

All Hail 261

Chapter 261 - 261 Don't Blame Others If You Don't Respect Yourself

She was just short of saying that Yu Youyao was ill-mannered.

Initially, she did not want to bother with Fifth Miss Lu from the Marquis of Weining's Residence. However, this Fifth Miss Lu was in a hurry to make her presence known, and it was very annoying.

Only then did Yu Youyao look up at Lu Mingyao. "Fifth Miss Lu is two years older than me. She also has a reputation for talent and virtue in the capital."

As soon as she heard this, Lu Mingyao's eyelids couldn't help but twitch. She had a bad feeling. Then, she heard Yu Youyao say in a gentle voice,

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"Please forgive me for being ignorant, but I didn't know that the word 'education' had such a severity. I've learned from the teachings of my elementary school, such as 'Internal Training', 'Lessons for Women', 'Biographies of Exemplary Women', and 'Home Training'. As a woman with 'education', I've learned something today."

Lu Mingyao held her breath.

Yu Youyao did not say explicitly that she did not have any upbringing, but it was obvious from her words. Needless to say, she would not be able to escape if she said that she did not have any seriousness. This way, her so-called reputation for talent and virtue would become undeserved.

To destroy a person, it was better to expose and condemn their motives and thoughts.

Only at this moment did she suddenly realize how powerful Yu Youyao was.

She was the most gentle person when she smiled, but she was still smiling when she was told that she had no upbringing.

When she spoke, she was neither fast nor slow, but her words were like a soft knife entering and out of her. However, she could not even refute and could only accept it obediently.

At the side, Cao Yingxue thought about how she had actually let Yu Youyao splash tea all over her face. How could she tolerate such humiliation? She waved away the handkerchief that the maidservant had handed over and pointed at Yu Youyao in exasperation. She screamed, "Yu Youyao, you ill-mannered thing. You splashed tea all over my face and even accused me of being rude..."

Yu Youyao looked at Cao Yingxue. "Seventh Miss Cao is a noble lady from a prestigious family. Since she was young, she has been familiar with all kinds of dogmatic norms. In the Book of the Later Han, Biographies of Exemplary Women and Cao Shi's Uncle's Wife, it was said that, "If you can choose your words, don't say evil words. Wise women do not spread hate on others."

“You...” Cao Yingxue’s eyes widened in shock. All her unwillingness and resentment were stopped by Yu Youyao’s words. For a moment, she froze on the spot, her eyes red.

The scene was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

The young misses, who had originally wanted to help, were so stunned by this sentence that they did not dare to open their mouths.

Which wealthy family didn’t value teaching?

Which young miss hadn’t been familiar with all kinds of teachings since she was young?

These teachings were the only criteria to show if the young misses were well-mannered but it was very different when one of these growing children talked about it.

Yu Youyao chuckled. “The eleventh chapter of ‘Women’s Analects’ is about being gentle. Smile when having tea and water. Talk if you have something to say and act if you have something to do. If you’re idle, you won’t make it far. Don’t learn from foolish women and not understand the root cause. Obscene words and insults will provoke rather than gain respect. I advise women to think before they act.”

As she said this, a faint smile appeared on her lips. It was like a cold wind that blew through a pool of water, revealing traces of coldness. In Cao Yingxue’s eyes, it also revealed a hint of disdain. Her gaze was filled with shame and anger.

Cao Yingxue’s breathing suddenly became rapid. Her chest rose and fell as she opened her mouth. “Shut...”

Before she could say the word “up,” Yu Youyao’s bright lips opened again, and they were so bright that they hurt Cao Yingxue’s eyes. “The ‘Lessons for Women of the Li Family’ states that we should keep love in our hearts, and speak to communicate. The speaker is a cardinal of honor and disgrace. They can determine whether people will be close or estranged. They can also separate or unite differences, cause grievances or revive resentment. Therefore, a virtuous woman should be careful with her words for the fear of slandering otherwise. She should do this regardless of whether she is in front of the Emperor or in a leisurely place. When she hears other people’s words of flattery, she should be indifferent. She shouldn’t be involved in gossip, teasing, spreading hate or doing anything suspicious.”

“Lessons for Women of the Li Family” was a must for women.

Cao Yingxue held her breath and opened her mouth, but she couldn’t say a word. Her angry face turned red bit by bit as Yu Youyao spoke slowly, and her eyes were burning.

Yu Jianjia slowly lowered her head, her eyelashes trembling slightly. Her thick and long eyelashes lowered slightly, covering the darkness in her eyes.

Yu Youyao was really smart. She had been criticized for being ill-mannered. She did not argue, but she was trying to save face in a roundabout way, using the style of a woman. Any young miss who had been taught the style of a woman did not dare to easily argue with her, afraid that they would become ill-mannered.

This way, no one present dared to say that Yu Youyao was ill-mannered anymore. Those who had said that Yu Youyao was ill-mannered previously had really become ill-mannered.

There were four imperatives of a woman: women's virtue, women's speech, women's appearance, and women's merit.

Just now, when they had mocked Yu Youyao's actions, they had also violated the virtues of a woman.

Yu Youyao looked at Cao Yingxue with a burning gaze. "The 'Lessons for Women' states that anyone who is a woman should be sensible, gentle, elegant and have the four virtues and three subserviences... Their words should be solemn, and their actions should be limited. A woman should avoid private conversations and be quiet. She should have a deep heart and look peaceful." At this point, she smiled lightly and asked slowly, "I'm a bereaved eldest daughter. I'm not as well-mannered as Seventh Miss Cao. I'm afraid that others will think that I'm ill-mannered, so I've read a few more books since I was young. I wonder if I'm right?"

'Lessons for Women', 'The Analects of Women', 'Biographies of Exemplary Women', and 'Home Training' were all teachings that daughters of wealthy families had to learn at the age of seven. It was also a necessary standard to measure the upbringing of a young lady.

Even though Yu Youyao was the eldest daughter of a widow, she was still able to grasp these teachings so easily. It was obvious that she had been well-mannered at home.

In comparison, they had been taught by their mother since they were young but were inferior to her, the eldest daughter of a widow.

No one present was a fool. How could they not hear this?

However, Yu Youyao did not say this directly. Instead, she struck her with a soft knife and pulled out with a hard knife. No one present dared to refute her. Wouldn't they be aggrieved and dare to be angry but not dare to say anything?

Otherwise, wouldn't they become someone who had no upbringing?

Cao Yingxue was so angry that she was trembling. Her chest kept rising and falling, and her breathing was cold as she glared at Yu Youyao.

In her fierce eyes, Yu Youyao's bright figure was like a parasol tree in the Marquis of Changxing's Residence, exuding a majestic and unshakable aura. In particular, her eyes were beautiful and expensive, and were shockingly bright. Just looking at them made her feel very intimidating, so she did not dare to meet her gaze, afraid that she would be intimidated.

Chapter 262 - 262 Marquis of Changxing's Residence

Yu Youyao's gaze was indifferent as she scanned her surroundings. Her gentle and smiling voice suddenly faded. "All the young misses here are from reputable families. They've been well-mannered since they were young. Whether I'm well-mannered or not, my elders will comment on it. I won't admit it even if all the young misses say it."

All the young misses looked at each other, unable to hide the awkwardness on their faces. They were all young ladies and rarely went out. Those with thin skin even blushed on the spot and covered their faces with their handkerchiefs, not daring to look up.

Previously, when Seventh Miss Cao had criticized Yu Youyao, they had often helped to speak up for her. They had only thought that Seventh Miss Cao's status was important, so they had the intention to build a relationship with her. It was inevitable that they would welcome her. Unexpectedly, Yu Youyao was not an easily bullied person.

After this commotion, they became the ones who had no upbringing.

However, Yu Youyao was very smart. Even if she said that someone wasn't well-mannered, she wasn't as straightforward as Seventh Miss Cao. She was caught off guard and directly retorted with the style of a woman, making everyone speechless.

Yu Youyao sucked on a flower, looking extremely bright. "This is the first time I've seen someone rushing to embarrass themselves."

"Yu Youyao, I'm the Seventh Miss of the Marquis of Changxing. How dare you scold me..." Cao Yingxue screamed, her mind exploding. She was about to rush forward...

She was wearing a dress that reached the ground today, and the side of the dress landed lightly on the ground.

When she walked, the hem of her dress fluttered gently, making her look even more light and noble. When she sat, her water-like cloud silk dress was piled up at her feet, looking as beautiful as a flower.

She had finally shown her character.

Such a dress was beautiful, but it also tested one's bearing and behavior. One had to be especially careful.

However, at this moment, how could Cao Yingxue still remember her manners?

Her eyes were focused on Yu Youyao's delicate face and calm demeanor. When she thought about how she had been splashed with tea and how she had been accused of being "uneducated", she wished she could slap Yu Youyao's face until her mouth was crooked and her face was swollen. Only then could she vent the resentment in her heart.

Unexpectedly, she rushed over in a hurry and stepped on the corner of her dress. Her body staggered, and her eyes widened in fear as she screamed, "Ah, ah..."

"Be careful..." Lu Mingyao was shocked and subconsciously pulled Cao Yingxue back.

But it was too late!

"Ah, ah—" Cao Yingxue screamed as her body fell forward. Even Lu Mingyao, who was pulling her, staggered. Her face turned white in shock as she frantically tugged at Yu Jianjia's sleeve.

Yu Jianjia couldn't dodge in time. When Lu Mingyao pulled her, her body immediately tilted. Her jade-soled shoes slid forward, and she heard a cracking sound from her ankle. There was a sharp pain in her ankle, causing her eyes to turn red and her face to turn as pale as paper.

With a bang, the three of them fell into a pile.

The change happened in a flash, catching everyone present off guard.

Yu Youyao was also dumbfounded. For some reason, she felt that this scene was...

Very funny!

Yu Shuangbai, Qi Sinian, and Song Wanhui were also dumbfounded. Just now, they had arrogantly mocked Yu Youyao for not having any upbringing and wanted to embarrass her.

Unexpectedly, it had only been a short while, but they had already fallen into a pile. They were the ones who had embarrassed themselves. They were really a joke.

Wasn't it poisonous?

The maidservants standing outside the pavilion were also stunned by this change. They were stunned for a short while before they snapped out of their daze. They hurriedly ran into the pavilion and helped the young misses up.

"It hurts..." Cao Yingxue fell the hardest. Her forehead was red, and it would swell up in a while. Not only that, but she also felt a headache, a pain in her hands, a pain in her waist, a pain in her legs, and a pain in her entire body.

Cao Yingxue was in pain and anger. Her liver and lungs were about to explode, and her eyes were turning black.

It was all because of that b*tch, Yu Youyao!

How hateful!

The corners of Lu Mingyao's mouth were also red and throbbing with pain. She lowered her head and covered her mouth with a handkerchief, not daring to be seen. However, she was furious.

She had been a precious young miss since she was young. No matter where she went, she would be flattered. When had she ever been in such a sorry state?

She had never suffered such humiliation before.

Yu Jianjia wasn't any better. Although her face wasn't injured, she had sprained her ankle and was in great pain. As soon as she stood up, it hurt so much that she almost couldn't breathe. The blood drained from her pale face, and even her forehead was covered in sweat.

She bit her lip and stood there trembling like a flower. Her weak and pitiful posture was really pitiful.

At this moment, the madams had finished watching the show. They surrounded the Marquis of Weining's wife and the Marquis of Changxing's wife and came over majestically to admire the flowers. At a glance, they saw that the atmosphere in the octagonal pavilion was amiss.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife's eyes flashed.

The residence had originally wanted to ask the Empress Dowager for Nanny Xu to enter the residence and teach Seventh Miss the rules. Who knew that the Empress Dowager would not agree? Later, when Nanny Xu left the palace, she wanted to invite her into the residence, but the Yu Residence beat her to it.

How could Seventh Miss be happy when she found out about this?

Hence, she vented her anger on Eldest Miss Yu.

It did not matter if the most important family in the Marquis of Changxing's Residence invited Eldest Miss Yu over and asked Yingxue to make things difficult for her and teach her a lesson so that Seventh Miss could vent her anger.

However, since they had already come this far and something had happened in the octagonal pavilion, she couldn't ignore it. The Marquis of Changxing's wife was the first to walk into the pavilion. Before she could react...

Cao Yingxue threw herself into the arms of the Marquis of Changxing's wife and cried aggrievedly. "Mother, Eldest Miss Yu is really too ill-mannered. How can she splash tea on someone's face after just a few words? She even caused someone to fall. Boohoo, Mother, it hurts so much. I've never been so embarrassed in my life. Boohoo, I don't want to live anymore..."

Not only was her daughter's forehead swollen, but the hairpin on her head was also loose and messy. She looked miserable.

Instantly, there was nothing she didn't understand.

Yingxue had failed to make things difficult for her. Instead, she had suffered a loss, and accused Yu Youyao of starting it.

However, the madams did not expect that such a thing would happen in the octagonal pavilion while they were watching a show. Their expressions darkened.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife stroked Cao Yingxue's back, and her warm smile faded. Her expression turned cold bit by bit. "Eldest Miss Yu, what's going on?"

Yu Youyao stood at the side, her face pale. Her eyes were red, and tears flowed silently. Her thin figure trembled slightly, making her look small and pitiful.

Without waiting for her to speak, Yang Shuwan acted like a kind mother and quickly said, "Madam, it's my Eldest Miss's fault in this matter. My family usually indulges her a little..."

Chapter 263 - 263 No Upbringing

Madam Yao gritted her teeth and interrupted Yang Shuwan. She said to the Marquis of Changxing's wife, "Madam, don't be angry yet. If this is really Eldest Miss's fault, we definitely have to give Seventh Miss Cao an explanation."

Seventh Miss Cao was in a sorry state, but Yao Yao was also crying. She hadn't even interrogated clearly, so she wasn't in a hurry to admit her mistake on behalf of her stepdaughter.

Was there such a stepmother?

Was there such a mistress?

The Marquis of Changxing's wife frowned and said nothing.

It was obvious that she was very unhappy.

Yang Shuwan was also unhappy to be interrupted, so she held Yu Youyao's hand with a kind mother's heart. "Yao Yao, what happened just now? Why did you cause trouble with Seventh Miss Cao out of the blue?"

"I..." Yu Youyao opened her mouth, wanting to explain...

Without giving Yu Youyao a chance to speak, Yang Shuwan continued, "I've seen Seventh Miss Cao a few times in the past. She's a polite and kind person. You're a guest, so she has to entertain you carefully. Even if there's any misunderstanding, you should make it clear. How can you cause trouble with others? Don't let others laugh at our family for being unruly and ill-mannered because of you."

At this point, Yang Shuwan held Yu Youyao's hand tightly and said gently, "Quickly apologize to Seventh Miss Cao. The Marquis of Changxing's wife is a magnanimous person, and Seventh Miss Cao is also kind. She definitely won't hold it against you."

Every word and sentence was meant to persuade her, showing her magnanimity. However, after thinking about it carefully, it also expressed that all of this was Yu Youyao's fault.

Seventh Miss Cao was polite and kind, so the one in the wrong was Yu Youyao. She was just short of pointing at Yu Youyao's nose and saying that she was delicate and unrestrained, causing trouble in someone else's house.

Yu Youyao sobbed softly. "I didn't. It was Seventh Miss Cao who..."

Yang Shuwan interrupted her and said gently, "Don't cry anymore, lest your eyes hurt from crying. When the sisters play together, it's inevitable that there will be some quarrels. Even if there's a misunderstanding, I'll bring you to the Marquis of Changxing's wife to explain it and you can apologize to Seventh Miss Cao. Then, everything will be fine. I also know that this is your first time outside, so it's inevitable that there will be some rudeness. You're young, so I won't blame you."

Not only was her stepmother not harsh at all when her stepdaughter made a mistake, but she also persuaded her gently to stand up for her stepdaughter. It was obvious that she was a magnanimous and polite person.

Back then, after Eldest Madam Xie passed away, Old Madam Yu's health was not good, and the children in the family were still in their infancy. Eldest Madam Xie's funeral was imminent, and there were thousands of things going on in the family, but no one was taking care of it. Such a virtuous personality was indeed worthy of Eldest Master Yu. Within a hundred days after Madam Xie's death, she risked her reputation to marry someone into the family to be a second wife.

Everyone present had different thoughts.

However, Madam Yao almost fainted. She glanced at Yang Shuwan coldly. "Even if there's anything, we have to wait for Yao Yao to explain it clearly. If someone doesn't know better, they'll

think that you're rushing to push the blame to your stepdaughter, not even giving her a chance to explain."

Yang Shuwan put on an expression of worry for her stepdaughter and a kind mother. However, when she occasionally looked at Yu Youyao, her eyes revealed a gloating expression. She really looked down on her.

She had never seen someone tear down their own family's stage to support another family. How shameless.

However, Yang Shuwan was a mother. How could she, as an aunt, surpass her stepmother?

Yang Shuwan was not angry. She said gently, "I also saw that not only was Miss Cao splashed with tea, but she was also injured from the fall. She's really pitiful."

Madam Yao was furious. Could it be that you only think that other people's daughters are pitiful, but you can't see that your stepdaughter is crying?

As expected!

With Yang Shuwan's words, the Marquis of Changxing's wife's arrogance increased. She looked at Yu Youyao—

"Your mother is right. It's also because the Marquis of Changxing's Residence didn't entertain her well and made Eldest Miss Yu suffer. However, Eldest Miss Yu, please tell me what happened just now. This incident of splashing tea and causing someone to fall isn't something a well-mannered young miss of a prominent family would do."

With her mother's support, Cao Yingxue's eyes were red from crying. She couldn't help but look at Yu Youyao smugly, her eyes filled with arrogance.

When the Marquis of Weining's wife saw the obvious redness at the corner of Lu Mingyao's mouth, her eyes turned cold. "I've known Yingxue since she was a child and watched her grow up. She's a polite child. Why is she causing trouble with Eldest Miss Yu? Is there a misunderstanding?"

Since she had spoken, the other madams who were on good terms with the two of them or wanted to befriend them quickly chimed in.

"It's inevitable that there will be some friction when the sisters play together. How can it be so serious? They really don't know the severity of the matter..."

"Tsk ts, look at Seventh Miss Cao's pitiful appearance. I can tell what kind of spoiled personality Eldest Miss Yu has. She's really uneducated..."

"Isn't that so? This eldest daughter of a widow has never been taught by her mother since she was young. How would she have any good upbringing..."

Every word and sentence was filled with Yu Youyao's pettiness, insensibility, and lack of upbringing. Cao Yingxue looked smug, and even her eyebrows were raised.

Whether Yu Youyao was well-mannered or not was not up to the young misses.

The elders present had the final say.

Just now, Yu Youyao had been glib-tongued and refuted her with etiquette. Now, she wanted to see how Yu Youyao would defend herself.

Hmph!

Yu Youyao was also very stupid. She did not even think about it. The Marquis of Changxing's Residence had a huge army, and her sister, Concubine Zhuang, was favored by the emperor. Her father had contributed greatly to guarding Youzhou and had even won a battle. He also had the backing of the Marquis of Weining's Residence and Imperial Consort Lu.

She was a noble lady who had been waiting in the capital for a long time. Even those imperial daughters had to give her some face when they saw her. How could Yu Youyao, the eldest daughter of a widow, afford to offend her?

She was going to teach her a lesson today!

The whispers and pointed fingers around her stunned Yu Youyao. Her thin body couldn't help but tremble slightly, as if she hadn't expected things to develop to this point.

Yu Jianjia lowered her head and lifted the corner of her dress slightly, revealing her shoes.

The light green embroidered shoes were inlaid with pink pearls. They looked exquisite and beautiful. When she walked with the jade-soled shoes, they made a soft clanging sound. Coupled with the moonlight dress, they looked even more elegant.

However, at this moment, her right foot was swollen, distorting the exquisite shoe. The excruciating pain in her ankle bone made her breathing quicken.

Thinking of how she had fallen and sprained her ankle just now, Yu Jianjia couldn't help but glance at Yu Youyao. Seeing that her small body was trembling from crying, she lowered her head again.

Yu Youyao's reputation for being ill-mannered had spread in front of all the madams and young misses. Once she left the Marquis of Changxing's Residence, everyone in the capital should know about it.

Her reputation was ruined, and it was time for her life to be ruined.

Even if Nanny Xu taught her some impressive skills, what was the use of having such an envious background?

From now on, she could only be matched with a poor family, and she would not be able to raise her head as a human.

Chapter 264 - 264 Her Scheme Was Not In Vain

Madam Yao was furious when she heard all the madams talking at once.

The Marquis of Changxing had been guarding Youzhou for three years, but he had already become arrogant. After winning the battle, he had already become arrogant before the reward from the Imperial Court was even given.

Yu Shuangbai couldn't take it anymore and said angrily, "It's clearly Seventh Miss Cao who bullied her. Eldest Sister and Sixth Sister Qi were playing chess in the octagonal pavilion, while Third Sister Song and I were watching from the side." As she spoke, she glared fiercely at Yu Jianjia, who

was standing at the side with her eyes lowered, as if this person didn't exist. "Third Sister inexplicably brought Fifth Miss Lu and Seventh Miss Cao over to get to know each other. Eldest Sister bowed to them, but all of them had their eyes wide open and didn't even return the greeting. It's as if my Eldest Sister was in a hurry to befriend them."

Yu Jianjia felt dizzy, and her thin body trembled. Even her eyes turned red. "I-I didn't mean anything else. I just wanted to introduce..."

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Madam Yao glanced at her coldly.

Second Aunt's gaze was terrifyingly sharp. Yu Jianjia was shocked and did not dare to continue. There was no need to!

Even if Yu Shuangbai jumped out to stand up for Yu Youyao, what was the use?

The person Yu Youyao had offended was Seventh Miss Cao. If the Marquis of Changxing's wife wanted to teach Yu Youyao a lesson and avenge her daughter, how could Yu Youyao hide?

This way, her ankle wouldn't have been twisted in vain!

Yang Shuwan pulled Yu Jianjia behind her and hurriedly said, "Jia Jia has a gentle and kind personality. She's just being kind..."

Yu Jianjia was caught off guard and staggered. Her feet hurt, and she almost fell again. Fortunately, Hui Xiang caught her and stabilized her. However, her feet hurt so much that she couldn't even stand steadily. She could only lean against Hui Xiang and hold back her cries.

Yu Shuangbai started crying. "Seventh Miss Cao wanted to hold a poetry recital and asked Eldest Sister to join her. Eldest Sister repeatedly said that she wasn't proficient in poetry, but Seventh Miss Cao refused to give in and forced Eldest Sister to join her. She said that Eldest Sister had no mother since she was young and was taught by a servant. As a result, she was different from them and couldn't compare to them."

Madam Yao gasped. It was really serious.

The other madams also took a deep breath.

She turned to look at Eldest Miss Yu. She was a young lady and a skinny little girl. She stood alone at the side. Even when she cried, she only whimpered softly. Her small shoulders trembled, but she was extremely sad.

She was unlike the other daughters who would definitely cry in front of their elders when they had suffered a little.

She looked really sad.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife knew that something was amiss. She glanced coldly at Cao Yingxue, who was standing beside her. Seeing that she had lowered her head and shrunk her neck, she knew that Second Miss Yu was not lying.

Yu Shuangbai glared at Cao Yingxue angrily. "Also, Seventh Miss Cao fell down on her own just now. How can you blame it on my big sister..."

“You.” Cao Yingxue stomped her foot and stretched out a fair finger, pointing at her arrogantly and angrily. “That Yu Youyao splashed tea on my face. That’s the truth, right?!”

Yu Shuangbai wanted to say, “You deserved it!”

However, she was pulled back by Yu Youyao. Yu Youyao cried and said, “Seventh Miss Cao, you don’t know this. I’ve never had a mother since I was young. Every time someone mentions this, I feel terrible. For a moment, I was in a daze and accidentally spilled the tea. I didn’t know that it was splashed on Seventh Miss Cao’s face. I’ve really let you down...”

It was so quiet that one could hear the ground—

The young misses of wealthy families had been taught from a young age not to scold others or expose others’ shortcomings. This was the upbringing that noble ladies should have.

However, Cao Yingxue did both.

First Madam Xie was a deceased person and an elder. How could juniors like them insult her? She had even humiliated Yu Youyao’s mother.

It was also a fact that Yu Youyao had lost her mother.

However, she was invited by the Marquis of Changxing’s Residence. How could she humiliate her like this? Cao Yingxue exposing her shortcomings in front of everyone was unreasonable to anyone. It would definitely make people feel that she was unruly, ill-mannered, and rude.

Even if someone splashed tea on her face, she deserved it.

How could the Marquis of Changxing’s wife have expected that this matter would also take a turn? She quickly said, “Yingxue has been pampered by me since she was young, and she speaks without holding back. She didn’t mean to offend Eldest Miss Yu. Eldest Madam Yu, look, the Eldest Miss of your residence has been frightened. Why don’t you get someone to bring her down to wash up first? We can talk later.”

Anything that involved upbringing was not a small matter. She could not continue to cause trouble in public, lest she lost the dignity and face of the Marquis of Changxing’s Residence, making others feel that the Marquis of Changxing’s Residence was rude.

The residence had spent a lot of effort organizing today’s flower festival. They couldn’t let others cause trouble.

Madam Yao did not say anything and stroked Yu Youyao’s back.

“The Marquis of Changxing’s wife is right.” Yang Shuwan rolled her eyes and moved closer to Yu Youyao. “Yao Yao, don’t cry. You’ll hurt your eyes if you cry. Look at your sorry state...”

As she spoke, she wanted to hold Yu Youyao’s hand.

Yu Jianjia’s feet hurt so much that she gasped and glanced at the Marquis of Changxing’s wife.

So what if Seventh Miss Cao was in the wrong?

It was fine as long as the Marquis of Changxing's wife insisted that the quarrel between the sisters was just a misunderstanding and Seventh Miss Cao did not mean it. She was determined to pursue the matter of Yu Youyao splashing Seventh Miss Cao's tea and causing her to fall. What else could Yu Youyao do?

Even if she was eloquent, so what?

It was just a dying struggle.

Her scheme was not in vain.

Yu Youyao avoided Yang Shuwan's outstretched hand and walked up to the Marquis of Changxing's wife. She bowed and said in a hoarse voice—

"I didn't have a mother since I was young. It was Grandmother who pitied me. I wasn't even a month old when Grandmother brought me to her side to raise me. The Yu Residence is also a scholarly family. My grandmother was a respected madam, and her talent and virtue were praised by the previous Emperor. Seventh Miss Cao insisted that I didn't have good upbringing because I had no mother since I was young, but I refused to acknowledge it."

When the madams present heard this, their expressions immediately turned serious.

When Old Master Yu was still alive, he was a second-rank Imperial Censor of the Imperial Court. The previous emperor valued him very much. Every time he hired someone, he had to invite Old Master Yu into the palace to discuss and ask for advice.

Old Master Yu did not enter the cabinet, but he was a close confidant of the emperor.

When Old Master Yu asked for a conferment for his wife, the former emperor praised, "My beloved minister, you are upright and strict. You have a virtuous wife in the family to manage the house. She is a virtuous person who helps you to be loyal and serve the emperor. She shares the emperor's burdens and contributes to assisting the country."

He was conferred a third-grade title.

This matter was widely spread in the capital.

After Old Master Yu passed away early, Old Madam Yu raised both her sons into important ministers in the court. After her second son, Yu Zongshen, entered the cabinet, he praised Old Madam Yu's talent and virtue. "Your mother's virtue is clear. She's a model wife."

She had also made an exception and mentioned that Old Madam Yu had received a second-grade promotion. Even the Marquis of Weining's wife had received a second-grade promotion.

Chapter 265 - 265 If You Hit a Dog, You Have to Face Its Owner

Eldest Miss Yu had been raised by Old Madam Yu since she was young. She said that Eldest Miss Yu was not well-mannered, so wasn't she saying that Old Madam Yu wasn't well-mannered?

Wouldn't she be doubting the previous emperor?

Eldest Miss Yu did not say anything explicitly, but which Madam present did not know what she meant?

Yu Jianjia's faint smile froze on her face.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife was also stunned!

Yu Youyao said hoarsely, "Seventh Miss Cao has insulted me as the eldest daughter, who has lost her mother. I can't deny it. It's just that my grandmother raised me. I don't want others to misunderstand my grandmother, lest others think that my grandmother didn't raise me well and I tarnished her reputation. I had to get involved with Seventh Miss Cao."

She was just short of saying that by saying she wasn't well-mannered, she meant that Old Madam Yu wasn't well-mannered.

However, Old Madam Yu had been praised by the previous emperor. This made it seem like Seventh Miss Cao was questioning the previous emperor and the current emperor!

Everyone present was silent.

Yu Jianjia was also trembling in fear. She couldn't even care less about the excruciating pain under her feet. She took a step back and went behind Yang Shuwan. She wanted to find a hole to hide from others.

She had never expected that this matter would involve her elders, the Empress Dowager, the late Emperor, and today.

She thought about how she was the one who had led Seventh Miss Cao to Yu Youyao, afraid that someone would implicate her.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife's expression also changed. "Eldest Miss Yu has suffered..."

As soon as she started speaking, Cao Yingxue couldn't sit still anymore. She pointed at Yu Youyao's nose and said angrily, "You're slandering me. When did I implicate your grandmother? Don't even think about using the previous emperor to slander me. I won't admit it." In the end, she still looked righteous and said angrily, "Who gave you the guts to use the previous emperor..."

Yu Shuangbai was furious. "It's a fact that my eldest sister has been raised by my grandmother since she was young. By using my eldest sister's upbringing to criticize her, aren't you questioning my grandmother's upbringing? You're still quibbling. We all have ears, and we're not deaf. It's still considered light to splash tea on your face."

Cao Yingxue immediately felt dizzy. She knew that something bad had happened. "You sisters came together to slander me. I don't accept these words. You..."

"Shut up!" The Marquis of Changxing's wife raised her voice and stopped Cao Yingxue. Her words had already implicated the previous emperor. How could a young lady like her still have the right to speak today?

Cao Yingxue was shocked and hid behind her mother, keeping quiet for a moment.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife's face darkened. She turned to look at Yu Youyao. "Eldest Miss Yu, when the sisters play together, it's inevitable that they'll bump into each other and have some

arguments. She said something rash but didn't mean it. How can anyone implicate someone who was praised by the Emperor? Children really dare to say anything."

She stared at Yu Youyao with a sharp gaze, and even her tone exuded a suffocating pressure.

Then, she changed the topic and her voice softened a little. "But in this matter, it's indeed true that Yingxue misspoken first, but she doesn't have the intention to insult your grandmother. Yingxue's sister has been in the palace since she was young. As her mother, I don't see her many times a year, so I have to dote on her more. Yingxue has been spoiled by me since she was young. I'll get Yingxue to apologize to you later..."

Everyone was just saying that Yu Youyao was insensible. With just a few words, she changed the topic to the previous emperor and even mentioned Concubine Zhuang in the palace.

She was also warning Yu Youyao not to go too far.

Yu Youyao could only use the previous and current emperor to put forth her case. Compared to a favored concubine that was close to the Marquis of Changxing's Residence, anyone knew who was more important.

Yu Jianjia finally heaved a sigh of relief and felt her entire body turn cold.

Only then did she realize that when Yu Youyao had mentioned the previous and current emperor, she had unknowingly broken out in a cold sweat. Now that she had recovered, she felt that her body was soft and she couldn't exert any strength. Even her chest felt suffocated.

However, the older the wiser!

It was impossible for Yu Youyao to control the Marquis of Changxing's wife with just a few words. The Marquis of Changxing's wife was the most noble wife in the capital. What had she not seen?

Yu Youyao's words just now could only scare some inexperienced madams and young misses.

It was really ridiculous!

Yu Youyao would do anything for her reputation.

However, at this point, she should be at her wits' end!

With this in mind, Yu Jianjia looked at Yu Youyao.

Seeing Yu Youyao purse her lips slightly, her pomegranate-red lips looked very fresh and beautiful. "I just want to ask Madam something. Nanny Xu has contributed greatly to serving the Empress Dowager. She has been graced by the Empress Dowager and is a meritorious official. How can Seventh Miss Cao slander a servant like this?"

There was a series of gasps.

At that moment, a few of them lost their balance and almost fell to the ground. Fortunately, the maidservants in front of them supported them to prevent them from losing their composure.

Seventh Miss Cao really spoke without thinking. Eldest Miss Yu was really amazing.

She had just accused Seventh Miss Cao of doubting the previous and current emperor, so that the Marquis of Changxing's wife did not dare to mention her upbringing anymore. She had no choice but to mention Concubine Zhuang to deal with it, hoping to shut Yu Youyao up.

At this moment, she had slapped Cao Yingxue's face again.

However, everything she said made sense.

Nanny Xu was not a slave, but a meritorious servant. She could not be insulted. If this was not disrespectful to the Empress Dowager, what was?

Even if she was a slave, you have to face the owner of a dog if you hit it.

How could this person who had served the Empress Dowager be an ordinary servant?

Moreover, Nanny Xu had only left the palace for two to three months, and she still had some relationship with the Empress Dowager. If news of this reached the palace, the Empress Dowager would definitely ask about it.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife's heart skipped a beat. Her gaze suddenly turned sharp as she stared at Yu Youyao. "Eldest Miss Yu, you can eat whatever you want, but you can't spout nonsense..."

When it came to the former and current emperor, it was just words. The former emperor had passed away, and the current emperor was obsessed with alchemy today. She was not afraid of Imperial Consort Lu who had his special favor.

However, the Empress Dowager was different!

No matter how much Imperial Consort Lu and Concubine Zhuang were doted on, they were still daughters-in-law. Just the word "filial piety" was enough to make one shiver.

It was obvious that Yu Youyao was young and scheming.

A smile appeared on Yu Youyao's lips as she smiled faintly. "Which young lady in the family doesn't have a nanny by her side to teach and guide her? I wonder why Seventh Miss Cao insists on talking about Nanny Xu, who's in front of me. As the daughter of an official, how can she not know that Nanny Xu is a meritorious servant?"

Chapter 266 - 266 Arrogant

These words were really irrefutable. The Marquis of Changxing's wife's heart skipped a beat. She wanted to say that Seventh Miss was also shooting her mouth off, but since it involved the Empress Dowager of the palace, such harsh words were too unconvincing. For a moment, she did not know how to speak. She was afraid that if she opened her mouth, Yu Youyao would use it against her.

Chun Xiao knelt on the ground with a thud. As she cried, she said, "Second Madam, you have to make a decision for Young Miss. I happened to hear from the old maid of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence just now that Nanny Xu was originally a nanny that Seventh Miss Cao had taken a fancy to..."

Her words became the last straw that broke the camel's back. It also became proof that the Marquis of Changxing's Residence was deliberately humiliating others.

It was obvious that because Nanny Xu had entered the Yu Residence, Seventh Miss Cao had vented her anger on Eldest Miss Yu and deliberately made things difficult for her. The Marquis of Changxing's wife knew this very well, but she had helped her daughter to embarrass Eldest Miss Yu and ruin her reputation.

Eldest Miss Yu had really suffered an undeserved calamity. How pitiful.

Madam Yao was so angry that she was trembling. "That's too much..."

Yang Shuwan, who had been on Seventh Miss Cao's side previously, ended up helping an outsider bully the eldest stepdaughter of the first wife. She wished she could find a hole to crawl into.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife also felt dizzy.

Cao Yingxue subconsciously took a step back and said incoherently, "Nonsense. Yu Youyao splashed tea on my face. It's clearly her fault. I didn't disrespect the Empress Dowager. You're slandering me..."

Towards the end, even her voice became sharp.

A group of madams and young misses watched from the side.

Even though Eldest Miss Yu had been criticized for being ill-mannered, she did not seem anxious or angry. When she spoke, her voice was gentle and unhurried, as if she was tactful and moving.

Even as she cried, her expression was neither anxious nor angry.

Her slender figure was delicate and soft, like a stalk of orchid. She exuded a fragrance from the inside out, revealing good manners. Even though she was thin, her straight back actually had a bearing that was not stiff. She was like a green bamboo, neither servile nor overbearing, with an indescribable aura.

On the other hand, the Seventh Miss of the Marquis of Changxing, who prided herself on being well-mannered but...

Her eyes were wide open, and when she spoke to someone, and she gestured with her hands and feet. The words did not come from her mouth, but from her throat. It was as if the louder she spoke, the more unreasonable she sounded. Her voice was higher and more intimidating, and she no longer had any manners.

Clean and honest, well-disciplined, humble, and lawful. This was the virtue of a woman.

It was obvious who was well-mannered and who was not.

It was obvious that even though Eldest Miss Yu had no mother since she was young, she had also been raised by Old Madam Yu to have the demeanor of a great family. Even when she was humiliated, she was neither servile nor overbearing and was polite.

When Yu Jianjia saw this, she couldn't help but cover her mouth and cough. She tried her best to hold back the cough, but she couldn't swallow it back. She could only cough one after another.

She could also feel the curious, probing, and sizing gazes on her from all directions. She felt even more suffocated.

Everyone in the capital knew that she had been born after seven months and was weak.

At the Flower Festival today, she did not dare to dress too plainly. She only dressed up to be weaker so that others would not think that she had a bad illness.

Her reputation was even worse than that of the eldest daughter of a widow.

Yu Youyao had the reputation of being educated by her grandmother. In the future, no one would dare to say that she was uneducated.

Not only that, but because of her grandmother's talent, even Yu Youyao, who had been raised by her grandmother, could benefit from this. Anyone would praise her, "As expected of someone raised by Old Madam Yu. Her upbringing is indeed extraordinary!"

But illness was despised by even ordinary families.

How could the Marquis of Changxing's wife have known that things would develop to this point?

This would even disrupt the Flower Festival.

Yu Youyao covered her face and cried. "Madam and Seventh Miss Cao are forcing me to my death."

There was an uproar. These words were serious!

The Marquis of Changxing's wife's head exploded, and her body swayed. Fortunately, the nanny in front of her supported her, preventing her from falling to the ground.

She stared at Yu Youyao and said word by word, "When, when did I force you?"

Yu Youyao said hoarsely, "To a woman, reputation is a matter of life and death. Seventh Miss Cao kept saying that I was ill-mannered in public. As an elder, as a mother, and as a wife, you're famous for being virtuous in the capital. However, you did not dissuade or persuade me, but still let Seventh Miss Cao say that I was ill-mannered."

The madams present looked at each other.

There was no taboo when a child spoke, but the words and actions of the Marquis of Changxing's wife and Seventh Miss Cao just now were meant to ruin Eldest Miss Yu's reputation.

Didn't they want to force her to her death?

The Marquis of Changxing's wife's imposing aura instantly vanished. "I originally thought that it was just a quarrel between the sisters, so..."

Yu Youyao said with a sobbing tone, "If I hadn't been raised by Grandmother since I was young, wouldn't I have allowed you to talk freely? The first time I stepped out of the house, my reputation will be completely ruined. How can I still have the face to return home?"

When the Marquis of Changxing's wife heard this, her vision darkened, but she couldn't say a word.

Yu Youyao cried weakly and helplessly. She was a growing child, and her body was petite and thin. She stood there trembling slightly, but she was really innocent and pitiful. It was obvious that she was bullied and they wanted to force her to death. No one could even refute her.

If word got out, the reputation of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence would be ruined.

Madam Yao was so angry that she trembled. "The Marquis of Changxing's Residence is really too much..."

Eldest Madam Tang immediately couldn't help but say, "Nanny Xu is a meritorious servant. She's not something that anyone can invite just because they're willing. She's willing to enter the Yu Residence because she thinks that Eldest Miss Yu's character is good. Why is she taking her anger out on Eldest Miss Yu? It's really a banquet. She has ill intentions and is inviting her into the residence to be humiliated. She's really arrogant."

Eldest Madam Qi sneered. "There are just a few quarrels between the young misses, but they don't curse or scold others or expose their shortcomings. Eldest Madam Xie is the eldest, and the young lady is also very frivolous. She dares to say anything and doesn't even let a dead person off. She's really wicked. Also, Old Madam Yu has raised two important ministers of the Imperial Court. How can anyone doubt her upbringing?"

The Qi Residence was a censor's family, so they were not afraid of offending others. Even if Eldest Madam Qi dissed the Marquis of Changxing, the Marquis of Changxing's Residence could not do anything to her.

Eldest Madam Song, the Marquis of Zhen who was on good terms with the Yu Residence, couldn't help but say, "Old Madam is talented and morally upright. Who doesn't praise her? Saying that Eldest Miss Yu is ill-mannered is clearly poking at Old Madam."

Chapter 267 - 267 I Won't Let You Off

With the few of them taking the lead, the madams who were on good terms with them also chimed in.

"The young miss of a wealthy family keeps talking about upbringing. It's as if she has married, given birth and raised a child. She's really shameless."

"She's still a little young, and she hasn't even been brought up properly. How can she say that others are ill-mannered? I'm amazed."

"I see that Eldest Miss Yu is very well-mannered. On the other hand, Seventh Miss Cao doesn't seem to be a well-mannered person."

"The Marquis of Changxing's wife is someone with a high status. How can she bully a little girl? She's really shameless and arrogant."

"She's so arrogant after winning a battle, as if no one has ever won a battle before..."

Therefore, not everyone was supportive of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence. Even those who were on good terms with the Marquis of Changxing could not speak up for him. The Marquis of Changxing's Residence became the target of public criticism.

Cao Yingxue had never expected that this ill-mannered, rude, and shameless person would become her. When she heard many of the madams present talking about her, she was so angry that her eyes widened and her face turned red.

At this moment, Yu Jianjia was also hiding behind Yang Shuwan, not daring to show her face again.

First, Yu Youyao had used her grandmother to attack her, and then she had used the previous emperor and the current emperor's name. No one dared to think that she was ill-mannered anymore. Then, she had pulled the Empress Dowager along, causing the Marquis of Changxing's Residence to lose their momentum. They did not dare to pursue this matter anymore, so they could only let it go.

This was the first time she came out to show her face outside. Previously, she had used the teachings of a woman to establish her authority in front of the young misses. From now on, there probably wouldn't be anyone who would go against Yu Youyao.

Just now, she had used her grandmother as a tool to associate herself with the previous emperor and the Empress Dowager. From now on, no one would criticize Yu Youyao for her words.

In this way, not only did Yu Youyao protect her reputation, but she also protected her grandmother. She could no longer escape the reputation of filial piety, and she had completely stood out from the noble circle in the capital.

She did not know that Yu Youyao had such a temperament and methods.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife wanted to calm the situation down, so she quickly said, "This is Seventh Sister's fault." As she spoke, she turned to glare at Cao Yingxue and said angrily, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and apologize to Eldest Miss Yu."

"You want me to apologize to her?" Cao Yingxue pointed at Yu Youyao in disbelief.

Madam Yao's face darkened. She sneered and said to the Marquis of Changxing's wife, "The Marquis of Changxing's Residence is a big place. I won't stay for this flower festival anymore. I'll go home and report this matter to Old Madam today." With that, she turned around and instructed Nanny Qian, "Go and report to Second Master in the front courtyard. Our family is too small to be able to reward the Marquis of Changxing's Residence with flowers and brocades. Someone poked at Old Madam's reputation and said that our family's upbringing isn't good. Eldest Master also said something."

At the Flower Festival at the Marquis of Changxing's Residence, the male and females mingled separately.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife's eyes immediately darkened. She quickly said, "Second Madam Yu, this, this child is just playing around. How can she really implicate the family?" As she spoke, she reached out and slapped Cao Yingxue's face. She said sternly, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and apologize to Eldest Miss Yu."

Her slap was heavy, and Cao Yingxue's face turned red.

Madam Yao was an elder after all. Seeing that Seventh Miss had been beaten, she couldn't continue pestering her.

She then invited her into the house and asked Yingxue to apologize to Yu Youyao. She would give her a few expensive things and comfort Eldest Miss Yu, and this matter would most likely be over.

She had thought it through very well, but she had forgotten that her daughter had been pampered by her.

Cao Yingxue was stunned by this slap. Her mother, who had always doted on her, glared at her angrily. Her mind was blank, so how could she listen to her mother?

She covered her numb face and stomped her feet as she cried. "Mother, how dare you hit me? I..."

As she spoke, she covered her face and ran away.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife was dumbfounded. When she reacted, she was about to pull her back. "Come back. How can you have a temper like this?" She then instructed the maidservant in front of her anxiously, "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and pull Seventh Miss back. Her temper is really bad..."

When the maidservants heard this, they quickly ran over to pull her back.

The scene was in chaos. Madam Yao was sick of it. She held Yu Shuangbai with one hand and Yu Youyao, who was whimpering softly, with the other. She turned around and left.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife quickly instructed the nanny in front of her, "Hurry up and stop Second Madam Yu. Don't let her go out."

The nanny also knew the severity of the matter and quickly went to do it.

It wasn't good for the madams present to stay either, so they all made an excuse to return to the reception pavilion.

It was such a good flower festival, but with such a commotion, she was too ashamed to be a daughter of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence.

At this moment, Cao Yingxue called a maidservant over.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife had originally felt sorry for her daughter after hitting her, but now that she saw her crying, she was also angry. "You've grown up. You made a fuss at the flower festival organized by your family and made your family feel ashamed. You're even making a fuss in public."

Thinking about how this flower festival had turned out like this, she was furious.

Cao Yingxue was slapped again and cried even louder. "I-I just wanted to make things difficult for her. Who knew that she was so sharp-tongued..."

The Marquis of Changxing's wife was so angry that she felt dizzy. She stretched out her finger and poked her forehead. "The Marquis of Changxing's Residence is a top noble family. Even if they make things difficult for others, the Yu Residence can only suffer in silence. But are you stupid? Why are you making things difficult for others? Why are you criticizing their upbringing? You're

also a young miss of a noble family. How can you say such things so easily? Even if you mention it, someone will argue with you.”

Cao Yingxue covered her face and cried. “I-I was just too angry. Yu Youyao snatched the nanny that belonged to me and I saw that she had abandoned her weak sister alone. I felt that even if she was raised by a powerful nanny, she didn’t seem to have a good upbringing, so I mocked her...”

Unexpectedly, Yu Youyao was different from the young misses she had interacted with in the past. Even if she was mocked, she did not hold it in.

Cao Yingxue felt a surge of resentment. “Yu Youyao also splashed tea on my face, causing me to accidentally trip and fall until my entire body hurts. Why is it all my fault?”

Thinking of Yu Youyao’s innocent and pitiful crying, the Marquis of Changxing’s wife gritted her teeth in anger. “She’s so young. How can she be so evil? She’s just a bad thing. No wonder First Madam Yu isn’t close to this stepdaughter...”

Who would dare to get close to such a scheming stepdaughter? They had to stay away lest she harmed them.

Chapter 268 - 268 Unable to Back Down

However, when she thought about how her carefully raised daughter had actually been schemed against by such a bad thing, the Marquis of Changxing’s wife was furious. “All the madams heard and saw it today. Even if I wanted to cover it up for you, I had no choice. Your reputation for being rude and ill-mannered has also spread. It’s a small matter if others laugh at you, but if the vicious reputation of forcing her to her death spreads, even I won’t be able to cover it up. Tomorrow, I’ll have to go to the Education Department and find a nanny to teach you the rules carefully...”

Cao Yingxue was so frightened that her face turned pale. She couldn’t care less about the pain in her face. She hurriedly went forward and pulled her mother’s sleeve. “Mother, what, what should I do now? I’m too ashamed to live...”

As she spoke, she covered her face and cried.

Today, Yu Youyao had splashed tea on her face and scolded her. It was already embarrassing enough, but she had even made a fuss in front of the madams.

How could she still have the face to walk around outside in the future?

The Marquis of Changxing’s wife also felt a headache coming on. She gritted her teeth and said, “Your father won a battle in Youzhou. After the palace test, the Imperial Court will reward us. At that time, I’ll get Concubine Zhuang to beg the Imperial Concubine to get a fifth-grade county lord title for you. With that title, you’ll be a noble lady of the imperial family. No one will dare to talk about your reputation.”

The families of meritorious officials of the Great Zhou Dynasty could obtain the title of county lord and enjoy the rewards of the Imperial Court.

Cao Yingxue was delighted, and her expression was smug.

The Marquis of Changxing’s wife hurriedly said, “Follow me to the reception pavilion now and apologize to Eldest Miss Yu. Don’t throw a tantrum again. Otherwise, I won’t let you off.”

Although Cao Yingxue was unwilling, she still nodded in agreement when she thought of the title of noble lady that was about to be obtained.

“Then... I’ll go back and change my clothes first...” The clothes she was wearing today were given to her by her sister from the palace. There was a red palace sash around her waist, and there was a yellow tassel at the end of the sash. It was made by the internal affairs department. She had originally wanted to wear it to show off, but who knew that Yu Youyao would splash tea on her face and embarrass her?

Before she could finish speaking, the Marquis of Changxing’s wife interrupted sternly, “What’s there to change? If we go over like this, it’ll be easier for others to see that you’re also someone who has suffered grievances. Otherwise, others will think that you’re the only one in the wrong.”

Seventh Miss had admitted her mistake in front of everyone. She also had to put down her status as the Marquis of Changxing’s wife and apologize to Eldest Madam Yu and Second Madam Yu properly. She would also take out more good things to compensate them. After all, she was still a child. If the Yu Residence still refused to let go of this matter, it would mean that they were petty.

Yingxue was also a growing child. Now that she had sincerely admitted her mistake, it was also a great thing for her to learn from her mistakes.

All the madams present couldn’t possibly argue with a child.

After that, she asked the nanny from the Department of Justice to enter the residence with great fanfare so that she could show everyone that the Marquis of Changxing’s Residence was nurturing Yingxue well. With the title of County Lord, who would dare to gossip anymore?

Madam Yao had originally wanted to bring Yu Youyao back to the residence. Who knew that the Marquis of Changxing’s wife would be so arrogant? She actually got someone to guard the door and prevent her from leaving.

Nanny Yue, who was in front of the Marquis of Changxing’s wife, bowed respectfully. “As the saying goes, a person is not a sage. How can one not make mistakes? It’s good that one can learn from their mistakes. The Marquis of Changxing’s Residence must give Eldest Miss Yu an explanation. We can’t let her suffer in vain.”

These shameless words made Madam Yao furious.

How was this the attitude of apologizing?

She clearly wanted to “forcefully admit her mistake” and try to smooth things over.

However, at this moment, the Marquis of Changxing’s wife was guarding the door and not letting her leave. In the Marquis of Changxing’s Residence, she could not win against her.

Yu Youyao stood beside Madam Yao with a calm expression. No one could tell if she was happy or angry.

“Eldest Miss Yu is a guest, but she’s been wronged in the residence. My Madam feels bad. How can she let Second Madam Yu take Eldest Miss Yu away like

this? Second Madam Yu, please go to the reception pavilion to rest for a while. The First Madam of your residence is also here. It's good to sit down and talk slowly."

This nanny was very tall and strong, like a wall of flesh. She stood in front of Madam Yao. As she spoke, she even raised her eyes to look at Eldest Miss Yu. Her sleeping phoenix eyes were slightly narrowed, making them look narrow and noble. For no reason, she recalled that when she usually entered and left the inner palace, the Imperial Consort Lu she saw had a monstrous noble aura that no one dared to look at directly!

Her heart skipped a beat. She quickly lowered her eyes and said, "Look at Eldest Miss Yu's face. She's also in a sorry state. She has to freshen up..."

With that, the maidservants who had come with Nanny Yue bent down—

"Second Madam Yu, please..."

"Eldest Miss Yu, please..."

She was very polite on the surface. She had also put on a show and apologized sincerely.

If Madam Yao still insisted on leaving, it would mean that she was being unreasonable and did not know what was good for her. Even if it was right, it would also cause another conflict with the Marquis of Changxing's Residence.

However, if she really went to the reception pavilion and let Seventh Miss Cao admit her mistake without any pain, this matter would be covered up by the Marquis of Changxing's Residence.

Madam Yao sneered. "My Eldest Miss has been raised by Old Madam since she was young and is her favorite. I can't make the decision today. I have to report it to Old Madam first. I can't let Old Madam blame me for not knowing the severity of the matter."

If it weren't for the fact that Yu Youyao was smart enough to use the Old Madam of the family as an excuse to associate with the previous emperor, the current emperor, and the Empress Dowager in the palace, Yu Youyao's reputation would have been completely ruined.

It was a small matter if Yu Youyao's reputation was ruined, but the Yu Residence was also a powerful family in the capital. If they were bullied for nothing and embarrassed, wouldn't they be a joke?

There was really no way out.

At the mention of Old Madam Yu, the nanny's lowered eyes couldn't help but constrict. She quickly said, "There's no need to alarm Old Madam. Second Madam Yu, don't worry. The Marquis of Changxing's Residence will definitely give Eldest Miss Yu a satisfactory explanation today. The First Madam of your residence has the same intention."

She was just short of saying that Madam Yao had overstepped her boundaries. As an aunt, it was really unreasonable for her to overstep her stepmother and make a decision for her niece.

Thinking of Yang Shuwan's unpresentable face, Madam Yao was so angry that her eyes darkened.

Seeing that Madam Yao was in a difficult position, Yu Youyao said gently, "It's fine to go and take a look."

Now, the Marquis of Changxing's Residence had lost face. The Marquis of Changxing's wife had bullied the younger generation. Not only had Seventh Miss Cao lost her reputation of being "educated", but she had also tainted her reputation and was known as "vicious."

The Marquis of Changxing's wife knew how formidable they were. How could she let them leave so easily?

Chapter 269 - 269 What a Scourge

No matter what, she had to try her best to smooth over this matter first and save the face of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence. She had to shut the Yu Residence up so that the Yu Residence wouldn't make a big fuss out of it. She couldn't implicate the previous Emperor, the current Emperor and the Empress Dowager.

If he was not careful, he would probably not be able to escape the crime of great disrespect. Even if the Marquis of Changxing won a battle in Youzhou, he would still be punished.

However, she was unwilling to admit it.

Yu Youyao's lips curled up slightly. She turned to look at Nanny Xu and Chun Xiao, who were following behind her, and a secret coldness flashed across her eyes.

Madam Yao had no choice. With a dark expression, she and Yu Youyao called for the servants of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence to escort them to the reception pavilion.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife perked up and quickly stood up to welcome her. "Second Madam Yu, come and sit down. We're just waiting for you."

She was just short of saying that Madam Yao had a lot of face.

Madam Yao's face darkened and she did not say anything. The Marquis of Changxing's wife looked awkward for a moment before reaching out to hold Yu Youyao's hand. "When I usually go to other houses, I often hear people mention that Old Madam Yu is talented and outstanding. She's the model of a woman. Only a capable person like Old Madam Yu can raise a young miss with an outstanding personality like Eldest Miss Yu."

However, she put down her pride and wanted to express her goodwill. Since it involved the elders in the family, no matter if it was Madam Yao or Yu Youyao, it was not appropriate for them to throw a tantrum.

Yu Youyao lowered her head and said in a low voice, "Madam, you flatter me. I'm ashamed to be the eldest daughter of a bereaved wife. It's also because of Grandmother's talent that I have the guts to go outside. Even so, I have to be careful. I'm afraid that if I make a mistake, I'll be criticized and implicate my grandmother's reputation. Grandmother will be embarrassed and humiliated."

These words that were neither soft nor hard made her seem even more unreasonable.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife's smile faded a little. "It's Yingxue's fault for what happened today. I'll get Yingxue to apologize to you." As she spoke, she turned to look at Cao Yingxue and said sternly, "Why are you sitting there? Hurry up and come over to apologize to Eldest Miss Yu."

You spoke without thinking and accidentally said something wrong. If Eldest Miss Yu suffers and even if Eldest Miss Yu forgives you, I won't let you off easily."

With just a few words, she had made it sound like she had spoken without thinking. She had accidentally said something wrong and planned to reduce the matter to a small one.

Cao Yingxue lowered her head and sobbed as she stepped forward. She looked miserable and pitiful. "Eldest Miss Yu, it's my fault today..."

The Marquis of Changxing's wife frowned. As long as Yingxue apologized, this matter would be over. The Yu Residence had no reason to continue making a fuss.

However, before Cao Yingxue could finish apologizing, a maidservant rushed in. "Madam, bad news. Second Master Yu and Eldest Master Yu left the residence without even eating. They even sent someone beside them to send a message to Second Madam Yu and First Madam Yu to bring Eldest Miss Yu back to the residence. I, I..." She couldn't stop them and didn't dare to.

Yu Youyao's eyebrows curved slightly.

As soon as the Madams arrived at the corner of the pavilion, the servants in front of the young misses also arrived and waited outside. Nanny Xu and Chun Xiao were also there, but Xia Tao was missing.

If this matter reached the front courtyard, what was the use of Cao Yingxue apologizing?

Since things had already blown up, how could she still fool them?

The Marquis of Changxing's wife's face stiffened.

Madam Yao did not even put on an act. She stood up from her chair. "At this point, as a woman of the inner residence, I can't make the decision on my own."

With that, she left with Yu Youyao and Yu Shuangbai.

"Second Madam Yu, this..." The Marquis of Changxing's wife reached out to stop her, but this matter had already reached the front courtyard. How could she dare to stop her?

For a moment, she couldn't help but freeze there. She even forgot to retract her outstretched hand.

However, she had lost all her face.

After Madam Yao left, Yang Shuwan couldn't sit still anymore. She pulled Yu Jianjia up and walked to the Marquis of Changxing's wife. "I'm afraid Jia Jia and I won't be able to continue admiring the flowers. Please don't blame us."

With that, she was in a hurry to leave.

Unexpectedly, the Marquis of Changxing's wife stretched her hand and wiped her tears with a handkerchief. "Eldest Madam Yu, you don't know this, but the residence has been preparing for this flower festival since the beginning of the month. I originally wanted to take advantage of the time before the palace examination to join in the fun with all the madams. Who knew that a good flower

festival would become a joke? The Marquis of Changxing's Residence is ashamed. Seventh Miss has even lost her reputation and implicated Eldest Miss Yu. I can only suffer in silence."

Those who did not know the truth would think that the Marquis of Changxing was the victim.

Thinking of what had happened at the flower festival just now, Yang Shuwan also felt sad.

Yu Youyao was really a scourge. The Marquis of Changxing's Residence was a noble family, but they were actually embarrassed by her. Seventh Miss Cao was such a polite person, but she had actually lost all her reputation. How pitiful.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife was originally pretending to cry, but as soon as she spoke, she really cried. "Why is my Seventh Sister deliberately making things difficult for her family? She made a fuss over her flowers and caused our family to lose face? I'm used to pampering her. She didn't mean it..."

Cao Yingxue sat on the small stool in a sorry state. Her eyes were swollen from crying while holding her handkerchief. She was still wearing her previous yellow clothes, which could not hide the dirty tea stains on her body. She looked extremely sorry.

Now that the matter had blown up, she was truly afraid.

When Yang Shuwan saw this, she quickly said, "You can't blame Seventh Miss Cao for this. If the sisters play together, it's inevitable that they'll start talking..."

The Marquis of Changxing's wife had been waiting for her to say this. "I've known First Madam for a long time, so we're just acquaintances. You've seen my Seventh Sister's personality in the past. She didn't mean it, but she definitely didn't insult the Yu Residence and criticize Old Madam Yu's upbringing. We have to explain it to Eldest Master Yu..."

If it was just a small matter between the women in the backyard. There would be an apology and some good compensation. That way, the matter could be resolved.

However, which big family did not value upbringing?

In particular, a scholarly family like the Yu Residence was especially particular. Once words like "education" were involved, it would not be good if it reached the Master.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife was speechless. She hated Yu Youyao, but there was nothing she could do. She could only let Eldest Madam Yu put in some effort for her.

She had heard that Eldest Master Yu respected this second wife very much.

She also doted on her second daughter, Yu Jianjia.

Yang Shuwan quickly said, "Madam, don't say that. I know that Madam is the gentlest person. Seventh Miss Cao is also very polite. What happened today was also a misunderstanding. I'll tell Master in detail later."

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Upon hearing this, the Marquis of Changxing's wife finally felt a little better. "Madam, you understand me..."

Yu Jianjia asked Hui Xiang and Ai Ye to support her from both sides. She stood behind Yang Shuwan and hunched her shoulders weakly. She did not even dare to breathe loudly, afraid that she would attract the attention of others.

Her feet, which were hidden under her skirt, were in so much pain that she couldn't help but break out in a cold sweat. The thin layer of inner clothes inside was already drenched. The cold clothes clung to her body, and even her body was cold. Her thin figure also trembled slightly.

Was it pain or cold?

!!

Or both?

She had originally planned to reveal that she had sprained her ankle while Yu Youyao's reputation was ruined.

This way, everyone would naturally blame Yu Youyao for her sprained ankle. That was why she had endured the pain in her feet.

However, at this point, she did not dare to show it.

Which of the young misses present wasn't precious? It wasn't a small matter for her to be injured in someone else's house. After Cao Yingxue and Yu Youyao's incident, the Marquis of Changxing's Residence was already embarrassed enough. If others found out that she had been injured in the Marquis of Changxing's Residence just now, wouldn't it make people feel that the Marquis of Changxing's Residence hadn't treated their guests well and had lost their manners?

In that case, she could only endure it herself.

However, the young miss who had been raised in her own room had never suffered such pain. The more she felt that it was unbearable, the more she did not want to stay in the Marquis of Changxing's Residence for another moment.

Yu Jianjia was in even more unbearable pain. The Marquis of Changxing's wife suddenly held her hand and said gently, "Eldest Madam Yu, you're really well-mannered. Look at Jia Jia. She's really obedient and sensible. Even at the Flower Festival, she's rarely so well-behaved and quiet. She's not like Seventh Sister, who was pampered by me."

As she spoke, the Marquis of Changxing's wife took off the armband on her wrist that was inlaid with red gems. Without any explanation, she put it on Yu Jianjia's wrist.

"Madam, this, this is too expensive. You can't..." Yu Jianjia's face was pale. When she reacted, she quickly reached out to take off her armband and return it to the Marquis of Changxing's wife.

After letting Yu Youyao cause such a commotion, it was not good for her to accept anything from the Marquis of Changxing's wife anymore.

The Marquis of Changxing's wife held her hand and said kindly, "Children look good in gold and silver. You can't be too plain."

Since the Marquis of Changxing's wife insisted on sending her off, how could Yu Jianjia continue to refuse?

Suddenly, she remembered that day at the Precious Peace Temple, when she had hit Old Madam Song's wrist and put on the suet jade bracelet on Yu Youyao's wrist. She immediately felt that even her feet did not hurt so much anymore, and her eyebrows couldn't help but curl up slightly.

Yang Shuwan looked at Yu Jianjia and quickly said, "Hurry up and thank the Marquis of Changxing's wife."

A shy smile appeared on Yu Jianjia's lips, but her face was a little pale, making her look sickly. "I can't refuse a gift from an elder. Thank you, Madam!"

The Marquis of Changxing's wife glanced at her expression and looked away.

She felt a little regretful. After being tortured for a while, Third Miss Yu looked at her pale face. It seemed that her body was indeed a little too weak. No matter how good her body was, noble families did not want to risk having such a body that might not be able to have good children.

What she usually thought was that there was also a group of madams who were secretly paying attention to the Marquis of Changxing's wife. She had to take a closer look at the personalities of the young misses since they were young so that she would have a better understanding in the future. Be it on good terms or marriage, she could understand it in her heart and not be fooled easily.

It was a pity that her body was so weak.

—

At some point, a gray cloth carriage had stopped in the alley at the back door of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence. It looked inconspicuous from the outside, but it was very big inside.

It would take at least two hours to get from The Precious Peace Temple to the capital.

However, Zhou Linghuai asked the secret guards to carry him down the mountain. The carriage also specially chose a shortcut, saving time for most of the journey. They arrived at the capital in an hour.

There was a small table in the carriage. There was a small charcoal stove on it to brew tea. The fresh and mellow tea was accompanied by wisps of medicinal fragrance that filled the carriage.

Zhou Linghuai was dividing the tea with his eyes lowered. He was very familiar with his techniques, and his every move revealed his deep interest.

Not long after, the patterns on the tea surface surged and condensed into the word "Yu". However, it disappeared in an instant. Before he could blink, it condensed into the word "You" and instantly changed into the word "Yao."

There were probably not many people in the world who could do this.

The secret guards were proficient in some verbal skills, and he imitated the conversation between Yu Youyao and Cao Yingxue.

Zhou Linghuai took a teapot and poured a portion into a teacup. The Ru Kiln teacup with azure crab claws had smooth and golden tea. It was clean and transparent, like amber.

He lowered his head to smell the tea. His eyebrows were slightly furrowed, and his eyebrows were pressed down like a sharp knife. He listened to the secret guard's report word by word.

"But we didn't let them humiliate us for nothing."

The secret guard heaved a sigh of relief.

"However," Zhou Linghuai put down his teacup and knocked the bottom of it against the small table, making a thud. "This teacup shouldn't be splashed. It should be smashed."

He emphasized the last word with a hint of ruthlessness.

The secret guard's heart immediately beat wildly like a teacup. It was raised high and placed down heavily, making a loud thud. He almost dropped it head to the ground.

He thought to himself—

After all, Eldest Miss Yu was also a young miss of a wealthy family. To splash tea on someone's face was already a little out of line. If the teacup had been "smashed", even if it was Cao Yingxue's fault, it would inevitably make people feel that she had been too ruthless.

"I originally didn't plan to care about the grasshoppers after autumn and let them jump up and down. However," Zhou Linghuai picked up his teacup and poured out the cold tea in it. He picked up the teacup again and poured a cup of tea. "If they jump too much and make me unhappy, I'll have to break their legs first so that they won't be able to jump up."

The secret guard's heart skipped a beat.

Zhou Linghuai picked up his teacup and lowered his head to take a sip. "Send the news of the flower festival to the palace."

The secret guard quickly lowered his head. "Yes!"

The air also became quiet, and the tea smoke on the small table rose meticulously.

After a while, a deep voice came from the carriage. "Let's go!"

The coachman pulled the reins of the horse and lowered his head to snort at the black horse. Immediately, he raised his head and neighed softly. Then, he turned around and walked out of the dark alley.

Zhou Linghuai heard the sound of wheels and lifted the curtain.

A carriage passed by. The window was open, and the carriage shook slightly. The curtain inside was lifted, and one could vaguely see the corner of Yu Youyao's red eyes—

They were soft and delicate!

Zhou Linghuai suddenly clenched his fists tightly. With a faint crack, the Ru Kiln teacup in his hand shattered, and the soft sound was short and sharp.

A disturbing aura slowly flowed through the car...

...

It wasn't until the carriage beside him was getting further and further away that Zhou Linghuai retracted his gaze. "To the dining room."