

## All Hail 151

Chapter 151 - 151 Cousin, Is the Soup Good?

“Get ready. Let’s go to Cousin’s courtyard.” Yu Youyao instructed Xia Tao to bring the medicinal oil, leg warmers, and various prescriptions before going to the Green House.

Seeing that Yu Youyao had arrived, Chang An hurriedly said, “Young Master, last night, on behalf of...” Thinking of Young Master’s instructions, he swallowed the words he was about to say and changed the topic. “His leg hurt terribly. Ge stayed up all night and didn’t sleep. Just now, he asked Uncle Sun to inject him with needles. His leg hurt a little more, so he fell asleep. He hasn’t woken up yet.”

In other words, he was saying, “Don’t disturb Young Master’s rest.”

Yu Youyao also understood and felt that her cousin really needed more rest, so she instructed Xia Tao to put the things she had brought into the house. “I’ll go look for Uncle Sun first.”

Uncle Sun was reading a medical book in his room. Yu Youyao leaned over and took out a stack of paper filled with words to show Uncle Sun. “Cousin’s body needs to recuperate carefully. Nanny Xu and I discussed and made a general recuperation arrangement for him. Take a closer look and see if it’s useful.”

Uncle Sun was a little surprised. He raised his head and glanced at Yu Youyao. “You’re really considerate. Although I know medicine and usually prescribe some medicinal cuisine to nourish Young Master’s body, in terms of nourishment, I’m not as meticulous as the nannies in the palace who are proficient in this.”

In the past, he had asked Young Master to take good care of his legs, but since he did not care about them, there was nothing they could do no matter how anxious they were.

After taking a closer look at Yu Youyao’s arrangements, other than the three meals every morning, afternoon, and evening, she had also arranged for additional medicinal cuisine to nourish his body. He would soak himself before going to bed, and take a medicinal bath every three days. Even the incense he will use had to be fresh and moist.

Uncle Sun nodded. “The effects can’t be seen for a while. Young Master’s body is weak and can’t be nourished. It will slowly improve in his daily life.”

With that, Yu Youyao went to the small kitchen and instructed the kitchen maid, “This is enough medicine. I’ve prepared the portions. Put it in the pot and boil it. When Cousin wakes up, he’ll feel better after soaking in it.”

When she returned to the hall, Zhou Linghuai had already gotten up. He was wearing a deer fur coat, and there was a charcoal bot at his feet.

Yu Youyao’s heart ached when she saw this. She walked up to her cousin. “Chang An said that your leg hurt last night and you didn’t sleep the entire night. Why didn’t you sleep more? Is your leg hurting again?”

The young lady's voice was gentle, and Zhou Linghuai suddenly felt that his aching knees were no longer so painful. "It's alright!"

When he was injected with the needle, his legs would not hurt so much. He had only slept for a short while, but not long after, he felt that his legs were cold and painful. With two thick blankets and four foot warmers under the covers, it was useless. He could not sleep well and even felt colder.

As soon as the little girl arrived, he knew and was immediately no longer sleepy.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips. Her cousin was trying to make her feel at ease by using words to fool her. "I made some deer antler and ginseng chicken soup for Cousin and placed it beside the charcoal stove to warm it. It's just right. The weather is cold, and Cousin can't stand the humidity. Although it's not a great supplement, you have to nourish yourself. Otherwise, your body won't be able to take it."

Zhou Linghuai looked at the copper furnace not far away. The charcoal fire in the furnace was burning brightly, and there was a food box beside it. Yu Youyao had brought it over, and he had seen it the moment she entered.

Yu Youyao brought the food box over and took out the soup. The food box was placed by the charcoal stove to dry. As soon as the soup was scooped into a bowl, white smoke rose.

A fragrant and mellow smell of chicken soup suddenly spread throughout the room.

"This is also my first time making soup. It doesn't taste as good as the one in the kitchen. Cousin, you can't look down on it." Yu Youyao had strictly followed the instructions in the book.

Mother Zhao had also prepared the oil, salt, and spices. She had also watched over the fire. Yu Youyao was in charge of cooking. Before coming over, she had also tried half a bowl, and it tasted pretty good.

Zhou Linghuai was stunned as he looked at the little girl's fair and tender hands.

Most of the young mistresses from wealthy families had to learn some things about the kitchen, but they did not do much and only instructed the servants to do it.

At this moment, Chang An walked into the house and smelled the chicken soup. "Young Miss, why did you make chicken soup for Young Master? Don't you know that he..."

Before he could finish speaking, Zhou Linghuai glanced at him indifferently.

Chang An's back stiffened.

Yu Youyao handed the chicken soup to her cousin as if she was presenting a treasure. "Cousin, quickly try it."

The chicken soup was lightly brewed and served in a white porcelain bowl. It was as yellow and tempting as amber. Even Chang An couldn't help but take a look and gulp.

Zhou Linghuai hesitated for a moment before reaching out to take it. Under Chang An's strange gaze, he calmly brought it to his lips and took a sip.

The chicken soup was fresh and fragrant, and it didn't seem to taste as bad as he had imagined.

At this moment, Yu Youyao finally thought of something and turned to look at Chang An. "By the way, what were you going to say?"

Chang An was so speechless that he didn't even want to say anything.

Young Master had already drunk the chicken soup. Could he still say that Young Master had been picky since he was young and disliked greasy chicken soup the most?

He finally understood that whether Young Master drank chicken soup or not depended on the person giving it to him.

"What exactly is it?" Yu Youyao was a little nervous, worried that something had happened to her cousin.

Zhou Linghuai also put down the spoon in his hand and looked at him.

Under Young Master's heavy gaze, Chang An could only bite the bullet and say, "It's just that Young Master usually eats a little less food and isn't used to eating things that are too greasy. I'm worried that Young Master's stomach won't be able to take it."

Yu Youyao heaved a sigh of relief. "So that's it. That's fine. I made light chicken soup, so it won't stop him from drinking some."

Chang An shut his mouth.

Yu Youyao turned around and looked at her cousin with sparkling eyes. "Is the chicken soup good?"

"Very good!" This bowl of deer antler and ginseng chicken soup was light, but it was very nourishing. Even though Zhou Linghuai did not like the taste of chicken soup, he had to admit that after drinking a bowl of hot chicken soup, it seemed to have warmed his stomach and blood. His body was no longer as cold, and even his pale face looked a little more energetic.

Zhou Linghuai's pale lips were sickly white. The corners of his lips curled up slightly, like a white flower that was extremely beautiful!

At this moment, the old maid from the kitchen walked in with a wooden bucket. "Young Master, the medicine is ready."

Zhou Linghuai was stunned and turned to look at Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao quickly said, "I was the one who instructed the kitchen to boil it. In the future, you will have to soak your feet sooner or later. Although it won't relieve the pain in your legs, it'll be more comfortable to soak them in hot water. Cousin, you're just too careless with your health. Even Chang An was careless. Don't do this in the future. You have to listen to me. It's good for your health."

When Chang An heard this, his eyes widened in anger.

He was not careless. It was obvious that his young master did not take his body seriously. He did not listen when he was persuading him. As a servant, he could not win against him.

What could he do?

## Chapter 152 - 152 I'll Give Cousin a Massage

Zhou Linghuai pursed his lips. Chang An usually took care of his daily life. As he did not like to be busy, he tried his best to keep everything around him simple.

Now that the little girl was making a fuss, he was not used to it. No matter how much he indulged her, he could not help but have a headache. The veins on his forehead bulged, and he could not help but reach out to press them.

When Chang An saw this, he couldn't help but glance at Yu Youyao sympathetically.

He was used to seeing how Young Master doted on Yu Youyao. Seeing that Young Master was getting impatient with her, she couldn't help but gloat a little.

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Yu Youyao did not notice her cousin's attitude and chattered on. "Not only that, but I also made arrangements for Cousin to recuperate. Cousin has to..."

Zhou Linghuai pressed his forehead hard.

Oh no, oh no, Young Master was really angry. Chang An subconsciously retreated to the door. After preparing himself for a while, he rushed out.

But soon, he was slapped in the face!

At first, Zhou Linghuai did feel a little angry, but when he heard the young lady's words of concern, he suddenly calmed down. He took a deep breath and interrupted her. "Let's do as Cousin says."

Chang An was in disbelief. That was it?

"Then Cousin, you can soak first. I'll go out first..." If her cousin wanted to soak his feet, he had to show his legs. However, she couldn't stay any longer, lest she made her cousin feel uncomfortable.

Seeing that the little girl was about to turn around and leave, Zhou Linghuai somehow recalled the sadness that flashed across the little girl's face at noon. His heart trembled violently, and he said, "No need!"

Yu Youyao stared in a daze.

By the time Zhou Linghuai reacted, he had already taken off his shoes and socks. His hands were even more out of control as he lifted his pants and placed them into the wooden bucket.

Yu Youyao's eyes widened. She accidentally saw her cousin's legs, and her heart skipped a beat. She almost couldn't help but cry on the spot.

There was a long scar on her cousin's right leg that ran from his knee to his ankle. It looked like a twisted centipede, hideous and terrifying. Even if she thought about it with her toes, she could tell how serious the injury had been.

Perhaps because he had not walked for a long time as the flesh on his legs was reduced and looked a little shriveled. They were even thinner than his arms...

The little girl bit her lip and kept staring at his legs without saying anything. Zhou Linghuai suddenly pursed his lips and was about to lower his pants.

The little girl suddenly squatted in front of him and pouted. "Cousin's legs are atrophied. How did Chang An take care of them? Even if he can't walk for a while, he still has to use medicinal oil every morning and night to massage his legs. No wonder Cousin's legs hurt every time it rained. He didn't take good care of them."

With that, she looked up and glared at Chang An.

Chang An's face was also puffed up with anger. Uncle Sun had already said that Young Master's legs had to be nourished with medicinal oil and had even taught him some massage techniques. However, no one was allowed to look at Young Master's legs.

Did he really not take good care of him?

Zhou Linghuai's breathing relaxed. Only then did he realize that he had unknowingly held his breath.

Now that he had relaxed his breathing, there was a foul air in his chest that he couldn't help but exhale. For a moment, even his stiff back relaxed.

After Yu Youyao finished glaring at Chang An, she turned around. "Cousin, don't worry. I've learned a massage technique from Nanny Xu and made a good medicinal oil. In the future, with me helping you nurse your legs carefully, your legs will recover a lot. In the future, when your legs are cured, it won't hinder you from walking."

Zhou Linghuai was stunned again. "Aren't you going to ask me how my legs were injured?"

Such a long scar was not a minor injury.

To be honest, she wanted to ask, but that was all in the past, so she shook her head. "Let me know when you want to talk about it in the future. Right now, I just want you to be well."

If he really wanted to tell her, her cousin would have told her without her asking.

Zhou Linghuai looked at the little girl deeply and said nothing.

Yu Youyao changed the topic. "Cousin, let me help you apply some ointment on your leg."

For a moment, Zhou Linghuai did not know if he should refuse.

Logically, he should have refused.

No matter what, the young lady was still a young mistress who had never been involved in any chores. She couldn't possibly do such manual labor. Although they were cousins and were closer, it was still inappropriate for them and they had to be wary of each other...

Zhou Linghuai glanced at Chang An. "Leave!"

He liked peace and quiet. The little girl always came to the Green House alone. Even when she brought her maidservants over, all of them were smart people. Only Chang An was left in the house.

Outside, Xia Tao was chatting. When she saw Chang An coming out dejectedly, she pursed her lips. She had never seen anyone more insensible.

It was said that he was the son of a young general under Eldest Master Zhou. After his father died in battle, his widowed mother had also married again. Eldest Master Zhou had then brought Chang An to the Zhou Residence to raise him. He had not been raised by anyone else, and had grown up with his young master. The two of them had an extraordinary relationship.

The Zhou family had undergone a huge change. Some of the servants had been released, while others had left. There were not many left.

Chang An had taken the initiative to stay and take care of Young Master, but he was not a servant from a young age after all. He was not a reliable person.

He did not even think that when Young Miss was with Young Master, they would always be endless things to say and do. Other people would become unnecessary, so how could he not be an eyesore?

In the room, Yu Youyao took a towel and helped her cousin apply the warm medicinal water to his legs. "Soak them more in hot water. When your legs are warm, you'll definitely feel better."

After soaking his legs for a while, Zhou Linghuai indeed felt a little more comfortable.

Feeling that the water temperature had cooled a little, Yu Youyao stopped her cousin from continuing to soak his legs "I'll do a massage for Cousin. It's my first time doing this, so I can't really find the acupuncture points accurately. If I find the wrong place, Cousin will feel uncomfortable. Cousin, don't hold it in. You have to tell me."

Zhou Linghuai opened his mouth, and the smell of ginger and pine oil rushed into his mouth and nose. It wasn't too unpleasant, but the smell was too strange.

He wanted to refuse.

However, when he saw the little girl sitting in front of him with an eager expression, he couldn't help but feel a lump in his throat and couldn't speak.

He did not know why, but in the face of the young lady's earnest concern and care, he suddenly became wooden and did not even know how to speak.

Yu Youyao rubbed the medicinal oil in her palm and found an acupuncture point on her cousin's leg. She first applied a layer evenly, then pressed on the acupuncture point and started to make circles. "Cousin, do you feel anything?"

Zhou Linghuai shook his head and said hoarsely, "No."

His leg muscles were numb, so he didn't feel any pain. Usually, he didn't feel much either. It was only when it was raining and cold that his bones hurt.

Yu Youyao adjusted her position. "And now?"

Before Zhou Linghuai could react, the withered muscles on his legs were already trembling slightly. Clearly, she had found the right acupuncture point this time. The massage technique had stimulated the acupuncture point, causing a slight reaction in his legs.

Chapter 153 - 153 Cousin Is Tired

Yu Youyao heaved a sigh of relief. "I've found it accurately this time."

At first, Zhou Linghuai did not feel much. He only felt a dull pain in his leg. After a while, he vaguely felt a slight numbness and heat in his leg.

After about the time it took to burn an incense stick, Yu Youyao poured some medicinal oil into her hand and rubbed it on his leg. She found another acupuncture point and used different finger techniques to massage it.

The house was very quiet. The charcoal fire in the stove was burning brightly, and Zhou Linghuai was wearing a deer coat. He had felt cold just now, but now, he was a little impatient.

His hands suddenly tightened around the armrests, and the burning sensation between his legs became more and more obvious. There was a soreness, but he couldn't tell if it was uncomfortable or comfortable.

Zhou Linghuai's Adam's apple bobbed, and he had the urge to moan.

Just as the sound reached his throat, he couldn't help but let out a soft "Mm."

Zhou Linghuai's ears felt slightly hot, and even his face turned slightly red. He quickly pursed his lips and suppressed the sound in his throat so that he wouldn't cry out.

Hearing her cousin snort, Yu Youyao did not stop moving. "Are you feeling unwell?"

Zhou Linghuai shook his head and said in a hoarse voice, "No, I let Cousin massage me for a while. My legs feel a little warmer, and it doesn't seem to hurt as much as before."

This was also true.

Seeing that her cousin's face was not as pale as before, Yu Youyao was very happy. "Cousin, this is a bone pain that can't be treated for the time being, but as long as you take care of it, it will definitely be better. Cousin, you're just too careless with yourself. Chang An is a half-grown child and a man, so he definitely won't think so much. Uncle Sun is old and doesn't have much energy to care about this, so he delayed Cousin's leg treatment and made you suffer."

Zhou Linghuai had never thought about this in the past.

After his leg was damaged, Uncle Sun said that he had injured his bone foundation and did not have many years to live. Hence, he only wanted to take revenge and did not care about his crippled legs. In any case, they were already useless.

Initially, Uncle Sun and Chang An would also try to persuade him, but they really couldn't.

As time passed, they stopped persuading him.

The little girl stared at his legs. When the flesh on his legs trembled violently, she would reduce her strength a little. When there was no movement in his flesh, she would increase her strength bit by bit.

After a while, the little girl's breathing quickened. Her forehead and the tip of her nose were covered in sweat, and her fair face was flushed red. She looked beautiful and charming.

However, it was very difficult to perform the massage. Zhou Linghuai couldn't bear to see the young lady suffer. "My leg hurts a lot less. Cousin, take a break."

Yu Youyao did not even raise her head. "That won't do. Nanny Xu said that it's best to make it last an incense stick at each acupoint. The last acupoint will be done in a while."

Zhou Linghuai frowned and said nothing.

Yu Youyao thought that she had to do the massage every morning and night, but she did not have the time to do it for her cousin every day. Chang An did not seem very reliable, so she had to find someone capable to take care of her cousin's daily needs.

"Cousin, there are too few people in the Green House. Chang An is the only one serving you. That won't do. Why don't you find someone more capable?"

Her grandmother had also made some arrangements previously, but her cousin's legs weren't good and he liked peace, so he sent the new servant away.

Seeing that the little girl was full of hope, Zhou Linghuai nodded. "After the Zhou family was defeated, most of our assets were confiscated by the government, and some were taken back by the clan. Grandmother has a manor in Tongzhou, and there are some old servants in the family. After the incident, they were sent to this manor to work, and she chose two people to come over."

"They're all old servants of my family, so of course they have to be useful. It's also appropriate to have a few more people to take care of us." Yu Youyao was a little unhappy. The Zhou Clan was a pack of wolves that even wanted to snatch the family's assets. If not for the fact that it was afraid of the Yu Residence, Cousin might not even be able to keep this last manor.

Zhou Linghuai's eyes flickered as he nodded.

This time, he had many plans in the capital. Naturally, he had to trust the people who served him. He did not trust the servants sent by the Yu Residence, so he sent them away.

Now that he was also living under someone else's roof, the people around him had to pass through the Yu Residence. With the little girl's words, he called his old servant into the residence and was now on the right path.

The little girl had probably also noticed some clues about him, but she pretended that nothing had happened and was thinking for him.

After a full set of massages, Yu Youyao felt that her arms were sore and swollen. They didn't feel like her own. She shook them gently a few times before feeling a little better.

However, when she saw that her cousin's tightly furrowed brows had relaxed a little and there was some life on his face, Yu Youyao felt happy again. "Cousin, is your leg better?"

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Much better. Cousin, you must be tired."

In the past three years, he had never felt as relaxed as he did now. The medicinal oil had seeped into his skin, flesh and bones. He felt the warmth in his bones. Without that coldness, the pain in his legs



had lessened a lot, and his skin had also become numb. At first, he felt that he couldn't stand this strange feeling, but after a while, he felt relaxed.

"I've prepared leg warmers for Cousin. There's a medicinal bag made of mugwort sewn into them, and some medicinal herbs that can help with blood circulation and moisturization. Cousin, follow me and put the leg warmers over the charcoal and heat them. When they're hot, tie them to your legs. They can be heated for a long time. I've prepared two. If they're cold, Cousin can change them."

As Yu Youyao spoke, she picked up the leg warmers and placed them on the charcoal basin to heat up. Even if the ash was heated and stuck to the flesh, it wouldn't burn.

The medicinal bag made of mugwort ash emitted a faint smell of mugwort. Even the pungent smell of medicinal oil in the room dissipated a little.

When Zhou Linghuai saw that the little girl had finished heating up the leg warmers, he carefully tied it around his legs. The leg warmer was warm and comfortable, but not scalding. She had just used medicinal oil to massage his legs, so as soon as it was tied around his legs, a thin layer of sweat appeared on his forehead.

Yu Youyao looked up, her eyes sparkling. "Cousin, is it warm?"

Zhou Linghuai smiled. "It's very warm."

Every autumn and winter, he would also tie up his legs with leg warmers made of lambskin. There was a thick layer of cotton wool stuffed inside, and he tied it to his legs. It made them both bloated and inconvenient, and he did not feel much warmth.

However, the leg warmers that the little girl had made were very light. There were two layers of lamb skin, and they were evenly covered with a layer of mugwort ash and some medicinal herbs that had been ground into powder. When the mugwort ash was heated and stuck to the skin, it would not be too hot. If one sat beside a charcoal basin, the leg warmers would often be warmed. They would be close-fitting and warm, which was better than anything else.

Yu Youyao held her cousin's hand, and his cold hand finally warmed a little. "Cousin, I'll send a craftsman over tomorrow to build a warm bed for you. It'll be warm when you sleep at night."

There was a fireplace at home, but it only burned when the weather was cold. It was not as warm as a heated bed.

Chapter 154 - 154 My Legs Feel Better

It was also simple to heat the bed. It didn't take much effort. He could hire a few more people to build it in the morning, burn some charcoal, and then sleep at night.

Zhou Linghuai nodded. Now that his body was warm, he felt a little hot.

Seeing a thin layer of sweat on her cousin's forehead, Yu Youyao called Chang An over. "Cousin is sweating from the heat. Bring over a cloak and a small blanket and change him out of the deer fur coat."

Chang An turned around and saw that his young master was indeed sweating. He didn't know what method Miss Yu had used on him, but he quickly went to the inner room.

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Chang An brought over a cloak and a blanket, wanting to help Young Master put it on.

However, Yu Youyao reached out and took it. She carefully put on the cloak for her cousin and placed the small blanket on his lap. "Do you feel cold?"

Zhou Linghuai shook his head. "It's very good."

Yu Youyao was relieved. She turned to Chang An and instructed, "When it gets cold, add on the deer fur coat. Cousin can't stand the humidity, let alone sweat. Once he sweats, he will feel the humidity. You have to be especially careful. In about ten minutes, you have to check Cousin's temperature."

Chang An nodded. He had to admit that Yu Youyao was more meticulous in taking care of his young master.

Yu Youyao handed the medicinal oil to Chang An. "Apply the medicinal oil on Cousin every two hours. Be careful when applying it. Help Cousin rub his legs more and let the medicinal oil seep into his skin. It's best to do it for an incense stick."

Chang An took the medicinal oil and turned to look at his young master. Seeing that his young master did not say anything, he knew that his young master had taken Yu Youyao's words to heart.

He also felt happy.

Yu Youyao pointed at the food beside the copper stove. "The deer antler ginseng chicken soup inside is very nourishing. Cousin, if you feel cold, drink a bowl to warm your stomach and your body."

Chang An had been listening carefully, but when he heard that she even had to take care of Young Master's food and drink, he immediately widened his eyes in anger. He had taken care of Young Master for many years. Although he was not as meticulous as a maidservant, he was still used to doing this. Wasn't this obvious that he was unreliable?

Yu Youyao did not care if he was convinced or not. "Send Cousin food from the Jade Courtyard these few days. We'll talk about it when the Zhou family's old servant comes."

Chang An opened his mouth...

Yu Youyao ignored him. "Take some time to go to the Jade Courtyard and get Nanny Xu to teach you the massage. In the future, you have to apply medicinal oil every morning and night to help Cousin massage his legs."

Just as Chang An was about to speak, Yu Youyao had already turned to her cousin and said, "Cousin, I'll go back first. If you're not feeling well these few days, you don't have to run to the Jade Courtyard. If there's anything I don't understand in class, I'll come to the Green House to look for you."

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Okay!"

The little girl explained everything in detail without asking for his opinion. He had been listening from the side, but he couldn't even interrupt. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

At dawn, Nanny Liu ordered someone to prepare dinner.

When one was old, their stomachs would become weaker. If they ate late and had food in their stomachs, it would be difficult to digest it.

Old Madam Yu sat at the table with a distracted expression and asked, "Yao Yao stayed in the Green House for two to four hours in the afternoon?"

Nanny Liu nodded. "Young Master's leg condition flared up, and his bones were in great pain. Young Master doesn't have anyone to take care of him, so Eldest Miss went over to help take care of him."

Old Madam Yu nodded. "That's true. Chang An is a young and loyal child, but he doesn't look very stable. Uncle Sun is old, so how can he have the energy to take care of others? It's better to find a few people to go to the Green House to take care of him. It's more appropriate. How can Yao Yao be tired every time his leg disease relapses?"

When Zhou Linghuai entered the residence, he had also arranged for many people to serve in the Green House.

However, Zhou Linghuai liked peace and quiet. He had just moved into the residence and was not used to having too many people in the courtyard. In addition, he had broken his leg and usually lived in seclusion. Once there were more people around him, it was inevitable that they would run their mouths. It would be bad for him to have some loose tongues, so he let him send the people in the courtyard away.

He had not expected this today.

Nanny Liu quickly agreed. "Old Madam is right. I'll go to the Green House tomorrow to ask Young Master for his opinion."

Old Madam Yu picked up her chopsticks and was about to eat.

Qing Xiu led Qiu Xing into the house.

Qiu Xing bowed to Old Madam Yu. "Old Madam, this afternoon, Young Miss personally cooked some angelica ginseng chicken soup for you. She asked me to bring it over to you. Young Miss also said that since the weather is wet and cold, the angelica ginseng chicken soup will nourish your blood and nourish your Qi and blood. It's also light. Old Madam, drink a little at night to nourish your mind and sleep well."

Old Madam Yu immediately beamed. "Why did this child go to the kitchen personally for no reason? Didn't she burn the kitchen?"

Qiu Xing smiled and said, "Young Miss saw that it was raining today and the weather was wet and cold. Thinking that Old Madam had a cold, she was afraid that she would feel uncomfortable, so she went to the kitchen and personally brewed medicinal cuisine to nourish her body. It lasted for more than four hours. Recently, Young Miss had been learning from Nanny Xu in the kitchen and often went to the kitchen. The medicinal cuisine that Old Madam usually ate was also made by Young

Miss. How could she have burned the kitchen? Even Mother Zhao, who was watching from the side, said that Eldest Miss was not careless at all when she did things.”

Although what she said was true, the reasoning was different. It sounded like she was making the soup for Old Madam Yu.

Her granddaughter was filial and thought about her all the time, so how could Old Madam Yu not be happy? “The kitchen isn’t an easy place. Don’t tire Yao Yao out.”

Qiu Xing nodded and said, “Eldest Miss also said that the weather is wet and cold. The medicinal cuisine in An Shou Hall has been prepared by the Jade Courtyard and sent over to nourish Old Madam.”

Qing Xiu sent Qiu Xing out.

Old Madam Yu happily drank the soup that her granddaughter had personally brewed. She smiled so widely that her teeth could not be seen. “This chicken soup is cooked well. It’s not greasy at all when you drink it. Instead, it has a fresh fragrance. Yao Yao, you’ve grown up.”

Nanny Liu was also smiling.

Usually, when Eldest Miss was free, she would run to An Shou Hall. However, after Young Master entered the residence and Eldest Miss became closer to him, it was inevitable that she couldn’t accompany Old Madam all the time. Although Old Madam was happy to see this, she couldn’t help but feel that something was amiss.

Young Master’s leg was acting up, and his bones were in unbearable pain. However, Old Madam also had a chronic cold. When the weather turned cold, her body felt uncomfortable. However, how could she be happy when her granddaughter was busy caring for others?

Now that Eldest Miss’s soup was here, wouldn’t Old Madam be happy?

After dinner, Old Madam Yu leaned against the couch. “We have to take good care of Linghuai’s legs and have to look for a few suitable people carefully. We can’t be careless.”

The next morning, someone came over to build a heated bed for Zhou Linghuai.

Yu Youyao had to go to school and couldn’t keep an eye on him personally, so she asked Nanny Xu to take a look.

At noon, Yu Youyao went home from school. Without even returning to the Jade Courtyard, she went straight to the Green House. The heated brick bed was already built, and there was a charcoal fire burning in the house.

## Chapter 155 - 155 Cousin Is Really Amazing

Yu Youyao walked around the warm bed and nodded in satisfaction. “Cousin, are your legs better today? Did you soak your feet before you go to bed last night? Did Chang An massage your acupoints with medicinal oil?”

Zhou Linghuai’s expression paused for a moment. “It’s much better.”

Now, Chang An had also improved.

Last night, when he had brought the medicinal oil over to massage him, he had yet to speak when...

Chang An used the young lady to defend himself. "Young Miss has repeatedly instructed this. If Young Master doesn't cooperate, I'll tell her tomorrow and see if she's angry."

For a moment, Zhou Linghuai had the urge to replace Chang An.

Although the little girl also had some strength, after being massaged for a while, it was inevitable that her strength would be a little weak and uneven. Chang An was a martial artist, so he had strength in his body and could grasp the severity of the acupoints more accurately.

After finishing the entire massage, Zhou Linghuai was covered in sweat. After soaking in the medicinal bath that the little girl had brought, his body felt refreshed. It was rare for him to sleep for four hours at night, and it was already late at night when he felt his legs hurt. Chang An rubbed the medicinal oil for him and changed his leg warmers before sleeping for a while.

In the past, Zhou Linghuai had also used some medicinal oil that Uncle Sun had made himself. How could the effect be bad? However, it did not have such an effect.

Anything that came from Yu Youyao seemed to be more effective than anything else.

Medicinal cuisine, medicinal tea, medicinal fragrance, medicinal oil...

The little girl kept saying that this was a prescription from the palace, and the effect was different.

However, these words were only used to fool inexperienced people.

Ever since he was young, he had also been blessed with good fortune. He had used many things in the palace, and the effect was indeed different from others, but it was not as good as this.

There were probably some other hidden tricks.

However, since the little girl did not deliberately hide it from him, he naturally would not probe further.

This was the tacit understanding between them. It was also this indescribable tacit understanding that made him feel closer to the little girl than anyone else could.

Zhou Linghuai's lips curled up slightly.

The little girl stared at the carved wood on the table and smiled brightly. Even without the sun, she felt that the room was very bright.

"Cousin, the materials are ready so quickly." Yu Youyao ran up to her cousin, her voice very cheerful.

Zhou Linghuai's dark brows relaxed. "It just so happened that we were at the right time."

Yu Youyao was puzzled. "There are many requirements for making zither wood?"

Zhou Linghuai explained, "It's much more important than cutting the wood. It needs to be dry on a clear day, wet on a rainy day, and alternated between dry and wet. Then, the sound produced will be clear."

After the wood was dry, it rained, and the moisture entered the wood. It was a success. The wood that was made in this way was not only clear, but also a little heavier and richer. Even the materials used for many famous zithers were not as good as the one he had made.

Yu Youyao nodded. "Cousin, you're really impressive."

This rain lasted for four to five days.

When the sky cleared up and the weather became warmer, the people in the residence had changed into new spring clothes. The young misses had also grown into young ladies.

The trees in the jade courtyard had new leaves. The tender green leaves grew on the tall branches and swayed in the wind. It was a pleasing sight.

"Eldest Miss, the broker has led the Zhou family's old servants into the residence and is waiting in the courtyard." As soon as Chun Xiao entered the incense room, she smelled a pungent smell and opened all the windows in the room to disperse the smell.

After packing the medicinal oil, Yu Youyao stood up. "I smell too bad. I'll wash up and change before going over to take a look."

Chun Xiao went to arrange for Yu Youyao to take a bath.

Yu Youyao washed up briefly, changed into dry clothes, and went to Windfall Courtyard.

Other than some family servants, most of the servants in the residence were chosen from the brokerage house. The brokerage house had taught them some rules and investigated the origins of these people, so they felt more at ease.

Even if they arranged for an old servant from the Zhou family to serve him, they could not directly bring him into the residence.

Tongzhou was not far from the capital, and the carriage was only a day's journey away. Yu Youyao arranged for a few old servants from the Zhou family to enter the capital and send them to the brokerage house. She paid a sum of money and asked the brokerage house to vouch for them. Then, she asked the brokerage house to train them for another three to five days to carefully investigate their origins.

The broker had his own background and methods. He was better at investigating people than others.

Yu Youyao had told her grandmother about the old servant of the Zhou family. No one else knew either.

Now that she was in charge of the household, she had to put in enough effort so that she could be recognized. She did not want to be called out and cause trouble.

"According to Eldest Miss's request, we've been training them for a few days. These people are all old servants and have good understanding of the rules. They'll definitely be useful to you."

The middle-aged woman was in her forties and had a round face. As she spoke, her smiling eyes secretly glanced at the young miss, who was only about half her size but had a rare aura.

For a moment, she couldn't help but gasp.

Her job in the brokerage business was to teach people, and she was also knowledgeable. At such a young age, this Eldest Miss had the aura of a noblewoman. Her every move was more refined than others.

She was even more outstanding than the young misses she had visited previously.

She was also very organized and meticulous in her actions. Previously, she had seen that the servants in the residence were also very respectful to her. She was really capable.

Yu Youyao nodded. "Thank you."

With that, she sized up the four old servants in front of her. Two men and two women were all old.

The oldest was an old nanny with gray hair. She was wearing a set of white clothes that had been washed and patched. Clearly, her life in the manor was not easy.

She stood obediently, head lowered, hands clasped in front of her stomach, and her back straight.

Yu Youyao recalled the first time she had seen Nanny Xu in her grandmother's room and couldn't help but take a few more glances.

The granny noticed her expression and quickly took out a small book. "This is Nanny Lu. She used to learn the rules from the old nanny in the palace, so she is more disciplined. Eldest Miss, take a look at this book. You know where she came from. She used to be very capable in the main family and has never done anything wrong. I guarantee that there won't be any mistakes."

Yu Youyao nodded and flipped through the book. It recorded Nanny Lu's life.

She was a little shocked when she saw it.

Nanny Lu was from You Prefecture. Her father and brother had both entered the army and had died in battle years ago. Nanny Lu had received the favor of her grandaunt, Old Madam Zhou, and had entered the residence to serve her. No one could find fault with her.

In addition, there were also some things that Nanny Lu was good at, including some medical skills.

Yu Youyao's eyes flickered as she tested Nanny Lu on pharmacology.

Nanny Lu answered all of them clearly.

It was obvious that she was really capable.

This was probably not a small matter. It was even comparable to Nanny Xu's skills. Yu Youyao's eyes darkened. It was best for such a person to take care of her cousin's daily needs.

Chapter 156 - 156 Prince You

Hence, Yu Youyao nodded. "Cousin isn't in good health. You're all old servants of the Zhou family, so you must know that in the future, when you enter the Green House, you have to take good care of him like before."

At first glance, there was nothing wrong with her words, but anyone who heard her would understand immediately. Eldest Miss Yu meant that although they had entered the Yu Residence and gone through the Yu Residence's connections, they still had to prioritize the young master of the Green House like before.

Nanny Lu's eyes moved slightly. She bowed and said, "I understand. Eldest Miss, don't worry."

Yu Youyao looked at the other three people. They were also in their thirties or forties, and she knew where they came from. After flipping through the book, she knew that these people were the most capable people in the Zhou family in the past.

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Yu Youyao was very satisfied. She got someone to wrap up the reward money, and the broker carried it out of the Yu Residence with a smile.

Yu Youyao led Nanny Lu and the others to An Shou Hall to visit Old Madam Yu.

Old Madam Yu flipped through the book and also opened her mouth to speak to Nanny Lu. It seemed to be a casual conversation, but it was all related to Old Madam Zhou.

After about ten minutes, Old Madam Yu was tired. She looked at Yu Youyao. "Let's go to the Green House to arrange things."

Zhou Linghuai's health wasn't good, so even though they were old servants of the Zhou family, they naturally had to be more thorough when caring for him. He had just asked Nanny Lu a few questions, and there was basically no problem.

After hearing her grandmother's words, Yu Youyao heaved a sigh of relief. "I won't disturb you anymore. I've made some Eight Treasures Porridge for you. It's good for calming you down."

There were countless times like this when it came to cooking.

Yu Youyao did not like or dislike cooking. She had the kitchen staff to help her with some of the chores. She did not have to care about anything else. It did not take much effort. Occasionally, she would personally cook some food to show filial piety to her grandmother. She was very happy to please her grandmother.

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she smiled. "You're a girl. Don't always go into the kitchen. Be careful not to hurt yourself."

Yu Youyao held her grandmother's arm and said coquettishly, "It's not every day. I just heard from Nanny Liu that the weather has been a little hot recently, so your appetite isn't very good, so I made light and nourishing porridge. It's good for digestion, easy to swallow, and will make you feel comfortable. Grandmother, you have to take good care of yourself."

Her thoughtful words made Old Madam Yu hug her granddaughter tightly. "Alright, alright, I'll listen to you."

When Yu Youyao led the Zhou family's old servant out, Old Madam Yu's smile had yet to fade. "Yao Yao, you're getting more and more thorough in your work. Linghuai's health isn't good because he's been ill since he was young. After his leg was damaged, his body was also damaged. The old servants of the Zhou family are used to serving him in the past, so it's more appropriate for



them to be used. However, they're outsiders after all. How can the residence be at ease if they enter the residence for no reason? After a few days of training at the brokerage house and going through the residence's connections, they'll be able to communicate appropriately. With the brokerage house as a guarantor, these people's backgrounds will be verified. They don't have to be afraid of being fooled and causing trouble for the family."

When Nanny Liu heard this, she smiled and said, "Eldest Miss is becoming more and more like you. What's even rarer is that Eldest Miss is filial to you."

Old Madam Yu's face broke into a smile again.

Since Yu Youyao was going to the Green House, she asked Xia Tao to go back and get the medicinal oil.

Zhou Linghuai was fanning himself in the study.

It wasn't easy to make a small fan. Just thinning it was difficult. After that, it was time to paint, engrave, color, and so on. Every step was very complicated.

Of course, it would only take a few hours to make an ordinary fan with oil paper. However, the things that Zhou Linghuai had given the little girl had to be handled well, so it was naturally even more difficult.

It took Zhou Linghuai six to seven days to finish it.

The surface of the brownish-yellow wood was smooth to begin with, and its color was like honey. After applying a few layers of paint, it looked even more like honey, and was as warm as honey.

The fan bones were as thin as leaves. On one side, there was a carving of a green tree, and the other side was embossed with apricot flowers. On the leaves of the fan that were as thin as real leaves, there were flowers and leaves. If the knife was too heavy and pierced through the fan bones, all his previous efforts would be wasted.

Even Chang An, who had followed Young Master for so long, had never seen him so concerned about such things.

Unfortunately, the paint was too thin, and the color was still not bright enough because they were in a hurry. It would take at most a year or so to finish.

However, the sandalwood fan was fresh.

If it wasn't fresh after a few days, he could just change it out. It wouldn't take more than a year. In the future, he would just make some other styles for her cousin to play with.

Zhou Linghuai looked at the finished sandalwood fan and a smile appeared on his lips. At this moment, Chang Anshou arrived. "Young Miss has brought a few... old servants over. They're waiting for you in the living room."

Zhou Linghuai placed the folding fan into a wooden box and left the study.

In the living room, Yu Youyao drank her tea and asked Nanny Lu about her cousin's past in Youzhou.

Nanny Lu knew a lot about her cousin, but when she spoke, she was cautious. “Young Master can recite at the age of three, and read at the age of seven. At the age of nine, he’s already familiar with the Four Books and Five Classics. However, Young Master’s health hasn’t been good since he was young, but he lives in seclusion and rarely goes out. I’ve only heard of the talents of Prince You outside, but I didn’t know that Young Master was also unique.”

Upon hearing this, Yu Youyao felt strange. The friend that her cousin had mentioned previously seemed to be the same as her cousin. Wasn’t it too much of a coincidence?

However, after thinking about it carefully, she felt that she was thinking too much.

After spending so much time together, Yu Youyao also knew that her cousin was indeed the most talented person in the world. However, he was weak by nature and people did not take her talented cousin seriously.

Probably only someone with the same talent as him was worthy of his attention.

However, she was drawn to the words “Prince You.”

As she spoke, Yu Youyao heard the sound of wheels rolling. Chang An had pushed her cousin into the room. “Cousin, I’ve brought over all the old servants of the Zhou family.”

Zhou Linghuai nodded and glanced at the four people standing in the hall. His expression was indifferent. “Get Chang An to help you make arrangements.”

The few of them agreed and asked Chang An to bring them out.

The scene of the old servants meeting him in her mind did not appear. Yu Youyao pursed her lips.

Just now, she had clearly seen that when Nanny Lu saw her cousin, there was a hint of excitement on her stern face, but her cousin did not seem to have any reaction.

Zhou Linghuai gently rubbed the top of the little girl’s head. “What’s wrong?”

Yu Youyao shook her head. “I just feel happy. In the future, I’ll be more at ease if Cousin has someone suitable to take care of him.”

Zhou Linghuai laughed when he heard that.

Yu Youyao took the box from the table and handed it to her cousin. “Previously, the medicinal oil was added with dried ginger and pepper. It was hot when you rubbed it on your legs. Now that the weather is hot, it’s not appropriate to use it. I’ve made a new medicinal oil for you. The effect is the same as before. It’s just that I’ve added borneol and mint. It’s more refreshing. Although your bones are no longer painful, your legs still have to heal carefully.”

Chapter 157 - 157 Cousin, The Sandalwood Fan Is Really Beautiful

Zhou Linghuai took the box and smiled. “Alright, I’ll listen to you, Cousin.” He changed the topic. “Coincidentally, I have something to give to you too.”

He handed over the box on his lap.

The box was made of paulownia wood, which was naturally textured and carved with an old branch of spring apricots, which looked simple and elegant.

Yu Youyao stroked the apricot flower and recalled that she had accidentally seen through her cousin's tracks at the Precious Peace Temple. At first, she was really afraid, but when her cousin smiled, the panic and fear in her heart instantly dissipated.

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She thought that even if she exposed her cousin's secret, he wouldn't hurt her. From now on, if she treated him well, he wouldn't hurt her either.

She said to her cousin, "I love apricot flowers..."

Her cousin had kept it in mind.

"Did Cousin make this box himself? It's so beautiful!" Yu Youyao smiled and held the box lovingly, not opening it for a moment.

Zhou Linghuai also smiled. "Open it and see if you like it."

"Of course, Cousin's gifts are the best. I definitely like them." Yu Youyao was overjoyed. She carefully opened the box and saw the sandalwood fan in it. "Cousin, is this fan also made of wood? Cousin even knows how to make sandalwood fans. Cousin is really amazing."

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Last year, there were fans in the capital from time to time, but small sandalwood fans were very popular. This year, it's about the same. There's extra wood, so I made you a fan."

There were apricot branches carved on the fan bones. There were only a few strokes, but they were extremely charming.

Yu Youyao unfolded the fan bit by bit. Immediately, the old branches on the fan were slanted, and the branches were filled with red, pink, and white apricots. It looked beautiful and charming.

Yu Youyao flipped to the other side. It was a Chinese parasol branch. Yellow and green flowers grew on the branches. They were beautiful and elegant.

There was artwork on both sides, and the colors were bright and lifelike.

At first glance, it looked alive.

Yu Youyao had never seen such an exquisite fan before. She was surprised and delighted. "Cousin, I've never seen such an exquisite fan before. It's too beautiful. I can't bear to hold it in my hand, afraid that I'll break it."

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "If it's broken, I'll make more for you."

Yu Youyao pouted. "It must be very difficult to make such a fan. I can't let Cousin spend so much effort on this. Besides, Cousin still has to make a zither for me."

He had spent a lot of effort on this folding fan. Zhou Linghuai smiled and did not say anything.

The next day, Yu Youyao received news that the Xie family's merchant ship had entered the capital. This time, she was accompanied by her third cousin, Xie Jingliu, whom she had never met before.

The Xie Residence had set up a residence in the capital and was currently settling down there. Third Cousin sent a servant to the Yu Residence and officially visited three days later.

This news shocked the entire Yu Residence.

Old Madam Yu even personally met the servant sent by the Xie family.

Quanzhou was a little far from the capital, and the Xie family was a big family. Her grandfather had come to the capital to visit her a few times in the past, but later on, it was always the stewards of the Xie family who came to the Yu Residence.

All these years, Yu Youyao had been in close contact with the Xie family.

Apart from sending her a lot of things when the Xie family's merchant ship entered the capital every quarter, they also often exchanged letters. Therefore, Yu Youyao had a deep relationship with the Xie family.

In the past, the Xie Residence should have arrived earlier. However, this time, seeing that April was in sight but there was no news from the Xie Residence, Yu Youyao was still muttering to herself.

It was obvious that this person could not withstand being nagged.

Yang Shuwan had recovered long ago, but Yu Youyao had also been praised by Master, so she couldn't interfere for a moment. She didn't have a chance to get back the household manager key that she had handed over.

When she heard that the someone from the Xie Residence was going to visit, Yang Shuwan couldn't sit still anymore and hurriedly went to An Shou Hall.

As she walked, she saw that the entire residence was bustling with activity. Even the old maids were more diligent than usual. However, she was furious inside.

They were really giving face to a dirty scumbag.

After all, the Yu Residence had been a scholarly family for generations and was even an official. When the people from the Xie Residence entered the Yu Residence, they would also be inferior. How could they fawn over them like this?

They really did not have the bearing of a scholarly clan.

Xie Roujia had already been dead for so many years. Even if they were in-laws in the past, their relationship should have faded by now. Otherwise, how could she, as a second wife, handle it?

The old woman stared at the Xie family's wealth and did not even care about her face.

The person who had returned from the Xie Residence was the master. Yu Youyao was in An Shou Hall, discussing with Old Madam Yu about how to arrange a banquet that the Xie Residence would be holding.

Then, she heard Qing Xiu report, "The doctor is here."

Old Madam Yu turned to look at her granddaughter. "As her stepmother, it's true that she hasn't been recuperating well for a few days and has only just recovered a little. However, she's already jumping up and down. In the first few days, she came to me and said that she wanted to create the

rules and show filial piety to me. How could I not know that it was fake? She just wants to get the household manager's key back from me."

Yu Youyao's pink lips curled up slightly, but she did not say anything.

There were some things that could only be said by her grandmother. As a junior, she could not interfere with her elders.

Old Madam Yu also knew this. "Her illness can be serious or not, but it's also something that will last for a lifetime. How can I agree to it? If she gets sick in the future, it'll be my fault and it'll become a mistake for her to show respect to me." As she spoke, she couldn't help but sigh. "This person doesn't know how to take care of herself when she's young. When she gets old, she'll really suffer."

Her problem would be resolved after careful recuperation.

However, someone just couldn't be at peace and ended up torturing herself.

Yu Youyao smiled calmly. "Mother is just worried about the family."

Old Madam Yu did not deny it. She turned around and instructed Qing Xiu, "Please let her come in!"

Qing Xiu agreed and left the inner room.

Immediately after, Yang Shuwan entered the house. She was wearing a bright red peony dress. Her face was also covered in makeup, making her look radiant. She had lost a lot of weight, but she looked more delicate.

After greeting Old Madam Yu, Yang Shuwan looked at Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao stood up and called out, "Mother."

Yang Shuwan tightened her grip on her handkerchief, but she smiled and said in a gentle voice, "Yao Yao, you're here too. It's been hard on you recently."

Yu Youyao lowered her head. "Mother, it's not that hard."

Yang Shuwan held her hand. "You have to go to school every day and learn the rules from Nanny Xu. It's also because my health isn't good enough that you have to help manage the household at such a young age. I've been very anxious these past few days. I'm afraid that it will affect your studies and it'll become my sin."

Yu Youyao shook her head and said nothing.

Yang Shuwan's words were to attract attention. The main point was still to come.

Chapter 158 - 158 Dowry

As expected, Yang Shuwan changed the topic and said with a smile, "In two days, your external family, the Xie family, will be visiting. This is a top-notch matter, so you have to manage it carefully. There will be many banquets at home, and there will be a lot of things to do. You've never hosted a banquet before, so I'm a little worried. I have to step in to manage it so that we don't neglect our esteemed guests."

Her words were generous and appropriate. At first glance, one would really think that she valued the people from the Xie Residence in Quanzhou. Anyone could tell what she was truly thinking.

Her thoughts were all openly revealed.

They looked very shallow.

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When Yu Youyao heard that, she heaved a sigh of relief. "I was still worried about this, so I rushed to Grandmother's house to discuss it with her. Now that Mother has recovered, I'm relieved to have her around."

With that, she handed over the key generously.

Old Madam Yu smiled when she saw this.

Just by looking and listening, one could tell the difference.

Yang Shuwan did not think about it either, but Yu Youyao handed over the key easily. Looking at the large bunch of keys in front of her, she did not know if she should take them or not.

"Nanny Liu is in charge of all the matters at home. If Mother has any questions, you can ask her. However, even if Mother's health has recovered, she can't work too hard like before and suffer."

Yu Youyao portrayed a considerate and sensible "stepdaughter" vividly.

No matter what, Yu Youyao had handed over the household manager's key so easily. As long as she was willing to hand it over, Yang Shuwan was relieved. "During this period of time, you've been in charge of the family. I've seen everything. Even your father has praised you. In the future, you'll have to help manage some of the family's matters."

With that, she reached out for the key and handed it to Mu Jin.

Knowing that this was just a polite greeting and not sincere, Yu Youyao smiled and replied calmly.

After obtaining the butler's key, Yang Shuwan couldn't sit still anymore. She accompanied Old Madam Yu and said a few words of filial piety before leaving in a hurry.

Old Madam Yu shook her head and turned to look at her granddaughter. "You handed over the key just like that?"

Yu Youyao held her grandmother's arm and pursed her lips. "What's so good about being a household manager? How can it be more important than living a comfortable life? I'm used to being lazy. I can't change it, nor do I want to."

Old Madam Yu pinched the tip of her nose and laughed. "You're quite magnanimous, but you've forgotten all of Grandmother's good intentions."

Yu Youyao leaned against her grandmother. "How can that be? Grandmother wants me to show off my status as the eldest daughter of the first wife. With the honor of being the eldest daughter of the first wife, how can the people outside the residence look down on me? Now, who in the residence doesn't know that I'm filial, polite and kind?"

Old Madam Yu laughed and pinched her granddaughter's little nose again. "You understand it, but I can't let you be lazy."

Yu Youyao was stunned.

Old Madam Yu turned around and instructed Nanny Liu, "Go and get the accounts book from my room."

Yu Youyao's eyes widened, and her heart trembled.

No, it wasn't what she was thinking!

"After managing the family for a while, you've also improved. It's time for you to manage the assets that your mother left behind." Old Madam Yu looked at her granddaughter's terrified expression. All she knew was to eat and drink like a little piglet. She couldn't help but laugh. "You can't reject it. Your mother left behind a lot of assets. Poor me. I'm already so old, but I still have to work for a little debt collector like you. I can't even enjoy a good life."

Back then, why had she handed over the family business to Madam Yang so early on? It was all because Madam Xie had left behind too many assets that she couldn't manage them all, allowing Madam Yang to take advantage of the situation and reap the benefits.

Hence, she could only hand the role of the household manager over to Yang Shuwan and let her mess with her own family to prevent destroying Madam Xie's dowry.

Yao Yao was still young, so the Xie family wouldn't stand by and do nothing about the Xie family's dowry. They would definitely ask about it. When the matter reached the point where the second wife "occupied" the first wife's dowry and tried to seize her "stepdaughter's" assets, not only would the Xie family not let it go, but the Yu family would also lose all face.

Yu Youyao pouted and looked like she was about to break down. "Since Grandmother has already said so, how can I not agree? Sigh, I'm still a half-grown child, but I have to manage things like an adult. It's really unreasonable..."

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she was amused. "It's something that others can't even ask for, yet you still despise it. How did you develop such a big-hearted and indifferent personality?"

Yu Youyao threw herself into her grandmother's arms and wheedled. "Isn't it because I've been spoiled by Grandmother? It's unreasonable for her to criticize me."

Old Madam Yu chuckled. "You're so heartless to make such a mistake after I spoiled you."

Yu Youyao hugged her grandmother and said softly, "Grandmother, you've worked hard."

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she was caught off guard and her eyes welled up with tears. She quickly took her handkerchief and pressed the corners of her eyes, stroking the top of her granddaughter's head with a smile.

After being intimate with each other for a while, Yu Youyao pouted and asked Old Madam Yu to send her and the three boxes of accounts back to the Jade Courtyard.

At noon, Zhou Linghuai left school and came to the Jade Courtyard.

Yu Youyao moved over and sat in front of her cousin, complaining non-stop, "... There are so many big boxes of account books. I feel a headache just looking at them, but I can't continue to let Grandmother work hard. Sigh, I'm still a little young, but I have to worry all day. I wonder if I'll grow taller..."

Zhou Linghuai smiled when he heard this. "They're all old servants who have accompanied your mother in her marriage. Old Madam has been in charge for so many years, but nothing has happened. It's obvious that they're all capable people. Your own people are more convenient to use than the people in the residence."

Yu Youyao also felt that it made sense, so she felt a little relieved. "That's true. They can take care of the dowry businesses. I don't have to worry too much. In any case, those who came with my mother all had contracts and sold their bodies. In addition, the Xie family often takes care of them, so those people wouldn't dare to be disloyal."

Grandmother was probably thinking the same since she was willing to let her manage so many properties herself.

Zhou Linghuai nodded.

There were so many businesses she didn't have to worry about, but she couldn't just leave them to others to manage. Yu Youyao rolled her eyes. "Tomorrow, I'll also meet the managers of the manor and choose a few more capable ones to work for me. That way, I can implement the new rules that the residence previously implemented. This way, I'll really be less worried."

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. No matter what the little girl did, she always wanted to avoid it.

Others only thought that she was smart and learned everything quickly.

#### Chapter 159 - 159 Handing Over the Right to Manage the House

However, she did not know that when her laziness acted up, she would work hard and learn wholeheartedly. If she learned well and learned quickly, wouldn't she have time to hide and play?

Yu Youyao squatted in front of her cousin and tugged at his sleeve. "Cousin, do you still have anyone capable in the Zhou family? Lend me a few. Once the new rules are implemented, there will be roles available."

Zhou Linghuai was stunned when he heard this. Then, he understood.

The young lady had seen that Nanny Lu and the others were in dire straits and were not doing well in the manor, but it was not appropriate for her to arrange for all the old servants of the Zhou family to be sent to the residence. She wanted to arrange for them to be sent to her mother's dowry business as it would be justifiable.

Yu Youyao pouted. "The people in Cousin's family are much more capable than the people in the residence. Nanny Lu has just entered the residence, but I think the Green House is different. It would be a pity not to have such capable people."

Even though he knew that the little girl was pure and young, Zhou Linghuai's heart still trembled. "Alright, I'll send a letter tomorrow and get a few capable people to come over. You can look after them."



He indeed had many capable people under him. Since the little girl wanted to use them, he would naturally let her use them.

With the help of these people, the young lady was also in charge of her mother's dowry but she wasn't too tired.

Old Madam did not want to encourage the young lady's delicate and lazy personality.

However, she did not want the little girl to work too hard.

Yang Shuwan took the household manager's key and returned to the main courtyard. She called over a person she used in the past and put on a show.

After that, she invited Nanny Li over to do the handover and summoned the servants to the main courtyard.

Not long after, everyone knew that Eldest Madam had recovered and was about to take charge of the household again.

As Yang Shuwan took the list of servants, she put on the airs of a mistress of the household. "I was sick for a few days previously, and Eldest Miss was the one in charge of the household. Eldest Miss is young and inexperienced. She hasn't been in charge of the household in the past. Fortunately, everything in the household is the same as before. You guys have done your best, and the residence has been stable recently."

Nanny Liu, who was sitting at the side with a smile, had a glint in her eyes.

These words were really interesting. There was a clear meaning behind them—

Eldest Miss had been managing the house for more than half a month and she had to rely on past practices to manage the servants and the house well.

Eldest Madam had been in charge of the family for many years, and many of the customs only existed after she had taken charge of the family. It was also because she had managed the family well in the past, and the servants were capable and hardworking that this family was stable.

She was just short of saying that it was all her own effort for managing the household well. It had nothing to do with Eldest Miss.

Wasn't it embarrassing?

The servants looked down and stood obediently, making Yang Shuwan very satisfied. As for what they were thinking, only they knew.

Yang Shuwan was proud of her authority and aura as the mistress of the household. She felt that she had been in charge of the household for many years and had accumulated authority in the family. Even if Yu Youyao was the household manager for the time being, she could not surpass her.

Hence, she changed the topic and said, "Yao Yao is still young. She has to learn the rules from the nannies and go to school to help manage the household. Now that I've recovered from my illness, I can't continue to slack off. It's been hard on Yao Yao. Old Madam has the same intention and the butler's key was handed back to me."

As soon as she finished speaking, a few people immediately smiled and said, "Yes!"

With someone taking the lead, the others naturally replied obediently, “Yes!”

Yang Shuwan was very satisfied. The few people in the lead were the ones she had seen just now. “Since I’m in charge of the family again, all the rules in the family should be done according to my previous arrangements. New rules...”

There was an uproar below.

During this period of time, they had indeed felt the benefits of the new rules.

The stewards did not make things difficult for them. Everyone did their best, and no one slacked off. Things were also easier than before. The new rules also clearly stated that the best servants in the residence would be selected every month to receive rewards.

Everyone was also working hard.

However, now that First Madam was in charge, they had to return to the original state? What should they do?

Immediately, someone questioned her.

“Wasn’t the new rule implemented with Old Madam’s approval? Why is it being reverted?”

“I think the new rules are quite good. During this period of time, there have been no mistakes in the residence, and everyone has been working more diligently than before...”

“That’s right. In the past, the rules of the residence were all decided by the stewards. The work was also arranged by the stewards. There were always some people who cheated and used money to bribe the stewards. The stewards would distribute the light work to them. If it was dirty and tiring, it would all be our work. Ever since the new rules of the residence came out, there were some who liked to cheat and play tricks. However, they were reported to Nanny Liu. She investigated carefully and those people were punished with a cut in pay and a beating. They no longer dared to slack off.”

Everyone was discussing how good Yu Youyao’s new rules were. In that case, wouldn’t it mean that her management was inferior to Yu Youyao?

Yang Shuwan didn’t really want to abolish the new rules in the residence. How could she change the rules so easily? She just wanted to use this as an excuse to lay out her own rules so that the residence wouldn’t follow Yu Youyao’s new rules. How could she, the mistress of the household, follow what Yu Youyao newly implemented?

What would that say about her authority?

Nanny Liu sat and said nothing.

“All of you, shut up.” Yang Shuwan’s face was ashen. She couldn’t help but slam the table. “Master didn’t ask you to open your mouths. Who are you to speak?”

The scene suddenly fell so silent that one could hear a pin drop.

Yang Shuwan said coldly, “You guys are so unruly. It’s obvious that Eldest Miss is kind and benevolent. You have no respect for your superiors and don’t respect your masters by still following Eldest Miss’s rules. What have you become?”

As soon as she said this, an old woman was unhappy. “Eldest Madam, what are you saying? Eldest Miss is kind and generous, but she also rewards and punishes clearly. The stewards have never made a mistake during this period. I, an old woman, have been serving this household since my grandfather’s generation, but I won’t submit to anyone except Eldest Miss.”

These words were really a slap to Yang Shuwan’s face. She was clearly saying that she was not as good as a half-grown child like Yu Youyao as a household manager. Yang Shuwan was so angry that she wanted to call someone over and slap her thirty times.

However, she endured it.

She recognized this old woman.

It was an old maidservant who had been guarding the back door for three generations. Old Madam trusted her, so she had handed over the important and light task of guarding the back door to her.

Old Madam Ma clicked her tongue. “The new rules have been approved by Old Madam, and the announcement in the residence has been written clearly. It has even been stamped with the residence’s seal, and even Master has no objections. How can it be changed so easily? Where will the dignity of the residence go? Eldest Miss is young and inexperienced, but she is a child of the family and is loyal to the main family. I can’t let the dignity of the residence be ignored because of Madam’s wishes.”

Chapter 160 - 160 What Are You Doing?

With someone taking the lead, the servants became bolder and chimed in.

“That’s right. If the rules can be easily changed, what’s there to be dignified about...”

“First Madam is too rash...”

“At the very least, we have to discuss a protocol with the stewards. After that, we’ll report it to Old Madam and let her decide. How can it be decided with just a word from First Madam?”

“Back then, when Eldest Miss set up the new rules, she also made the rules first. After receiving the approval of the stewards, she asked Old Madam for permission to implement them.

“Even if First Madam is in charge again, she can’t be so reckless.”

Hearing these dog slaves call her “First Madam” and Yu Youyao “Eldest Miss”, it was as if they were doing a comparison.

Seeing that Yang Shuwan was trembling with anger, Nanny Li knew that something was wrong. She hurriedly took a step forward and shouted, “How can you interrupt when Eldest Madam is talking? Hurry up and...”

Unfortunately, it was useless.

In the past, Yu Youyao was in charge of the submissive and obedient slaves for more than half a month. They all became accustomed to her and respected her.

Yang Shuwan was also furious. She immediately pointed at Old Madam Ma. “You old woman, you keep talking about your third generation servants. Which servant in this world talks back to their master like you? I’m afraid you’re relying on your relationship with the residence as the third generation of servants to take advantage of your status and not take your master seriously. If I don’t punish you today, won’t everyone in the residence learn from you in the future?”

After saying that, she turned around and instructed Nanny Li, “Go, slap her 20 times so that she can remember who’s the master and who’s the slave in this residence!”

It had been a day since she had regained control of the household, so how could she let these servants climb all over her? She naturally had to punish someone and show off her authority as the mistress of the household.

Hence, she punished the old servant whose family had served for three generations to establish her authority.

Nanny Li agreed and took a step forward, reaching out to slap Old Madam Ma.

Old Madam Ma was not someone to be trifled with. She sat on the ground and slapped her thigh as she wailed, “This is bad. First Madam is going to hit someone. First Madam is going to hit someone...”

Nanny Li’s raised hand froze. She didn’t know whether to hit her or not. She turned to look at First Madam.

Yang Shuwan, who was still feeling smug, was stunned by Old Madam Ma’s earth-shattering shout.

Old Madam Ma was crying profusely. “It’s really unreasonable. During the past few days when First Madam was recuperating, Eldest Miss often told us that First Madam fell sick because she worked too hard regarding the matters in the residence. She told us to work hard and not let anything go wrong. If anything goes wrong and First Madam worries, she won’t even be able to recover...”

“During this period of time, we’ve been doing our best. For a long time, there haven’t been any mistakes in the residence. However, when it comes to First Madam, we’re the ones who don’t have any rules. We have no respect for our superiors, and us servants are bullying our masters. Even if First Madam is the master, she can’t be like this. It’ll disappoint us servants...”

Old Madam Ma’s cries were shrill, but it also made the servants present feel sad and angry.

In the past few days, Eldest Miss had never troubled the servants. Even when she dealt with Mother Yang and Zhou Yongchang previously, it was because they made a mistake.

But what about First Madam? On the first day after she regained control of the family, she started putting on airs without even asking about what had happened in the residence recently.

Wouldn't they be disappointed?

"Shut up." Yang Shuwan gritted her teeth and grabbed the teacup in front of her. With a clang, it hit the ground, and fragments flew everywhere, splashing onto Old Madam Ma's face.

"Ah..." Old Madam Ma cried out in pain. She covered her face and howled even louder. "Oh, it hurts so much. First Madam doesn't know how to judge people..."

Yang Shuwan was also shocked. She was so angry that she smashed a teacup. Unexpectedly, these fragments did not have eyes and splashed all over Old Madam Ma's face, injuring her.

This scene further agitated many people. "First Madam doesn't have the final say in the residence's rules. First Madam can't punish others because of a disagreement, and she even threw a teacup at someone's face. It's really unreasonable. We'll go look for Old Madam to reason it out. If it doesn't work, there's still Eldest Master in the residence..."

"Yes, look for Old Madam..."

"To the Old Madam's house..."

This commotion caused Yang Shuwan to panic completely. She subconsciously glanced at Nanny Liu. This old thing had helped Old Madam manage the house for most of her life, but the servants were willing to listen to her.

However, Nanny Liu lowered her eyes and pretended not to see Yang Shuwan's gaze.

Yang Shuwan was so angry that her mouth twisted. Seeing that the servants were really about to enter Old Madam's house, she was shocked and furious. "What are you doing? Stop right there. Do you still have any respect for me, the mistress of the household..."

The servants gathered to cause trouble. This was something that could not be found in the entire capital.

If she really allowed it, where would her dignity as the mistress of the household go?

All her pride would be lost!

How was she going to live in the residence in the future?

If news of this got out, everyone would probably know that Eldest Madam Yang did not manage the household well. If a fire broke out in the Yu Residence, how could she still have the face to go out? She would probably be laughed at by Master.

Where was Master's dignity and face?

Where was the reputation of the Yu Residence?

Master had also been dissatisfied with her recently. She had been recuperating for a few days, but Master had never visited her in the main courtyard.

Fortunately, Concubine He was still grounded and the guards had locked her door. Otherwise, Master would have spent all his time with that slut.

It was also because she had acted humbly to please him and mentioned their loving relationship from time to time that Master had thought of the past and put more heart into their relationship.

However, she couldn't possibly lower herself and apologize to these lowly servants!

Yang Shuwan's mind raced, and she quickly gave Nanny Li a look.

Nanny Li understood and hurriedly stepped forward to stop them. "How can you make a fuss in front of Old Madam? Old Madam is old and wants peace in the house. You're not taking her seriously by making such a fuss."

There were also a few people who used to be Yang Shuwan's capable subordinates. They also stepped forward to help. "Nanny Li is right. First Madam has been sick for a few days. It's the first day of her being in charge again. Let's talk slowly..."

The courtyard was in a mess.

At this moment, an old but dignified voice suddenly came from the moon door. "What's going on?"

The scene immediately turned solemn.

Everyone looked at the door and did not dare to continue making a fuss. They quickly retreated to the sides and bowed. "Old Madam!"

Outside the Moon Gate, Old Madam Yu's face darkened as she let Yu Youyao help her into the courtyard.