too. Since it’s a family banquet, there’s no need to hold back. We’ll do as we did in the past today.”

These words were just for show. No one in the Yu Residence would take them seriously.

Everyone sat down trembling.

Yu Youyao was a little upset that such a good meal had become like this. She couldn’t help but glare at Yin Huaixi.

Although she did not have much attachment to the Yu Residence, she had always had a good relationship with her brothers and sisters in the family. She also wanted to get together with them smoothly.

Yin Huaixi knew that he was in the wrong. He quickly picked up some sea cucumber with his chopsticks. “It’s your favorite sea cucumber. Try it quickly and see if it suits your taste.”

Yu Youyao and her “cousin” had a good relationship. She was used to this scene in the past, but now that her “cousin” had changed his identity, it looked extremely shocking.

Yu Youyao also knew about Yin Huaixi. He had always politely declined sea cucumbers. As if playing a prank, she picked up a few pieces of sea cucumber and placed them on the plate in front of him.

Immediately, an eunuch stepped forward with cold sweat on his forehead to try the dishes.

He knew that this was a little inappropriate.

However, the emperor’s safety was the most important.

Yin Huaixi frowned. “Leave. I’m having dinner with the Eldest Princess. There’s no need to serve me.”

The eunuch hesitated.

At the side, Eunuch Zhu gave him a look. “The emperor is having dinner with the Eldest Princess. There’s no need to be particular about this. Leave. Don’t disturb the emperor’s mood.”

After the Eldest Princess entered the capital, the emperor had been staying in her residence. He took care of everything.

In the end, the eunuchs had served the emperor too little and almost offended him.

This small episode passed just like that, but the hearts of the people from the Yu Residence were in turmoil.

On the 26th of December, Yu Youyao went to the Tongzhou clan.

The clansmen were extremely excited and welcomed them.

Yu Youyao had gone all the way from the County Head, Princess, and the Eldest Princess to the Empress. Her reputation for virtue had caused the Yu Clan’s reputation to reach its peak after Duke Zhonglie. No matter where the clansmen went, they had to be valued. Even those who were related to the Yu Clan received a good reputation for virtue from the Eldest Princess.

The young misses in the clan all used the Eldest Princess as a model. They read and became literate, learned incense medicine, made incense tea, learned pharmacology, and cooked medicinal cuisine. When they were in their rooms, they had already learned a lot.

The Eldest Princess was dressed in informal clothes, and she exuded a dignified aura. For some reason, the Clan Chief recalled that when the clan aunt in the capital passed away, the Daoist priest of the Clear Void Temple had come over to perform a ritual and said, “This woman is indescribably noble.”

At that time, he did not understand what the priest meant.

She only thought that Yu Youyao had been conferred the title of County Head and was valued by the Empress Dowager. In the future, she would definitely marry into the imperial family and gain power. Naturally, she would be extremely noble.

Unexpectedly, the word “noble” was secondary, and the main point was “indescribable”.

What kind of nobility was needed to reach an indescribable level?

Didn't her current level of nobility reach an indescribable level?!

After the new emperor ascended the throne, a large number of people from the Yu Clan were employed. The Yu Clan had been conscientious for many years and did not forget their ancestral virtue. The Heavenly Dao finally rewarded them. The Yu Clan had already begun to show its prosperity in the past.

The Clan Chief personally opened the ancestral hall and welcomed Yu Youyao into the ancestral hall to pay respects to her ancestor. She paid her respects to the two stone monuments in the clan. Then, the Clan Chief gathered his clansmen to greet her.

This was probably the last time Yu Youyao, Eldest Princess Shaoyi, would return to the clan to pay respects to her ancestors and meet her clansmen.

After the post-coronation wedding, there would be a difference between the emperor and his subjects.

After that, the Clan Chief brought Yu Youyao around the clan and first went to the clan school.

All the descendants of the Yu Clan who had turned five years old had to enter the clan school to learn the history of the clan.

They could only return home after three months of studying.

First, it was to nurture the clansmen's affiliation to the clan from a young age. Second, it was to prevent their descendants from forgetting their ancestral contributions, ancestral virtue, and ancestral career. Only by remembering the history of the clan would they know when to advance and when to retreat.

After so many years, Yu Youyao's memory of the clan school was already very vague. She only vaguely remembered the mottled walls and some old tables and chairs.

Now that she had come to the clan school again, she realized that it had been expanded and renovated a lot. The tables and chairs were neatly arranged. The elders were in class, and the children were holding books and shaking their heads as they memorized the history of the clan.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but smile.

It was quite good. People had to learn history. The family history and history were all learned. As the saying went, with copper as a mirror, one could change their clothes. With history as a mirror, one could understand historical trends.

This was probably the reason why the Yu Clan's inheritance could continue.

Chapter 1074: Meeting Yu Jianjia Again

The Clan Chief smiled and said, "The money to expand the clan's school was paid by the Eldest Princess before you left the capital back then. All these years, the clansmen have always been very grateful to you."

Yu Youyao was also happy that the money she had spent had been put to good use. "The expansion and prosperity of the clan school also represents the prosperity of a clan. This is a good thing."

Ever since Yin Huaixi ascended the throne, he had employed a large number of the Yu Clan's people not because of her, but because the Yu Clan was pragmatic and practical, conspiring with the new policies he had issued.

The new dynasty had just been established, and there were still many things to do. Only truly pragmatic and practical people would be placed in an important position. To the Yu Clan, this was an opportunity to restore their ancestral business.

Her words were not casual.

Yu Youyao seemed to sigh with emotion. "Not long after, there will be a new monument in the Yu Clan's ancestral hall."

The Clan Chief felt a surge of excitement.

Yu Zongshen had launched the "abandonment of the capital to protect the north" and offended many dignitaries in the capital at that time. Even though some of the dignitaries' houses had been searched, they still controlled a huge amount of resources and connections after the new emperor ascended the throne. They still stood tall in the capital. They spared no effort to publicize Yu Zongshen's "crimes" and slandered him, causing Yu Zongshen's reputation to be greatly damaged.

The Yu Clan couldn't defend him against this, let alone argue.

In addition, after the new emperor ascended the throne, he employed a large number of members of the Yu Clan, attracting the envy of many people. The reputation of the Yu Clan was also greatly affected.

If the new emperor was like Duke Zhonglie back then and was willing to clear Yu Zongshen's name, the dirty water that had been splashed on Yu Zhongshen would no longer exist.

Yu Zongshen would also become the second Duke Zhonglie.

The Yu Clan's reputation was even better than before. The new emperor valued the Yu Clan so much and had high hopes for them. He was also reminding the Yu Clan not to forget their original intentions and not to let down their ancestors.

At Yu Youyao's request, the Clan Chief's wife brought her to the nunnery.

In addition to worshiping Buddha and praying for good fortune, the nunnery in the clan was also to punish some women in the clan who had made mistakes but did not die. They were to serve Bodhisattva in the nunnery and reflect on their mistakes.

Therefore, the nunnery was not built very big. It was only a simple small courtyard with a few rooms inside. It was only slightly larger than the Tranquil Heart Residence of the Yu Residence.

Yu Youyao's eyes welled up.

The Clan Chief's wife tilted her head. Seeing that Yu Youyao's eyes were slightly red, she sighed with emotion. Her Second Sister looked good, and her personality was not as competitive as Madam Yao's. It was rare for her to be delicate and lively. She had learned some virtues from Ms. Ye, and there was nothing wrong with her. The clan thought very highly of her and had high hopes for her.

Unexpectedly, after the second son took a break from official duties to mourn, there were no men at home. Madam Yao was in the capital and had been bewitched by all kinds of messy news in the

capital. In order to earn a reputation for her daughter, she had accidentally fallen into Empress Ning's trap.

This good girl was also ruined.

Yu Youyao slowly pushed open the door and entered the nunnery. In the medium-sized courtyard, there were a few osmanthus trees that were resistant to the cold. In the main hall of the house, there was a Buddhist shrine that had the three bodies of Buddha. From left to right, there were the Dipankara Buddha, the Sakyamuni Buddha, and the Maitreya Buddha.

Green smoke lingered.

Yu Youyao stepped forward and lit an incense stick. After bowing three times, she placed the incense stick into the furnace.

At this moment, there was a violent cough from the side hall. Yu Youyao panicked and quickly lifted the curtain to enter the side hall. She saw Yu Jianjia wearing a gray cotton shirt and coughing non-stop.

Hearing someone enter, Yu Jianjia suppressed the cough in her throat and looked up at the door.

Their eyes met

Yu Jianjia's eyes almost cracked, and her dark pupils kept constricting.

Only then did Yu Youyao suddenly remember that after her grandmother passed away, Yu Jianjia had been sent to the nunnery in the clan for four to five years. When she heard the cough just now, she thought that Yu Shuangbai was not feeling well, so she rushed into the house.

Yu Jianjia had only entered the nunnery because she was 'unfilial', 'defied the family', and 'disabled the clan'. It was still more serious than before. Even though Yu Zongzheng in the capital had spent a lot of money and organized some activities in the clan, the clan still refused to let her off. They grounded her in the nunnery and she was not allowed to take half a step out for the rest of her life.

After not seeing her for many years, Yu Jianjia had almost lost all her weight. Her cheeks were sunken, and her cheekbones were high, making her eye sockets sink. Her already large almond-shaped eyes were dark and smooth, making her look a little gloomy and mean. She no longer looked as tender and beautiful as before.

If it weren't for the fact that she looked a little similar to Yang Shuwan before she passed away, Yu Youyao almost wouldn't have recognized her.

"Yu Youyao." Yu Jianjia resisted the urge to cough. Her voice was like sand, and her wet eyes stared at Yu Youyao as if she wanted to devour her. "It's you!"

It was extremely difficult for her to say these four short words. It was as if a bellows had been pulled out of her throat, and she made a gurgling sound.

Yu Youyao was wearing the Eldest Princess's informal clothes and a phoenix crown on her head. She was wearing a real red robe with big sleeves. Coupled with a real purple embroidered dragon

and phoenix robe, her overall aura was far more dignified and luxurious than the County Head's uniform she had worn when she was still in the Yu Residence.

No, the two were completely incomparable.

Her phoenix robe hurt Yu Jianjia's eyes, causing them to turn red. Yu Jianjia's eyes were bloodshot, and she actually looked a little like Yu Zongzheng.

However, she knew that not long after, the phoenix crown on Yu Youyao's head would be changed to a dragon and phoenix crown, and the true purple robe on her body would also be changed to a golden dragon and phoenix robe.

The Empress did not need to wear a ceremonial robe.

Heh, Yu Youyao was just luckier than her. Who would have thought that a cripple who lived at home and lived under someone else's roof was actually Prince Yin?!

Yu Youyao's expression was indifferent. "I'm sorry for entering the wrong room just now and disturbing my Third Sister's cultivation."

With that, she turned around and left, not planning to waste any more time with Yu Jianjia.

"Yu Youyao." Yu Jianjia shouted and was about to catch up.

Chun Xiao stepped forward and kicked her to the ground.

Initially, the Clan Chief's wife couldn't bear to see Yu Jianjia fall to the ground with a scream. A golden hairpin fell out of her wide sleeve.

Immediately, she broke out in a cold sweat. She quickly picked up the golden hairpin on the ground and scolded Yu Jianjia, "You sick thing. Your Eldest Sister has never let you down in the past. You're filled with vanity and fame, and you've been comparing yourself to her in every way. You've developed jealousy and resentment, and caused trouble in the family. That's why you hated your grandmother and the clan, and we sent you to the nunnery to reflect. I didn't expect that after all these years, you've eaten vegetarian food and prayed to Buddha for nothing. You actually wanted to harm your Eldest Sister like this. Bastard, bastard..."

In the past few years, the clan had not treated Yu Jianjia badly.

Yu Zongzheng was far away in the capital, and he often took care of his daughter and gave her some expensive medicinal herbs to eat. Yu Shansi, who was far away in Xiangping, would always send some money and supplements during the holidays.

The clan was not greedy for money and often took care of her. Although it was a little bitter in the nunnery hall, they were very meticulous in terms of food, clothes, and expenses. They had also hired a doctor for every minor illness and pain.

Otherwise, with Yu Jianjia's sickly body, how could she have survived until now?

Chapter 1075: Sisters Meet

However, Yu Jianjia did not care at all.

Yu Youyao was now the Eldest Princess and a proper “queen-to-be.” If anything happened to her in the clan, the entire Yu Clan would suffer.

Hadn’t she thought of this before doing this?

She was just used to being selfish and only wanted to be happy. She had never thought of giving birth to a family or raising her clansmen.

She was simply like a poisonous snake.

Yu Jianjia crawled on the ground and spat out a mouthful of blood. Then, she laughed wildly and shouted at the top of her lungs.

“You didn’t let me down? Isn’t it all thanks to her that I’ve fallen to this state? Hahaha, you’ve all been deceived by her. Yu Youyao has been pretending to be stupid since she was young to please the Matriarch. She’s deliberately pretending to be mischievous and stupid so that my mother can let down her guard and not take her seriously...”

She often wondered how a mischievous and stupid person could suddenly become so smart and quick-witted.

Everyone else felt that Auntie Xu had raised her well.

However, Auntie Xu was a human, not a god.

She couldn’t turn rotten wood into magic.

Yu Youyao’s stubbornness and stupidity were just an act. It was only because she had an auntie who had come from the palace and had powerful methods that she had the confidence to expose herself.

How hateful!

Her mother had lost her life, but she couldn’t guess why she had lost it.

Yu Youyao turned around. “There’s a saying in Daoism that I like very much. First, do nothing while doing everything. Second, do not contend but still strive.”

“No matter when or where, a person has to always have a mentality of letting things take their own course. One should not have any delusions or desires, and have a peaceful and clear heart. This is letting things take their own course. It’s to face life calmly. When a person often has this mentality, they’ll far surpass others in terms of their breadth of mind. Thus, they do nothing while doing everything.”

A person’s breadth of mind determined how high they could stand.

“Not contending is an attitude towards dealing with people. One shouldn’t contend with others in terms of their strong and weak points, or in terms of strength. One should not contend with others for victory or defeat. One should not contend. One should often polish their character and cultivate their talent. As

time passes, their talent and character will far surpass that of others. They will leave others far behind. Thus, one doesn't content, but they will strive."

A person's talent and character determined how far they could go.

No matter how magnanimous a person was or how high they stood, they wouldn't be able to go far without good talent and character.

The Clan Chief's wife was shocked. She thought about Yu Youyao's words carefully.

Yu Jianjia was just thinking too much. She was jealous and had lost her magnanimity. She fought too much and spent less time nurturing her talent. That was why she was inferior.

Yu Jianjia's eyes turned red with anger. She hated her arrogant and lecturing tone. "Don't be sanctimonious here. You're just a winner."

Yu Youyao said calmly, "I've been ahead of you for a long time, but you're still staying where you are."

Another heart-wrenching cough came from the room.

The Clan Chief's wife tightened her grip on the golden hairpin, still furious. She planned to report this matter to the clan elder later and see how to deal with it. Yu Jianjia's selfish and vicious personality was really stuck in her throat.

At this moment, the courtyard door creaked open and Yu Shuangbai, who was wearing a green cloak, walked into the house.

When the sisters met—

Yu Shuangbai seemed to have been electrocuted. Her body froze on the spot and she couldn't help but tremble slightly.

For a moment, she did not dare to step forward.

"Second Sister." Yu Youyao called out softly. Yu Shuangbai had lost a lot of weight, and her delicate face seemed to be covered in a layer of haze, looking sad and haggard. She was no longer as lively and innocent as before.

Just like before, Yu Youyao's soft shout was as gentle as ever. It was as if no matter what mistakes Yu Shuangbai made, Yu Youyao would not be angry and teach her a lesson. Yu Youyao would only patiently tell her some simple and easy-to-see principles. Even if Yu Shuangbai did not listen, there was no hurry. Yu Youyao would always teach her how to handle things in her life.

Her mother usually doted on her, but her mother was a competitive person. She had to handle a lot of matters outside the residence, so she usually did not have much time to teach her. She had been with her Eldest Sister since she was young. Her Eldest Sister did not live well in the main family, but she took good care of her.

She had been close to her Eldest Sister since she was young.

Yu Shuangbai's eyes turned red, and tears immediately streamed down her face. She suddenly ran to her Eldest Sister and threw herself into her arms, crying aggrievedly and sadly. "Eldest Sister, Eldest Sister, you're back. You're finally back. Eldest Sister..."

Yu Youyao's eyes welled up with tears. She couldn't help but cry. As she patted her back, she comforted her in a hoarse voice, "Don't be afraid. I'm back. Your Elder Sister is back..."

Yu Shuangbai recalled that after her Eldest Sister left, she had to study endless rules every day. She argued with her mother day after day, and inexplicably, she became the "destined phoenix girl". She knew very well that if there was really a so-called "destined phoenix girl", and that person was in the Yu Residence, that person could only be her Eldest Sister.

Her mother kept saying that her Eldest Sister was not good, but she was shameless. Her mother used the master of the Precious Peace Temple and treated the Eldest Sister differently. Her mother pretended that outsiders did not know the details, so she forced Yu Shuangbai to become the "destined phoenix girl".

Grandmaster Hui Neng was far away from the capital. The monks of the Precious Peace Temple did not know much about the details of her grandmother's meeting with Grandmaster Hui Neng. The monks of the Precious Peace Temple only said a few words that they knew the truth, but Empress Ning made use of them wantonly.

Monks did not lie, let alone care about ordinary matters. No matter how big a commotion was in the capital, what did it have to do with them?

The so-called "destined phoenix girl" actually did not arouse anyone's suspicion.

However, she did not care at all.

The Fourth Prince looked at her as if he was evaluating her.

She had resisted, made a fuss, and gone on a hunger strike, but her mother had never cared about her feelings. She had always thought that this was for her own good. She wanted to surpass her Eldest Sister in terms of reputation and marriage, and she was focused on the scene of the Fourth Prince ascending to the throne in the future. She would be a mother to the world, and her Eldest Sister would acknowledge her.

The nanny who taught the rules in the palace also entered the residence.

Every day, she was tortured by all kinds of rules. Her mother-daughter relationship with her mother was also destroyed by her mother time and time again. Her mother ignored her feelings. They schemed, argued, and quarreled again and again.

The sisters hugged each other and cried.

The Clan Chief's wife had already left the nunnery.

After crying for a while, the sisters calmed down a lot and returned to the room together. Although the room was not big, it was quite complete and exquisite.

Yu Youyao felt a little relieved.

Chun Xiao quickly brought over a basin of warm water.

Yu Youyao picked up her handkerchief and helped Yu Shuangbai apply some dew and ointment from the house.

Yu Shuangbai was still sitting obediently like when she was young.

“I’m almost out of incense paste. I’ll get someone to send you some more another day.” Yu Youyao took pity on her and brushed the messy hair by her cheek behind her ear. “My Third Cousin brought a dye that uses insect dye from overseas. It’s bright and beautiful. I’ll give you two boxes too.” She chuckled and held Yu Shuangbai’s slightly cold hand. “Girls should dress up more brightly.”

Chapter 1076: Post-Coronation Wedding

Yu Shuangbai’s eyes turned red again. She snuggled into her Eldest Sister’s arms and choked. “Eldest Sister, don’t you blame me?”

“What’s there to blame you for?” Yu Youyao stroked her hair and smiled. “Have you done anything to let me down?”

“No.” Upon hearing this, Yu Shuangbai immediately panicked and quickly looked up from her Eldest Sister’s arms. “I won’t do anything to let my Eldest Sister down. It’s just that...”

“Isn’t that so?” Yu Youyao interrupted her and said gently, “Since you haven’t let me down, why should I blame you? The title of the destined phoenix girl doesn’t belong to me to begin with. It was a trap set by Empress Ning for your mother to deal with Concubine Lan. What has it got to do with me?”

Yu Shuangbai immediately did not know what to say. Her eyes couldn’t help but turn red again, and she looked like she was about to cry.

The last time she accompanied her grandmother to the Precious Peace Temple, her grandmother had been feeling uneasy since she returned. Later, she went to the Precious Peace Temple again. It seemed that there were already clues about the phoenix fate at that time.

Her grandmother had kept it a secret. Clearly, she did not want her to bear the phoenix fate.

Furthermore, she did not want to take on this fate.

No matter how Madam Yao caused trouble, it was Madam’s Yao’s own business. It indeed had nothing to do with Yu Shuangbai. Yu Shuangbai could not replace her, let alone talk about whether this was right or wrong.

“Don’t cry anymore.” Yu Youyao pretended to have a headache and pinched her red nose. “You’ve liked to cry since you were young. Once you cry, there’s no end to it. You have to coax you for a long time every time. I was afraid that you would cry in the past. Don’t make things difficult for me.”

Yu Shuangbai did not know whether to cry or not. She looked at her pitifully, looking very comical.

Yu Youyao burst out laughing.

Yu Shuangbai refused. "Eldest Sister, you're not allowed to cry about me."

"Alright, alright, I won't laugh at you." Yu Youyao agreed readily, but the smile on her lips was still very obvious, making Yu Shuangbai furious.

"I really won't laugh anymore." As she said that, Yu Youyao couldn't help but laugh again.

Yu Shuangbai puffed up her cheeks and pounced over, tickling her Eldest Sister.

The sisters immediately laughed.

After laughing, the two of them tidied their clothes and smiled at each other.

Yu Youyao suddenly said, "I've never blamed you. I just feel sorry for you."

Yu Shuangbai's eyes turned red again, and she shook her head. "Although life in the nunnery is a little bitter, the clan still takes good care of me. I'm not like my Third Sister, who is prevented from going out. I copy scriptures every day and pray for my Grandmother, my Father, and my Eldest Sister. My days aren't difficult. Eldest Sister, don't worry about me."

However, a person's life was so long, and Yu Shuangbai was still so young. She would repeat the same day every day. No one could take it.

Yu Youyao held her hand and said, "My merchant ship has already entered the capital. After the new year, when everything recovers, the merchant ship will go out to sea. If you don't want to stay in the nunnery, I'll arrange for you to go out to sea with the merchant ship. However, in this way, you'll have to hide your identity in the future and abandon your family..."

Yu Shuang's eyes lit up, then dimmed. She shook her head. "Is this inappropriate?"

Her father had passed away, and her mother could take care of her big brother and second brother. They each had their own futures. Meanwhile, she and her mother...

On careful thought, other than the inseparable relationship with her sisters when she was young, there was actually nothing much to miss in the Yu Residence.

However, even though they were sisters, she was in the clan and stayed in the nunnery. Her sisters were already married, and it would probably be difficult for her to continue staying here in the future.

Thinking of this, it didn't seem like a big deal to hide her identity and abandon her family.

However, her current status had offended her Eldest Sister, so the nunnery was the best place to stay.

She couldn't harm her Eldest Sister.

"There's nothing inappropriate. I'll arrange the matters within the clan." Yu Youyao held her hand tightly. "My maternal family is a kind family. If you leave the capital with the merchant ship, you can stay overseas for a year or two first and return after the matter passes. From now on, you'll be far away from the

capital. The sky is blue and the sea is vast. You can go as you please. With them taking care of you, I'll be more at ease."

Yu Shuangbai's heart was filled with bitterness. She opened her mouth and wanted to refuse. Actually, she had already thought it through. When she saw her Eldest Sister for the last time, she was prepared to lose her hair and devote herself to Buddhism for the rest of her life. However, when she saw her Eldest Sister looking at her eagerly, the meaning between the lines was all for her. She couldn't refuse at all.

If she really devoted herself to Buddhism for the rest of her life, her Eldest Sister would probably feel terrible.

Yu Youyao continued, "The emperor won't say much. Everything you're worried about isn't a big deal to me. We're sisters. I hope you can live well."

Yu Shuangbai closed her eyes, and tears flowed down her face. "Okay, I'll listen to my Eldest Sister."

Yu Youyao finally heaved a sigh of relief. "Listen to me..."

Before coming to the clan, she had already thought about how to settle Yu Shuangbai down. She had also thought about how to convince the Yu Clan to be fair and treat the clansmen more leniently. She thought that they would not reject her.

After instructing Yu Shuangbai, Yu Youyao looked for the elder to discuss this matter. After hearing this, the elder did not have any objections and agreed.

Yu Youyao was really shocked.

The old clan elder sighed softly. "Shuangbai is really pitiful. Before her father passed away, he kept thinking about her and hoped that the clan would be more magnanimous and take care of her. She was not in the wrong, nor was she a convict. She should be taken care of by the clan. Now that the Eldest Princess has taken into account their sisterly relationship and arranged a better way for her, there's no reason for the clan to disagree. Eldest Princess, don't worry. I'll tell the Clan Chief what to do next. We'll cooperate."

Yu Youyao stood up and bowed deeply.

On the 16th of the first month, on the day of the wedding.

The sky, which had been gloomy for more than a month, finally saw the sun. Orange-red sunlight seeped out of the layers of dark clouds and shone brightly, sweeping away the haze between the heavens and the earth and illuminating the world.

The rare good weather was seen as an auspicious sign, adding brilliance to the original post-coronation wedding.

Early in the morning, Elder Yu and the Minister of Rites acted as the official and deputy envoy respectively. Emperor Zhao Yong personally brought the officials to the Heaven and Earth altars to offer sacrifices to the heavens and bow in the Fengxian Hall.

The imperial guards placed the imperial carriage outside the Hall of Supreme Harmony. Meanwhile, they placed the empress's carriage outside the palace gate.

Before dawn, Yu Youyao took a shower.

Just washing up took a full two hours. Even her hair smelled good.

Her grandmother entered the room with red eyes and combed her hair.

Her grandmother combed the brush from the top of her head down again and again. Her grandmother said in a hoarse voice, "The first comb is for me to comb your hair to the end. The second comb is for the couple to grow old together. The third comb is for a hall full of descendants... The tenth comb is for the couple to grow old until your hair turns white. There is a start and an end. You will share your wealth in this life..."

Yu Youyao's eyes couldn't help but turn red, and large tears flowed out.

Auntie Xu quickly said, "A new wife will cry and bid farewell to her relatives. It's a blessing to be able to marry into her husband's family!"

Chapter 1077: Conferment

The conferment of the Empress had her own procedures. Unlike ordinary women who got married, she did not need to cry and comb her hair. However, Old Madam Xie insisted on combing her granddaughter's hair.

Old Madam Xie picked up a small strand of hair from the side of her ear and tied a red tassel rope that she had personally knitted to this strand of hair. "This is done when a girl gets married so that you won't forget."

When a woman was about to get married, her relatives would tie a handkerchief or tassels before she got married so that she would not forget their teachings.

"Grandmother." Only then did Yu Youyao finally feel the sadness and panic of parting with her family. She threw herself into her grandmother's arms and wailed.

All these years, she and the Xie family had always stayed together and had never been separated. No matter what difficulties they encountered, the family had discussions. There were not many rules and etiquette. They were plain and simple, just like thousands of ordinary families in this world. The warmth between them could no longer be cut off.

In the name of her family, the Xie Residence had built a strong city.

It gave her a strong fortress.

It gave her a solid backing.

Once someone had a backer, they would have the confidence to be fearless.

She broke free from the haggardness of the mortal world and lived freely.

Old Madam Xie was also crying. "You can cry however you want now. When you leave this room, you can't cry. You have to laugh. The happier you laugh, the more blessing you will have in the future..."

She opened her mouth, wanting to say something like a lecture, but just as she was about to say it, she realized that Little Youyao'er had not married into an ordinary family, but into the imperial family. The person she had married was not an ordinary person either, but the current emperor. There were some things that were not appropriate to say. For a moment, she did not know what to say.

The grandfather and granddaughter cried until they were in tears.

As Yu Youyao cried, she shouted, "I don't want to get married. I want to be with my Grandmother..."

After entering the palace, if she wanted to see her relatives in the Xie Residence again, she had to announce it. Not only were there many rules, but she also had to set a time to meet them according to their grade.

In the end, they would only see each other a few times a year.

The Xie Residence was not in the capital either. Most of its businesses were in Liaodong, and most of its foundation was in Quanzhou. In the future, if they traveled north and south, they would definitely return to the ancestral land of Quanzhou.

It was difficult to even meet them. Just thinking about it made her feel uncomfortable.

Old Madam Xie couldn't coax her for a long time. "Alright, alright, I promise you. In the future, your maternal grandfather and I will often follow the merchant ship to the capital and enter the palace to visit you."

Only then did Yu Youyao stop, but she did not look happy. "My Grandmother is old. How can she travel back and forth? It's better to buy a house and stay in the capital for a period of time every year."

Old Madam Xie wanted to refuse, but she saw that her granddaughter's eyes were red as she looked at her. Her big eyes had been washed by tears, making them look clear and bright. There were tears under her eyelids, and she looked like she would continue to cry if Old Madam Xie did not agree. She would cry for her to see, and it would make her heart ache.

Old Madam Xie had no choice but to agree.

Only then did Yu Youyao smile.

After Old Madam Xie left, Auntie Xu led a long line of palace servants into the house. The palace servants held lacquer plates and spontaneously stood in two rows in the house. There was a total of more than 30 people.

Yu Youyao's hair was disheveled, and she was only wearing an undershirt, allowing Auntie Xu to fiddle with it.

Inside was a jade gauze dress with red edges at the collar, sleeves, and lapels.

On the outside, she wore a red robe with gold embroidery and dragon patterns.

From the front, a piece of greenish-red silk was tied around her body and covered her knees. At the back, there was a large ribbon that was decorated with golden dragon patterns.

There was a large belt, a secondary belt, and a jade leather belt around her waist.

Jade pendants, small ribbons, big ribbons, and so on were tied to the third belt.

One by one, she put them on Yu Youyao meticulously. It took one hour to put on her clothes. Yu Youyao was almost out of breath.

This wasn't the end.

After putting on the crown clothes, Auntie Xu pushed Yu Youyao to the dressing table and quickly combed her hair into a bun. It was shaped like a mountain and was extremely magnificent.

Immediately, a palace maid walked forward with the Nine Dragons and Nine Phoenix Crown.

There were nine dragons and nine golden phoenixes. The large dragon in the middle had a large pearl in its mouth. There were jade wings on the crown and beads were tied on the bottom. The other eight dragons and nine phoenixes had beads in their mouths, bringing the total number of beads to 40...

As soon as the phoenix crown was worn on her head, Yu Youyao immediately felt her head sink. "It's much heavier than the crown of the Eldest Princess."

Auntie Xu smiled when she heard this. "On the phoenix crown, there are pearls, jade, golden silk, and cat's eye stones. In addition, there are more than 130 uncarved five-colored natural gems. There are more than 5,000 pearls of the same size. Naturally, the crown has to be heavier."

Yu Youyao was stunned. "Yin Huaixi harmed me."

Auntie Xu held back her laughter. Everything was simple during the emperor's coronation, and it was only right for the post-coronation wedding to be like this. However, the new emperor had put in a lot of effort in the crowning and etiquette, causing a lot of trouble for the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Rites.

The Nine Dragons and Four Phoenix Crown was changed to the Nine Dragons and Nine Phoenix Crown.

In any case, it was a change of dynasty. The new emperor could make changes however he wanted. If the ministers had any objections, they could not use the etiquette of the previous dynasty to speak, in case they offended the new emperor.

She put on the pearl emerald flowers, beaded rings, and other accessories one by one. "Stand up and I'll take a look again."

Yu Youyao stood up as she was told. She felt a heavy weight on her body, so heavy that she almost couldn't breathe.

Auntie Xu circled her again and again, looking at her carefully. She also helped her tidy her clothes before bringing the jade tablet to her.

In the Record of Trades, Zhou Li said, “The jade tablet seven cun¹ long. The emperor uses this to get engaged.”

There were patterns on both sides of the jade tablet which symbolized grains. This represented the meaning that grains nurtured people. Yu Youyao reached out and held the jade tablet in her hand.

After that, Auntie Xu mentioned the etiquette that needed to be paid attention to.

Due to the details of the etiquette, it was very complicated. Although Yu Youyao knew everything by heart, she was still a little flustered and did not dare to be careless.

When she was dressed neatly, it was already 1pm.

Yu Youyao was so hungry. She looked at Auntie Xu resentfully. Auntie Xu quickly brought over a bowl of medicinal cuisine and fed her spoon by spoon.

Unknowingly, the sun was already slanting. The orange sun restrained its light and heat, becoming even redder. The beautiful clouds surged in the sky, looking incomparably beautiful.

The auspicious time had arrived.

Elder Yu and the Minister of Rites, who were the main and deputy envoys, brought the Empress’s guards to the Eldest Princess’s residence. Yu Youyao quickly went forward to be conferred her title.

Seeing that she was about to kneel, Elder Yu hurriedly stepped forward and said, “The emperor has decreed that other than the sacrificial ceremony, the Eldest Princess doesn’t have to kneel and bow. She can just stand and listen to the conferment.”

Yu Youyao followed suit and bowed to listen to Elder Yu read the imperial order to confer her title.

The imperial order was filled with beautiful words and majestic merit. After reading it, Elder Yu handed it to the Minister of Rites. Yu Youyao took the Empress’s book treasures from the Minister of Rites. The books and treasure seals were collectively called book treasures.

The Empress’s seal was also called the Phoenix Seal.

After the ceremony, the Minister of Rites quickly said, “Eldest Princess, please enter the palace in a carriage.”

The book treasures had been bestowed, but this was only the etiquette before the conferment.

Yu Youyao arrived at the flower gate. A luxurious carriage with seven treasures was parked in front of the flower gate. Auntie Xu helped Yu Youyao into the carriage.

Chapter 1078: Personal Welcome

The carriage drove out of the Eldest Princess’s residence. The Empress’s ceremonial guard was at her side. The ceremonial guard stretched for miles, and it was a spectacular sight. Chang An Street was heavily guarded, and the commoners on both sides cheered excitedly.

Along the way, there were music officials playing. The song “Guan Ju” seemed extremely grand.

“The ospreys chirp on an islet in the river. A gentleman is fond of a graceful lady...” Look at the river, where the ospreys are chirping. There was a virtuous and beautiful woman. She would be a good partner to a gentleman.

He wanted to pursue her day and night.

He missed her day and night.

His endless longing made it difficult for him to fall asleep.

Carefree

He played the zither to get close to her.

He struck the bell and drum to please her.

Amidst the sound of bells and drums, the carriage traveled along Chang An Street to the palace gate. It was almost dusk.

They would get married at dusk.

The time was exactly right.

Auntie Xu was all smiles as she shouted, “Great fortune!”

The accompanying eunuchs also shouted, “Great fortune!”

The carriage slowly stopped.

Just as Yu Youyao was about to ask, she heard Auntie Xu, who was beside the carriage, say, “The emperor personally came to the palace gate to welcome you. He’s wearing a Zhou wedding outfit. It’s black and red. The collar and sleeves are all red. There’s a red flower tied to his chest. He’s riding a tall horse. There’s a red flower tied to the horse’s head. It’s very festive and high-spirited.”

Yu Youyao was silent for a moment.

Yin Huaixi, who was in the palace, was even busier than her when it came to the post-coronation wedding. He was busy offering sacrifices to the heavens, the ground, and his ancestors. He traveled almost non-stop from morning to night.

He did not have time to personally welcome the bride.

He couldn’t go to the Eldest Princess’s residence to welcome her personally, so he kept waiting at the palace gate to welcome her into the palace.

She had been busy since before dawn until the auspicious time. The post-coronation wedding was very complicated, but no matter what, it was different from the wedding etiquette she knew. It did not look festive at all. From the beginning to the end, it exuded a sense of solemnity, making her feel very dazed.

It was also at this moment that Yu Youyao had a real feeling that she was going to marry into another family.

The person she was going to marry was the most respected emperor in the world.

He was also her childhood sweetheart and her “cousin.”

He was a good man who had been with her for many years.

He was also her lover who was connected to her.

Yu Youyao felt a surge of sweetness in her heart and couldn't help but smile.

On an auspicious day, she couldn't look out. She couldn't see how high-spirited Yin Huaixi was, nor could she imagine how radiant he looked.

However, after hearing Auntie Xu's description, she suddenly felt that she was probably a big fool. Now, even the silly son of a landlord did not welcome his bride like this.

In fact, Yu Youyao wasn't the only one who was speechless.

Even the officials who were following the emperor couldn't help but fall silent when they suddenly saw the emperor's “festive” and down-to-earth appearance.

The Great Zhou Dynasty did not have a tradition of wearing corsages. Only people in operas acted like this. She did not know where the emperor had watched this opera, but he actually believed it.

For someone as young as the Minister of Rites, who did not have enough composure, he immediately could not help but laugh.

Those who had better composure quickly pursed their lips and tried their best to pretend that they were fine, but the corners of their mouths couldn't help but twist and twitch. It was very difficult to hold back their laughter.

At Elder Yu's age, he had seen all kinds of storms in his life. With a glance, he lowered his eyes and pretended not to see anything.

As for what he was thinking, probably only he knew.

Yin Huaixi was sitting on a tall horse. Through the half-transparent curtain in front of the carriage, he could only see the shadowy figure in the carriage, exuding dignity and beauty. His heart burned, and the smile on his face widened until all his eight teeth were exposed.

He looked up and raised his eyebrows. His entire body exuded a sense of pride that he was getting married today and would have a wife.

“Back to the palace.” Yin Huaixi straightened his back and rode into the palace valiantly.

The bridal carriage followed him into the palace.

The sound of the bell and drum played again. Under the setting sun, the song “Tao Tian” seemed ancient and distant. The music seemed to reach the sky.

“The peach blossoms are beautiful. When the girl returns, she will be suitable for the family...” There were thousands of peach blossoms blooming. This girl was about to get married and happily return to her husband's family. She would definitely be happy.

The plump and fresh peaches were full of branches. This girl was from a good family, so she would definitely have a good family.

The peach leaves were dense and thick. If this girl married a good man, they would definitely grow old together.

The Empress's guards stretched from the palace gate to the Meridian Gate to the Hall of Supreme Harmony.

When they arrived at the hall, the carriage stopped.

Yin Huaixi dismounted and walked to the carriage.

Chun Xiao and Xia Tao stood on each side and raised the curtains.

Auntie Xu stepped forward and helped Yu Youyao out of the carriage. She formed a red silk flower and stuffed one end of it into Yu Youyao's body before handing the other end to Yin Huaixi.

Yu Youyao lowered her eyes and did not look up at him, but she could feel that Yin Huaixi's gaze on her was filled with passion, making her heart skip a beat.

Next, she was going to enter the Hall of Supreme Harmony side by side with Yin Huaixi. She would follow a long passageway in the Hall of Supreme Harmony and step on the 39 steps in front of the hall until she reached the hall.

The Hall of Supreme Harmony was incomparably vast. There was a wide hall in front that could accommodate more than ten thousand people to worship and celebrate. It was very majestic. As they walked along the long passageway, a hall suddenly appeared. It was dozens of feet off the ground. It was dignified and magnificent, as if it could reach the sky.

At this moment, the Hall of Supreme Harmony played "Chou Mou".

"The firewood is tied. Orion's Belt has appeared in the sky. What night is it today to see such a good person? What's wrong with such a good person?"

The title of the song referred to wrapping and tying up an object.

The tied firewood was a metaphor for a united and affectionate couple.

The light and lingering tune was mixed with the joy and liveliness of the flute. Every time the flute was played the line, "What night is it today", the tune would be reserved and playful. There was a sense of intoxication on this auspicious day. It was joyful, exciting, and interesting.

Yu Youyao's face turned red when she heard the music. Most of the bridal escorts in the Great Zhou Dynasty played "Tao Tian" and "Chou Mou". They symbolized a good marriage and wished the new couple well.

Even if they didn't sing some songs from the Classic of Poetry, they would sing "Chou Mou" to express this festivity and joy.

However, this was a post-coronation wedding. Wasn't it a little too dignified to play this song?

Just as she was thinking this, Yin Huaixi really started singing a little song of "Sentimental Attachment" like the commoners. His voice was clear, and it was not difficult to hear the smugness in his tone.

The firewood was tightly tied, and Orion's Belt was sparkling in the sky. What night was it tonight? It was such a joy to see this beautiful woman. If you were asked, how should you kiss this beautiful woman?

Dear—

Oh—

There was a lot of grass in a bundle, and the three stars in the southeast were flashing. What night was it tonight? It was such a joy to have such a good day. If you had to ask, how could you celebrate such a good day?

Hey—

Hey—

A bunch of thorns was tightly tied up, and the three stars in the sky shone on the door. What night was it tonight? I was really excited to see this beauty. If I had to ask you, I would ask you how much you doted on this beauty.

Oh—

Oh—

Chapter 1079: Cooperation

Yu Youyao blushed on the spot. She was so angry that she wanted to hit him.

There had to be a limit to fooling around.

She was so embarrassed that she wanted to throw her face into history books.

However, she couldn't help but savor it carefully in her heart. "Guan Ju" was a gentleman's pursuit of a lady, while "Tao Tian" was a congratulatory gift for a bride, and "Chou Mou" revealed lingering love.

With the personality of the ministers in the court, it was impossible for them to use such a song used by ordinary families to welcome the bride.

It seemed that these songs had also been carefully arranged by Yin Huaixi.

The Hall of Supreme Harmony was far away, and the entire hall was filled with Yin Huaixi's down-to-earth singing. The officials stood in rows on both sides of the hall. All of them looked down. Even if they wanted to laugh, they had to hold it in. All of them were about to suffer internal injuries. They wished they could take a cotton ball and cover their ears.

It was the season where winter turned into spring, so the sky turned dark early.

The eunuchs lit up the lighthouse along the way. The palace maids held lamps and led the way. Under the candlelight, the Hall of Supreme Harmony was filled with mist. It was as beautiful as a poem or a painting, but it also looked heavy and elegant.

Yin Huaixi held Yu Youyao's hand and walked to the front of the Hall of Supreme Harmony.

A table was set up in front of the hall.

The Minister of Rites read out the praise. “Marriage is the foundation of human relationships, and they’re valued by all generations. Those who are etiquette-minded will have a good marriage. They will serve their ancestors and the later generations. They’ll eat and drink together. The world will be the witness, and the sun and moon will be proof. From now on, they’ll never leave each other...”

The Zhou wedding etiquette was solemn and elegant, not as festive and lively as later on. All the etiquette was completed under the witness of the heavens and the earth, making it seem solemn. It was not a lively and noisy thing. It emphasized that yang and yin were compatible, and men and women were equal. What mattered was the righteousness of the couple and the grace of mating. It seemed to be heavy, but this heaviness carried firm and deep feelings between the newcomers.

Yu Youyao couldn’t help but turn to look at him.

He was wearing a black wedding suit that had red among black, making him look dignified and solemn. However, the dazzling red flower on his chest ruined this elegance and gave off a comical and festive feeling.

Yin Huaixi’s eyes lit up. This was the first time Yu Youyao had looked at him openly since entering the Hall of Supreme Harmony.

The dragon and phoenix crown was covered with a red veil that covered her face. The veil was like a cicada’s wings, reflecting her beautiful face like a burning peach blossom that bloomed in spring.

Before spring arrived, his heart was already filled with spring wind and peach blossoms.

After hearing the praise, the etiquette official stepped forward to offer incense.

The ceremonial officer brought over some water and served the Empress for the hand-washing ceremony.

In all important etiquette occasions, the hand-washing ceremony was an indispensable part. “Cleanliness” meant respect for the world.

After cleaning her hands and face, Yu Youyao was about to put her hand back on her knees when Yin Huaixi grabbed her hand. Her smooth little hand was held in his rough palm, making his heart heat up slightly.

When the etiquette official noticed the new emperor’s actions, he paused for a moment and pretended not to see it. He sprinkled water on the Empress with a willow branch and chanted.

“Burn incense and cleanse their bodies. Receive etiquette from the heavens and the ground. As husband and wife, the world is huge...”

The hand-washing ceremony was completed.

They carried out the “sitting together ceremony”. The etiquette official recited, “Based on etiquette, boys and girls sit separately from the age of seven. Lovers sit together and lie on the same bed. This is called sitting together.”

Yin Huaixi couldn’t bear to let go of her hand and stood up to bow to Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao lowered her eyes and bowed in return. When Yin Huaixi looked up, he could see her slender eyebrows.

They both sat opposite each other.

In the Zhou wedding etiquette, the “sitting together ceremony” meant that they were husband and wife and would always be loving. However, in later generations, there were many people who believed that the south was respected. When men sat in the south and faced the north, it meant that men respected women.

However, in fact, in the most ancient Chinese civilization, there was no such thing as men being superior to women.

It wasn't justified to be polygamous.

Marriage was also called binding one's hair in Chinese. The kindness of husband and wife were bound.

Husband and wife were one.

The etiquette official carried out the eating together ceremony. “Based on etiquette, at the age of seven, boys and girls do not eat together. Lovers eat and drink together. They eat from the same plate of food and the same pot of rice. They're a family who share their comforts and hardships.”

The ceremonial officer brought over some sake and food. The Empress drank some wine to clear her mouth.

Yin Huaixi picked up a piece of coarse grain cake mixed with wheat bran with his bamboo chopsticks and placed it on the plate in front of Yu Youyao. “The coarse grain cake will stick to your throat. Eat slowly.”

Yu Youyao rolled up her sleeves and also picked up a piece of coarse grain cake for Yin Huaixi. “Have some too.”

The two of them smiled at each other.

Yu Youyao's fair face was covered in pink smoke. Under the candlelight in the hall, her face shone brightly, and Yin Huaixi's throat tightened.

This etiquette had to be repeated three times.

After drinking three glasses of fine wine and eating three mouthfuls of food on the plate, it was completed successfully.

A plate of stir-fried vegetables was brought during the second round. There was no grease, and the taste was bitter. It was really difficult to swallow. Yu Youyao forced herself to take a bite, and her stomach churned.

Next, two pieces of fried mutton that were slightly larger than a finger were brought over. It was eaten in one bite and nothing was wasted.

After completing the etiquette three times, it was time for the most important ceremony, the wine drinking ceremony.

The ceremonial official drank some wine with a cup. “Calabash is bitter. It's also called the bottle gourd. It's divided into two halves. A calabash produces two ‘ladles’. There's a red string on the ladle, which represents the ‘marriage line’. The marriage line leads to love and leads to the handle

of the ladle. The couple is connected as one. When the ladle is filled with wine, it's also called the 'nuptial wine cup', or the 'cup of love'. A couple will drink the wine together. This is also called the wedding wine. By drinking the wine together, the husband and wife will have a strong relationship. By drinking the wine together, the husband and wife are willing to share their comforts and struggles. By drinking the wedding wine together, the husband and wife are willing to suffer together. With the wedding wine, the husband and wife are equal. They are harmonious and respect the world."

The ceremonial official brought over the wine. Yu Youyao took a look and thought inappropriately that this was a water ladle made of old gourds at home!

It was just that the sizes were different.

"Greetings!" As the etiquette official finished speaking, Yu Youyao picked up her wine and drank half of it.

After that, she exchanged cups with Yin Huaixi.

They drank a glass of wine together.

It was completely different from drinking wine while their arms were crossed.

After the ceremony, the etiquette official said, "Let's proceed with the tassel untying and hair tying ceremony."

The wedding consisted of a lot of etiquette.

Yu Youyao was stunned for a long time. The red tassel rope on her head had been tied by her grandmother early this morning.

Yin Huaixi was excited. He got up and went to Yu Youyao's side. He untied the red tassel rope that she had given him to get married. This was untying the tassel.

After that, the ceremonial official brought over the golden scissors. The two of them each cut a strand of hair and placed it on the ceremonial plate. The etiquette official tied their hair with the red tassel and placed them in a brocade bag. This was the hair tying ceremony.

From now on!

Yin Huaixi looked at Yu Youyao and said, "We'll be husband and wife. We'll be loving."

Yu Youyao frowned slightly, looking shy. "We share the same heart in this life!"

Then, the etiquette official said, "Greet each other."

This greeting was formal and serious etiquette. The two of them stood at opposite ends. After cupping their hands, Yin Huaixi took a step forward and held Yu Youyao's hand. The two of them stood side by side and looked down at the ministers.

The ceremonial official shouted, "It's a heavenly gift. Praise and honor."

The civil and military officials slowly knelt down and bowed.

"Long live our emperor."

"The Empress is blessed with eternal happiness."

Chapter 1080: Consummation

By the time the ceremony was over, the sky was already completely dark.

The couple returned to the Chengqian Palace hand in hand. Yin Huaixi had changed the name of the Qianji Palace to the Gande Palace. It was the place where he handled the court affairs.

The Chenggan Palace was the closest to the Gande Palace. Yin Huaixi had spent a lot of effort to renovate and decorate this place, planning to use it as his and Yu Youyao's residence.

The Chengqian Hall was decorated with lamps and colors, looking festive. The dragon and phoenix candles in the sleeping hall burned, illuminating the entire room in red.

A female ceremonial official brought over a plate of dumplings. There were a total of twelve dumplings.

This plate of dumplings required the husband and wife to use their chopsticks to pick up the dumplings and eat them at the same time. As it was being done at the same time, it tested each other's tacit understanding. It wasn't difficult, but it was a little embarrassing to feed Yin Huaixi in public under the gazes of the ceremonial officials and the servants in the room.

Yu Youyao was a little nervous. The dumpling was smooth. She picked it up a few times before holding it firmly and carefully bringing it to Yin Huaixi's mouth.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi's dumplings were also on her lips.

She subconsciously opened her mouth and ate the dumpling.

Yu Youyao had not eaten much all day and was starving. Just as she was thinking about how the dumplings were raw, she heard the ceremonial official ask, "Are the dumplings raw?"

"It's raw!" Yu Youyao subconsciously replied. As soon as she finished speaking, she blushed and couldn't help but glare at Yin Huaixi.

Yin Huaixi's body seemed to have been electrocuted by her coquettish glare, and he immediately went numb.

Fortunately, she finished the plate of dumplings without any mishaps. They ate a total of eight dumplings, with each person eating four dumplings each. There were four dumplings remaining. During this period, Yu Youyao ate four fillings, namely peanuts, longans, red dates, and lilies.

The ceremonial officer read out a congratulatory message happily. "We hope that you give birth to a son soon and that you'll be together for a hundred years..."

The smile on Yin Huaixi's face deepened, and he looked very happy.

Hearing the ceremonial official's words, Yu Youyao was so embarrassed that she did not dare to look up. At the thought that these dumplings with their own meaning were all fed to her by Yin Huaixi one by one, she felt that something was amiss.

She subconsciously glanced at the ceremonial official and saw that the smile on his face was filled with joy, as if it also had an indescribable deeper meaning.

Looking at his wife's beautiful face under the candlelight, Yin Huaixi's throat tightened. "I'll go back to the Hall of Supreme Harmony first."

There was a banquet in the Hall of Supreme Harmony.

Yu Youyao was so shy that she lowered her head and did not say anything. Her fair neck was dyed with a faint pink color under the red candlelight.

After waiting for a while, Yin Huaixi still did not move. She looked up. "Why aren't you leaving?"

Yin Huaixi sat still. "Don't you have anything to say?"

"Huh?" Yu Youyao looked confused. Did she need to explain anything? Why hadn't Auntie Xu mentioned this?

Yin Huaixi glanced at the ceremonial official casually.

The etiquette official was shocked and quickly smiled. "The Hall of Supreme Harmony has set up a state banquet. If the emperor attends, the ministers will be happy. I believe you will have to drink a lot of wine. Since the Empress is a new wife..."

She would probably be concerned about her husband. Yu Youyao knew that he would be fine, but she also understood what the official meant. "Drink less wine. Don't get drunk."

"Don't worry." Yin Huaixi suddenly leaned forward and kissed her pink face. "I'll be careful. Otherwise, how can I consummate the marriage when I'm drunk?"

Yu Youyao's face turned red again. She glared at her and said angrily, "Forget it."

Yin Huaixi was satisfied and left the new house with a loud laugh.

The ceremonial officer also knelt down.

After a long day, Yu Youyao's body felt heavy. Chun Xiao and Xia Tao quickly took off the dragon and phoenix crown on their master's heads, took off her heavy wedding clothes one by one, and helped her wash up.

The fireplace was burning in the Chengqian Hall and a charcoal cage had been set up. Yu Youyao washed away her fatigue and returned to the sleeping hall.

Liu'er brought in a food box. "Your Highness, the emperor ordered Eunuch Li to send some food over. Young Miss, quickly eat some. Don't starve."

The light and nourishing medicinal cuisine was easy to digest.

Even if she ate more, she did not have to worry about accumulating food at night.

Yu Youyao finished all the medicinal cuisine, porridge, and vegetables. Looking at the time, it was already 10pm. Yin Huaixi had yet to return.

Yu Youyao was a little tired. She asked Xia Tao to bring over a book. She held the book and tilted her head to read on the big pillow. After reading for a while, she felt a little sleepy.

Thinking that Yin Huaixi had yet to return, she could only force her eyelids open and continue to wait for him.

After Yin Huaixi finished his banquet, he couldn't wait to return to the Chenggan Palace with the smell of alcohol on his body. When he arrived at the sleeping hall, he saw her lying on her side on the bed. Her bright black hair was draped over her shoulders, and under the soft candlelight, it was as smooth as satin. She was only wearing a jade-colored gauze dress, and under the candlelight in the room, she was dyed with beauty. As the material of her clothes was too thin, the breasts under the gauze dress were also clearly visible, making her figure look hazy and beautiful.

Yin Huaixi's breathing couldn't help but quicken as he continued to look down.

Her long legs were by her side. They were crossed and slightly curled up. The sleeves of her pants were rolled up, revealing her fair calves that were like suet jade lotus roots. Below them, her small and exquisite feet were curved like the moon. They were sharp and looked like small lotuses that had just revealed their sharp horns. They were also thin, curved, and tactful, making her seem like a weak girl who needed protection.

The bright red color formed a strong contrast against the snow-white bed.

It was simply breathtaking.

Yin Huaixi's heart burned, and he subconsciously stepped forward to grasp her.

It was thin and small, sharp and curved, just enough for him to hold it with his palm.

It was unbelievably soft, as if it had melted in his hand, causing his entire body to tremble.

Yu Youyao was shocked. The book in her hand fell to the ground. She subconsciously struggled to break free, but she did not. She propped herself up and looked at him. "Why didn't you make a sound when you were walking? You scared me."

As she spoke, she yawned. Tears streamed down her face, and her eyes were misty. She looked innocent and charming. "What time is it now?"

Yin Huaixi rubbed the "jade" in his palm. He was 30% drunk and 70% tipsy. "It's almost midnight."

"It's so late." Yu Youyao was so sleepy that she couldn't open her eyes. She yawned again. "No wonder I'm so sleepy. Did the banquet at the Hall of Supreme Harmony go smoothly?"

There were only some songs, dances, music, and sideshows at the state banquet. Although alcohol was not restricted, the ministers were worried that they would be disrespectful, so they restrained themselves. It was not very lively.

"It went smoothly." Seeing that she couldn't even open her eyes after saying that, Yin Huaixi said, "Madam, a night of love is worth a thousand gold coins. It's time for us to consummate our marriage..."

Yu Youyao immediately woke up from her nap. Her face turned red, and before she could react, her body landed heavily on the blanket, and Yin Huaixi's tall body collapsed.

The big red curtain slowly closed, and the night was filled with red waves.