

All Hail 331

Chapter 331 Caught in Her Own Trap

At the thought that Yang Shuwan was the instigator of Xie Roujia's death, Yu Zongzheng hated her to the core. He suddenly pulled out his leg, kicked her away, turned around, and strode away.

"Master, Master..." Yang Shuwan lay on the ground and wailed, "I had no choice. Back then, I accidentally discovered that I was pregnant and asked Master to take me in as a noble concubine. It was Master who said that Madam Xie was about to give birth and asked me to wait a little longer. After Madam Xie gave birth, she would take me in. I can wait, but the child in my stomach can't wait..."

After giving birth, she still had to go through confinement. At the very least, she had to wait for Xie Roujia to finish her confinement before she could go through the door. At that time, her stomach would be big, and she wouldn't be able to hide it anymore.

Yang Shuwan knelt on the ground and covered her face as she cried. "I never thought about harming Xie Roujia's life. I didn't..."

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Although Xie Roujia's death was a pleasant surprise that made her, the daughter of a concubine, the second wife, she had always been smug about it. However, when she first left the handkerchief on Yu Zongzheng, she really did not expect that Xie Roujia would slip and lose her life.

"It's that b*tch Xie Roujia's bad luck. Why should I be blamed for her death? B*tch..." Yang Shuwan lay on the ground and screamed.

After Imperial Physician Shi took Yu Shansi's pulse, Yu Jianjia used the excuse of feeling unwell to return to the courtyard and go to the study to copy the Heart Sutra. After her father returned to the residence, it was time for the Songtao Courtyard to have some commotion. As the most obedient and sensible daughter in the family, she naturally shouldn't get involved.

At this moment, Hui Xiang entered the house.

Before she could speak, Yu Jianjia put down her brush and asked gently, "How's the situation at Songtao Courtyard?"

Yu Youyao was in charge of the house, and the Songtao Courtyard was also renovated by her. Yu Youyao couldn't absolve herself of the blame for Fourth Brother drowning on the first day of moving into the courtyard.

Her father had always valued her fourth brother. Even if Yu Youyao saved him, she probably wouldn't be able to escape punishment.

"Third Sister, if you want to know about the situation in Songtao Courtyard, why don't you ask me?"

Suddenly, she heard a gentle voice. Yu Jianjia's heart skipped a beat. She looked up at the door and saw Yu Youyao leading Chun Xiao into the study.

Looking at the time, shouldn't her father be furious and scold Yu Youyao because of her fourth brother's drowning?

Why did Yu Youyao have time to come to the courtyard?

Moreover, Yu Youyao never took half a step into her courtyard. Why was she suddenly here today?

As her mind raced, Yu Jianjia's mind was already filled with a thousand thoughts. She had a bad feeling. "Why is Big Sister here?"

Yu Youyao sized up the study casually. "Why? Is Third Sister very surprised to see me?"

"Big Sister has never been to the courtyard before. I'm indeed a little surprised." Yu Jianjia walked around the desk and walked up to Yu Youyao. She bent down slightly. "It's all thanks to Big Sister that Fourth Brother was saved today."

Yu Youyao bypassed her and went to the desk. She picked up the Heart Sutra that Yu Jianjia had copied just now and looked at it carefully for a while. "Third Sister's small handwriting is light and lively. Even Ms. Ye is full of praise for it."

Yu Jianjia wasn't sure what Yu Youyao was up to, so she said cautiously, "Thank you for your praise, Eldest Sister. I've been weak since I was young, so I can only learn these light and simple small scripts. They're not as graceful as Eldest Sister's calligraphy that's like a dragon. Yours is natural and elegant."

If anyone else heard this, they would think that Yu Jianjia was humble and sincerely praising her.

However, if she praised someone, so be it. Why did she have to add the words "I've been weak since I was young"? It was nothing more than revealing that she was exhausted, so she couldn't practice calligraphy. If others heard this, they would inevitably pity her. Visit [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com) for new updates

Yu Youyao's lips curled up slightly as she changed the topic. "The handwriting is good, but I can see that there's a hint of awkwardness in Third Sister's handwriting. It's like you felt uneasy. The problem is that the brush is too tight, and your wrist couldn't control it well. It's pulled left and right. When you write, it's not focused. Your heart and mind weren't calm."

Yu Jianjia slowly tightened her grip on her handkerchief, her lowered eyelashes trembling uncontrollably.

Yu Youyao looked up at Yu Jianjia and said word by word, "Third Sister, you're restless. You're thinking about everything, and your brush is like a caged bird. You're trapped."

The words "you're trapped" seemed to be casual and gentle.

However, Yu Jianjia's heart skipped a beat.

She suddenly looked up and saw the corners of Yu Youyao's lips curl up slightly. She was smiling brightly, but this smile was like a handful of winter snow in early spring. It was cold at first, then it was bone-chilling.

Just one look made her feel a chill run down her spine.

Yu Jianjia's eyelids twitched slightly, and she slowly lowered her head. "Although Fourth Brother was saved by Eldest Sister this time, I couldn't help but feel a lingering fear. When I was copying the Buddhist scriptures, I couldn't calm down. I've made a fool of myself in front of Eldest Sister. Jia Jia is ashamed."

Yu Youyao really did not come with good intentions.

In that case, the situation in the Songtao Courtyard probably wouldn't go as she wished. However, her father had always valued her fourth brother the most. How had Yu Youyao escaped her father's punishment?

Yu Youyao smiled when she heard this. "I see."

Yu Jianjia suddenly remembered that at the Flower Festival in the Marquis of Changxing's Residence, Yu Youyao had also smiled casually. Caught off guard, she splashed tea on Seventh Miss Cao's face and suddenly felt a little flustered.

Yu Youyao did not beat around the bush anymore. She turned to look at Chun Xiao. "Third Miss is concerned about the situation in the Songtao Courtyard. Tell her everything that happened in the Songtao Courtyard."

Yu Jianjia's breathing stopped for a moment, then she heard Chun Xiao say eloquently, "... Carpenter Zhao said that the wooden railing at the side of the lake was newly built, and it will take a few days to close. He even looked for First Madam and asked her to be more careful. He also told Fourth Young Master not to go to the lake to play. Even if he does go, he has to bring servants who know how to swim with him..."

Yu Jianjia's delicate and innocent expression froze, but her trembling eyes and trembling lips still revealed her panic.

She could most likely guess what was going on in Songtao Courtyard.

Fourth Brother had drowned not because the wooden railing had not been fixed tightly, but because his mother had failed to take good care of him.

Her father's anger was not directed at Yu Youyao, but at her mother.

"... First Madam said that she had instructed Mo Cai and the old maids who served Fourth Young Master to take good care of him..."

Yu Jianjia's eyes darkened. She did not want to listen anymore.

She finally understood that Yu Youyao hadn't said it casually. She was really mocking her for being trapped.

Yu Youyao knew that Fourth Brother's drowning was her doing.

"...Mother Mo immediately rushed out and knelt in front of Eldest Master to complain about the injustice. She said that Fourth Young Master was ignorant and incompetent and insisted on going to the lake. Mo Cai couldn't stop him..."

Chapter 332 So Many Shows

“How, how could that be...” Yu Jianjia kept shaking her head. For a long time, the world spun. She suddenly held onto the desk to prevent herself from falling, but she pressed her chest tightly.

She’d arranged the opening and plotted the end.

The only thing she did not expect was that all of this did not develop as she had expected. Instead, Yu Youyao had played her at her own game and implicated her. Not only had she implicated her mother, but Fourth Brother had also been implicated.

“... Eldest Miss said that Mo Cai is loyal to save his master, so it’s not a big deal. Auntie Mo has been serving in the residence for many years and she can make up for her mistakes, so she sent the mother and son to the manor. As for the others who serve Fourth Young Master, they left their master’s side without permission and betrayed their master. Each of them will be hit thirty times and thrown out of the residence to fend for themselves...”

Yu Jianjia felt suffocated. She felt waves after waves of suffocation.

She suddenly looked up at Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao sat in the study with a cup of tea in her hand, but she did not drink it. There was a suffocating solemnity in her long dark eyebrows. Her phoenix eyes were slightly narrowed, and the corners of her eyes were gently raised, revealing a terrifying and dignified aura.

Especially when she looked at her. Her eyes were filled with disdain, making her smile just like Zhou Linghuai’s.

She had become an ant in her eyes.

Yu Youyao, Yu Youyao, Yu Youyao...

She was clearly doing it on purpose!

She had deliberately asked Chun Xiao to tell her about the Songtao Courtyard and mocked her just to see her in such a sorry state.

Since Yu Youyao wanted to see it, she would not let her.

“... Eldest Master found out. After what Fourth Young Master has done all these years, he was furious...”

Yu Jianjia held onto the desk with all her might. Even though her body felt weak, she gritted her teeth and held herself together. “Thank you, Big Sister, for telling me this.” She slowly closed her eyes, and a wisp of tears flowed down her face. She choked and said, “Mother is actually so stupid. You don’t know that a loving mother is a failure. Doting on him for a while will harm Fourth Brother’s life. It’s all my fault for being weak. I usually only care about recuperating and can’t help Mother raise my younger brother...”

Before she could finish speaking, tears flowed into her mouth. The salty and bitter taste made her feel as if she had eaten a golden spoon. She couldn't say anything and couldn't help but cover her mouth and cough.

Her words implied that she did not know that Yu Shansi had been raised badly.

There were really too many scenes. She was simply comparable to Madam Yang.

Indeed, like mother, like daughter.

However, Yu Jianjia had been raised as a legitimate daughter since she was young. A person's starting point was different, so their horizons were naturally different. Of course, her temperament and methods were better.

Yu Youyao was a little impressed by Yu Jianjia. She chuckled. "We're sisters, so there's no need to be polite. It's just that Fourth Brother is still young. He suffered from drowning today, and Mother... Third Sister's body is weak. You have to take good care of your health."

Yu Jianjia's eyes were filled with tears as she said hoarsely, "Thank you for your concern, Big Sister."

The heirs of wealthy families were the top priority. Her mother had raised Fourth Brother badly, so she did not know how Old Madam and her father would punish her mother.

Yu Youyao chuckled. "Since Third Sister isn't feeling well, I'll leave first. I'll come and visit you another day."

With that, she turned to leave without waiting for Yu Jianjia to react.

Before Yu Jianjia could heave a sigh of relief, she saw Yu Youyao, who had just taken a few steps, suddenly turn around and look at her with a smile. "After thinking about it, I still feel that there's something I have to tell Third Sister."

Yu Jianjia's half-hearted heart was instantly lifted by Yu Youyao's words. She forced a smile. "What, what is it?"

Seeing that her thin figure was on the verge of collapse and she looked pitiful, Yu Youyao chuckled. "Carpenter Zhao checked the wooden railing at the side of the lake and realized that it was loose. He suspects that it was done by a person." She walked over to Yu Jianjia with light steps. "Third Sister, don't you think it's ridiculous?"

Yu Jianjia's heart skipped a beat, and she felt suffocated.

She clutched her chest and panted heavily.

She was indeed the one who had loosened the wooden railing. She was also the one who had arranged for the servants to say that the lake in the Songtao Courtyard had been beautifully repaired. Fourth Brother had always been curious, so he would definitely go and take a look.

Initially, she had only used the fact that her fourth brother had fallen into the water to scheme against Yu Youyao. Even Nanny Qin, who was proficient in pharmacology, had been sent to the Songtao Courtyard to help in advance.

However, she had never expected that she would almost kill Fourth Brother.

Luckily, he had been saved by Yu Youyao.

However, although he had been saved, her father completely hated her mother. Her fourth brother had revealed his true colors, and her father probably wouldn't like him as much as before.

At this moment, Ai Ye rushed into the house. "Young Miss, bad news, bad news. Eldest Master wants to lock First Madam up in the Tranquil Heart Residence behind the main courtyard. He said that First Madam's head is seriously ill. The doctor has instructed that we have to find a quiet place for her to recuperate carefully. No one is allowed to visit First Madam in the future..."

Yu Youyao was also stunned when she heard this.

This was a punishment of a wealthy family's wife and concubines who were completely despised. The family's dignity was still considered and could not be abandoned. They would find a remote and quiet courtyard and let them fend for themselves.

Yu Jianjia reacted in a daze, her eyes widening in shock. "How, how could this be?!"

Her father was angry that her mother had been complying on the surface but disobeying on the inside. She had raised Fourth Brother's temperament behind his back. However, her mother was Fourth Brother's biological mother after all. Even if it was for Fourth Brother's sake, she shouldn't have been punished so severely.

Why was he so heartless?

"Father, I want to see Father..." Yu Jianjia stumbled a few steps. She felt a strong suffocation in her chest, causing her vision to darken and she fell to the ground.

"Young Miss." Hui Xiang was shocked.

Yu Youyao's voice deepened. "What are you waiting for? Hurry up and help your young mistress up."

Hui Xiang seemed to have woken up from a dream. She hurriedly went forward and helped Young Miss sit on a chair. Then, she opened the sachet at Yu Jianjia's waist, took out a pill, and fed it to her.

Chun Xiao reacted quickly and handed her a cup of tea.

Hui Xiang took the tea. After checking the temperature, she carefully fed it to Yu Jianjia.

Yu Jianjia's eyelashes trembled slightly, and tears streamed down her face. "I-I don't believe it. How, how can Father... Mother is his official wife. Father, no..."

Now that her mother had been despised, her status as the Second Miss in the residence would be greatly reduced. From now on, Yu Youyao would be in charge of the family and be under Old Madam's protection. The Yu Residence would be Yu Youyao's world.

What was she, the daughter of an abandoned wife, worth?

Yu Youyao looked at her coldly. "Third Sister, you're not feeling well, so rest. I'll visit you another day."

After leaving the courtyard, Yu Youyao saw an old woman waiting outside.

The old woman rushed up to Yu Youyao and whispered into her ear, "After Eldest Miss left..."

Chapter 333 Cousin, Dodge Quickly

Yu Youyao's pupils suddenly constricted, and her eyes couldn't help but tremble. Her hands, which were by her sides, clenched tightly.

After a while, Yu Youyao let go and calmed down. "Let's go back to the Jade Courtyard!"

Chun Xiao walked beside Young Miss with an umbrella.

Black clouds covered the sky and surged over. Yu Youyao looked up, and bolts of lightning tore at the sky. There was a muffled thunder in her ears. It then exploded with a bang.

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Yu Youyao blinked. "The sky has changed..."

Chun Xiao was shocked by this sudden clap of thunder. "Ever since it's May, the weather has been abnormally hot. Forget the Imperial Astronomer. There will definitely be heavy rain around the Dragon Boat Festival. Young Miss, let's go back quickly, lest the rain comes and we get drenched."

Yu Youyao nodded. "Let's go!"

The rain was indeed heavy. As soon as Yu Yao returned to the Jade Courtyard, the heavy rain fell.

"Did you get wet?"

Yu Youyao suddenly turned around and saw her cousin spinning his wheelchair out of the room. For some reason, she suddenly felt like a rock was pressing down on her heart, making her unable to breathe.

She stood rooted to the ground.

Zhou Linghuai came to the porch. "Bend down."

Yu Youyao bent down in a daze and looked into her cousin's deep eyes.

Her cousin was in a wheelchair. Every time she stayed with him, she was always worried that if she stood and spoke, her cousin would raise his head and his neck would ache. Therefore, every time, she would either squat or sit on the small chair. It was rare for her to look at him directly like this.

It was also at this moment that she realized what kind of beautiful eyes her cousin had.

His long eyebrows were drawn with ink, revealing a hint of madness. His eyes were long and narrow, and the ends of his eyes were long. His deep eyes were hidden like the bottom of an abyss, looking magnificent—

She was instantly stunned!

The sky was filled with dark clouds and thunder.

There was the sound of the rain outside the corridor, and it was dark inside. Yu Youyao saw her cousin's jade-like face. It was the outline of an alluring face.

Zhou Linghuai gently pressed her shoulder. "Lower."

Yu Youyao gave an order and took a step forward, then bent down.

The wind and rain rushed into the corridor, and the wooden ground was a little wet. She staggered and screamed, about to fall forward.

“Cousin, dodge quickly...” Yu Youyao was so frightened that she suddenly closed her eyes.

It was over, it was over. If she fell, so be it. If she fell, she would suffer a small injury. She would be fine after recuperating for a few days. She couldn’t implicate her cousin into falling with her.

What if she broke Cousin’s leg?

Zhou Linghuai’s lips curled up. He held the little girl’s waist with one hand and the armrest of the wheelchair with the other.

“Ah, Cousin, why aren’t you dodging...” With a cry of surprise, Yu Youyao suddenly fell into her cousin’s arms. She closed her eyes and cursed herself in her heart.

Yu Youyao, you fool. You caused Cousin to fall!

You, you even made your cousin become a cushion for you.

Her cousin’s body was weak. What if something happened to him?

Zhou Linghuai wrapped one hand around her back and the other around her waist.

The waist under his palm was delicate and unbelievably thin. It was as if holding this slender waist would allow him to control everything.

Zhou Linghuai’s eyes suddenly darkened, and he subconsciously tightened his grip. It was unbelievably soft, causing him to feel as if his hand was burning. As if he had woken up from a dream, he suddenly relaxed.

He lowered his head. The little girl was lying on his chest with her eyes closed. Her small body was still trembling uncontrollably. “Were you frightened?”

Yu Youyao snapped out of her shock and said in a panic, “Cousin, I’m sorry, I’m sorry. I fell because I was distracted. Cousin, how are you? Did you fall? Does your leg hurt? I-I’ll get a doctor...”

She quickly got up from her cousin’s arms to look for a doctor.

Unexpectedly, as soon as she raised her body, there was a force on her back and waist that made her fall back into her cousin’s chest.

“C-cousin?!” Yu Youyao was stunned and looked up at her cousin.

The little girl’s eyes reflected his figure. It was so clear and flawless, as clear as snow. Zhou Linghuai felt that it was dazzling and slowly let go of the little girl. “I didn’t fall. Don’t worry.”

Yu Youyao blinked. Only then did she realize that her cousin was still fine in his wheelchair. She had fallen onto his chest and also did not fall.

She slammed her hand against her chest. "Thank God I didn't fall on Cousin. Otherwise, I'd have sinned terribly."

Zhou Linghuai frowned. "Aren't you worried that you'll hurt yourself?"

Instead, she was worried that he would fall?

Yu Youyao smiled crookedly. "I'm in good health and as strong as an ox. I'll be fine even if I fall, but Cousin's body is delicate. What if something happens to him?"

Strong as an ox?

Zhou Linghuai couldn't help but look at the little girl's slender waist. His palm seemed to still have that slender and soft touch.

He suddenly clenched his fists tightly. She was clearly delicate.

Was his body weak?

Zhou Linghuai suddenly closed his eyes. He had entered the You Prefecture Army at the age of seven and followed his father to the battlefield. Although his leg was crippled, his martial arts skills were still there.

What exactly had given the little girl the illusion that he was "weak"?

"It's great that Cousin is fine." Only then did Yu Youyao react. She was still lying in her cousin's arms, so she quickly got up.

Zhou Linghuai pressed her shoulders and draped the cloak over her shoulders. He also helped her tie a knot. "It's raining heavily outside and it's humid. If you wear too little, you might catch a cold."

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment before she suddenly understood. Her cousin had asked her to bend down to tie her cloak. She turned around and saw an oil-paper umbrella lying on the ground. "Cousin, were you going to pick me up just now?"

Zhou Linghuai's expression paused for a moment. "The weather changed too quickly. I was worried that you didn't bring an umbrella."

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Yu Youyao suddenly squatted on the ground and held her cousin's hand. "Cousin, your legs can't take the humidity. It's raining heavily outside, and the humidity is high. You can't go outside. Does your leg hurt?"

Zhou Linghuai shook his head. "It's fine. It's much better than before."

Yu Youyao tightened her grip on her cousin's hand. His dry palm was a little cold. "Cousin, your hands are so cold, yet you still want to lie to me. I'll feel more comfortable doing moxibustion for you later."

Zhou Linghuai shook his head. "Nanny Lu rubbed the medicinal oil on my leg, and it indeed doesn't hurt much." Yu Shansi had drowned and the little girl had worked hard all afternoon. "Are you tired?"

Yu Youyao shook her head and nodded. She pressed her face against her cousin's leg and said nothing.

The little girl was a little sad and obedient. Zhou Linghuai recalled the first time he had seen her. She had looked at him in a daze and had almost fallen.

Zhou Linghuai frowned. "What were you thinking about just now?"

Chapter 334 I'm Very Small-minded

Yu Youyao raised her head and blinked slightly. Her lips curved into a smile. "No, it's just that on the way back to the Jade Courtyard, there was thunder and lightning. It was too scary, so I was a little afraid. However, I wasn't afraid when I saw Cousin!"

Tears welled up in the little girl's eyes, as if she had been baptized.

If it hadn't entered her heart, how could it have been washed away?

However, Zhou Linghuai could clearly see that there was a hint of fatigue and gloom on the little girl's bright face. "You don't have to force yourself in front of me."

Yu Youyao was silent for a moment before shaking her head.

Zhou Linghuai suddenly felt a violent emotion, and he heard the little girl say softly, "Cousin, I know everything. I know everything. That day, Father slapped me. I eavesdropped on Grandmother and Father's conversation and knew that my mother's death wasn't an accident. I also knew that Grandmother had helped Father cover up the truth."

Zhou Linghuai did not say anything. His trembling hands gently placed on the top of her head and stroked her hair.

Yu Youyao's voice choked. "I don't blame Grandmother. Mother's death has nothing to do with Grandmother. Although she was biased in dealing with my mother, the person who raised me and doted on me all these years was Grandmother. Grandmother has always doted on me and was the only person who doted on me the most."

Zhou Linghuai pursed his lips.

I will also dote on you, indulge you, protect you, and always dote on you. I will become the person who dotes on you the most in this world.

So, don't cry, Yao Yao. Don't cry.

Yu Youyao looked up at her cousin and suddenly broke down. "But does my mother deserves to die in vain? She still wants to fulfill that adulterous couple?!"

The rumbling thunder suddenly exploded, swallowing even these treasonous words.

Zhou Linghuai suddenly clenched his fists tightly.

Yu Youyao looked at her cousin with an expression that had never been so cold and fierce. "Cousin, do you believe in retribution?" Without waiting for him to answer, she looked at her cousin and said word by word, "I don't believe in it. I only believe in myself."

Zhou Linghuai lifted the little girl's chin, and his jade-like face suddenly leaned closer, his deep eyes like an abyss.

Before he could speak, Yu Youyao's mind went numb. She quickly added, "And Cousin!"

Her desire to live was really good. It was the same as when she had accidentally seen through his tracks at the Precious Peace Temple that day. She was delicate and timid. Zhou Linghuai's lips twitched. "Coincidentally, I only trust myself."

"What!" Yu Youyao's cheeks puffed up with anger. She heard her cousin chuckle, his voice low and pleasant as he pinched the tip of her nose. "And you."

Yu Youyao smiled. "Then Cousin, do you think I'm very bad?"

She was not a magnanimous person. After knowing the cause of her mother's death, she had never thought of letting Madam Yang off.

However, she also knew that although Madam Yang was only the daughter of a concubine. Her father was also a third-grade Imperial Censor and a superior. She had married into the Yu Residence for many years and had given birth to children for her father. Even her father's only son was raised by her.

Although Madam Yang was not presentable, she really did not have anything that could be used against her.

It was not easy to touch her quietly.

However, it was also not difficult.

What was Madam Yang's greatest reliance in the residence? Just destroy it.

Therefore, her scheming thoughts were wearing off bit by bit. She made Yu Zongzheng hate his wife, Yang Shuwan, and distance himself from her.

In the past, he had been so "deeply in love" with her that he did not even care about etiquette or shame. He had even wanted to have an affair with her. In fact, he had even secretly gotten her pregnant. In less than two months after his first wife's death, he did not hesitate to disobey his mother. He did not even care about the public in the capital and wanted to welcome her into the house as his husband. Bit by bit, his deep love was gone, and he distanced himself from her. His original love was replaced by disgust, and in the end, he completely despised her.

The cold treatment and disgust that her mother had suffered in the past were slowly returning to her.

Was such a punishment fast?!

Zhou Linghuai suddenly laughed. "What are you talking about? It's humid outside. Hurry up and go back to your room. Be careful not to catch a cold."

Yu Youyao remembered that her cousin's legs couldn't stand the humidity either. As she pushed him into the house, she said, "Cousin, I'm very petty. I can only acknowledge someone I care about. If anyone dares to bully me, I'll definitely take revenge on the people I care about."

The corners of Zhou Linghuai's lips curled up. "That's great!"

Those who repaid evil with kindness were saints!

As soon as they entered the house, Yu Youyao sniffed. "What's that smell?"

Zhou Linghuai chuckled and looked at the desk.

The little girl ran to the vase in front of the desk with her dress. She picked up a handful of hollyhocks from the vase and looked happy. "Are these from Cousin?"

Zhou Linghuai's expression paused for a moment. The hollyhocks was bright red and beautiful. Holding them in her arms, it half covered her delicate face, but it made her look even more beautiful.

"Didn't you say you were going to the Green House to see the hollyhocks in the morning? Seeing that you didn't have time to come over, I picked a handful and came over with a bottle for you."

Yu Youyao smiled. "Thank you, Cousin." She looked down at the hollyhocks in her arms. Her eyes were burning red and she looked extremely beautiful. "The hollyhocks this year are really beautiful."

Zhou Linghuai looked at the beautiful girl in front of him and agreed deeply.

Yu Youyao pinched the most beautiful hollyhock and handed it to her cousin. She also moved closer to him. "Cousin, put it on for me quickly."

Zhou Linghuai took the hollyhock and lowered his head. He saw that the little girl's black hair was piled up like clouds on her cheeks. He couldn't help but raise his hand and gently put the red hollyhock into her bun.

Hearing the little girl say happily, "Cousin, are you done?"

Zhou Linghuai nodded softly.

The little girl tilted her head and smiled. "Does it look good?"

The black hair and red flower had an indescribable beauty. Zhou Linghuai nodded, and his mind went blank for a moment. There was a lump in his throat, and he only said, "It's very beautiful."

... .

Not long after her cousin left, Xia Tao came over to report, "Old Madam gave each of Fourth Young Master's servants 20 strokes of the paddle and sent them to the manor to do manual labor. She asked Nanny Liu to tidy up the Tranquil Heart Residence and sent First Madam in today. Only Nanny Li and Bi Tao were left by First Madam's side to serve her. The door of the Tranquil Heart Residence is locked tightly and no visitors are allowed."

Yu Youyao was not surprised.

Her grandmother had always been decisive. Since she was determined to deal with Madam Yang, she would not give her a chance to rise again.

Xia Tao paused for a moment before continuing, "After Third Miss received the news, she dragged her sickly body to plead with Master and was reprimanded by him. As soon as she returned to the courtyard, she fell ill and fainted. Hui Xiang reported it to Master. Master was worried about Third Miss, so he took out his badge and got someone to invite Imperial Physician Hu into the residence."

Master still doted on Third Miss very much.

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Chapter 335 Confession to My Mother

She was really pleading for mercy. On the one hand, she had to show her filial piety. At the same time, she could also probe her father's attitude towards her mother. Only then would she know what to do next.

Furthermore, Yu Zongzheng had even reprimanded her, which meant that her mother probably wouldn't be able to come out for a while and she shouldn't cause trouble anymore.

When she returned to her courtyard, she fell sick and used this to gain her father's pity. It also proved to the residence that even though her mother had entered the Tranquil Heart Residence, the Second Miss of the Yu Residence, Yu Jianjia, was still her father's daughter, and had unknowingly stabilized her status.

No matter when or where, Yu Jianjia would never forget to scheme so that the situation that was most beneficial to her. Her schemes were mixed with sincerity. Whether it was true or false, no one could ever see through her.

!!

This was truly brilliant.

But!

The corners of Yu Youyao's mouth curled up. This development was completely within her expectations.

Next, they waited for Imperial Physician Hu to visit.

At that time, Yu Jianjia would truly understand what it meant to fall into your own trap.

Yu Youyao stood under the porch. The gray sky was about to turn completely dark. Lightning flashed in the clouds, and thunder was still roaring.

She gently stroked the sachet at her waist.

She had only changed into the brand new sachet after her cousin left.

At this moment, Chun Xiao walked over. "Young Miss, it's humid outside. Hurry back to your room!"

Yu Youyao reached out to the corridor and smiled. "The rain has stopped."

Chun Xiao looked at the sky. "It seems that the rain isn't over yet. It should rain again later."

Yu Youyao rubbed the sachet at her waist casually. "Go prepare a few blankets and some supplements and medicinal herbs. Also... let's go." Her eyes narrowed slightly, and there was a faint smile on her lips. "Let's go to the Tranquil Heart Residence to see Mother."

The inaudible word "mother" sounded like sleep talk.

Chun Xiao disagreed and advised, “Young Miss, the Tranquil Heart Residence has already locked the courtyard door. Why do you have to... First Madam won’t appreciate it either. You...”

Yu Youyao said calmly, “Do as I say.”

The Tranquil Heart Residence was the most remote courtyard in the residence. It was well-known, but everyone in the residence knew that this was the small courtyard that was prepared to lock up those wives and concubines who had made mistakes.

The courtyard wasn’t big. Although it wasn’t in disrepair, it was still very simple. Suddenly, it overlapped with the side courtyard where older Yao Yao lived in the Zhenguo Marquis Residence in her nightmare.

Yu Youyao was in a daze, unable to tell reality from the nightmare.

“Young Miss.” Chun Xiao looked at her young mistress worriedly. For some reason, after leaving the courtyard, her young mistress had suddenly become strange.

Yu Youyao snapped out of her daze.

The old maid guarding the door rushed over and bowed. “Hello, Eldest Miss.”

Yu Youyao said politely, “It’s raining heavily today and it’s humid. I brought some things over to visit Mother. I wonder if it’s convenient?”

“Young Miss, you’re too polite. Others naturally can’t do it, but Eldest Miss is fine. I’ll open the door now.” The old woman glanced at the servants behind Eldest Miss and quickly pulled the key from her waist, opened the lock, and pushed open the courtyard door.

Eldest Miss was in charge of the family. How could it be inconvenient?!

The Tranquil Heart Residence was simple and small. There was a well in the courtyard, and a crooked willow tree was planted beside it. Its branches hung like silk, and it was the only scenery in the courtyard.

There were a total of three rooms, so it was enough for the three of them.

Before Yu Youyao could enter the house, she heard Yang Shuwan’s hysterical screams and Nanny Li and Bi Tao’s comforting voices.

“Master can’t treat me like this. I-I’m Master’s legitimate wife and Brother Si’s biological mother. How can he be so heartless? I’m going to look for Master, Master, Master...”

“It was Old Madam who didn’t want me to have an easy time, so she locked me up in the Tranquil Heart Residence. Master doesn’t know anything, right? He said that he would treat me well. He won’t treat me like this...”

“Yu Youyao, it was that b*tch Yu Youyao who harmed me...”

When the servants following behind Yu Youyao heard First Madam call Eldest Miss a “b*tch”, they all felt that First Madam Yang really did not know what was good for her.

Yu Youyao’s expression was indifferent. She moved the curtain, passed through the screen, and walked into the house.

In the house, Yang Shuwan’s hair was disheveled as she sat on the ground in a daze. She was only wearing a gray Song Jiang cotton shirt, and she did not even have any decent jewelry on her.

Her face was still covered in messy makeup, and her beautiful face was like a withered flower. The color had already withered, leaving only a hint of twilight.

Yu Youyao frowned. “It’s raining today, and the ground is wet. Why is Mother sitting on the ground?” As she spoke, she looked at Nanny Li and Bi Tao, who were standing at the side. “What are you waiting for? Aren’t you going to help First Madam up?”

Nanny Li and Bi Tao were so shocked that they forgot to bow. Upon hearing Eldest Miss’s instructions, they hurriedly went forward and helped Yang Shuwan up.

Yang Shuwan’s confused gaze landed on Yu Youyao. Her eyes widened bit by bit. “Yu Youyao, what are you doing here? You’re here to laugh at me, right? Get lost, get lost...”

Yu Youyao ignored her and turned to instruct, “Move the things in!”

As soon as she gave the order, two old maids carried a Buddhist shrine into the house. A Buddha sitting cross-legged on a lotus flower with his eyes lowered, looking down at all living beings with a solemn expression.

Yang Shuwan looked at her hatefully. “What do you mean by this?”

Yu Youyao lowered her head and pulled out the blood beeswax prayer beads on her wrist. “It’s peaceful in the Tranquil Heart Residence, so Mother will rest well here.”

She smiled and stepped forward.

For some reason, as Yu Youyao approached step by step, Yang Shuwan suddenly felt dizzy. The person in front of her suddenly split into two in her eyes and walked towards her with a devilish smile.

“Demon...” The blood drained from Yang Shuwan’s face. Her heart was in turmoil, as if she was hanging in midair. She couldn’t help but scream and retreat. “You... what are you doing? No, come over...” When her back was against the wall and she couldn’t retreat anymore, she suddenly closed her eyes and screamed, “Don’t come over. Yu Youyao, you demon, b*tch! Don’t come over. What, what are you doing?”

Yu Youyao leaned close to her ear and said at a volume that only the two of them could hear, “Stay in Tranquil Heart Residence and repent to my mother in front of Buddha!”

Her soft voice suddenly entered her ears.

Yang Shuwan instantly froze. It was as if a snake was slowly coiling around her leg and flicking its tongue in her ear.

Hiss, hiss, hiss...

Yu Youyao slowly retreated and said in a gentle voice, "I just want to say that if you need anything, just ask the people around you to send a message. I will prepare everything for you. Why are you hiding?"

...

Chapter 336 Going Crazy

With that, Yu Youyao retreated and slowly walked to the Buddhist shrine. She took out three incense sticks from the incense box and lit them. Then, she knelt on the ground and bowed three times. She stood up and offered the incense into the incense burner. "Mother, you can't neglect the Buddha who has entered the house."

It was easy to invite Buddha over, but difficult to send him away. Since the Buddha had already entered the house, she had to burn three incense sticks every morning and night.

Yang Shuwan had no choice but to agree.

Yang Shuwan suddenly felt a splitting headache. She held her head and groaned in pain, but her ears kept ringing like a nightmare...

!!

In front of Buddha, confess to my mother—

Confess to my mother—

Confess—

Con—

Yang Shuwan suddenly covered her ears and screamed, "Take it away, take it away..."

Yu Youyao frowned. "Calm down and live in peace. I'm worried about my mother who will stay in the courtyard and let her imagination run wild. I'm worried you can't recuperate, so I brought over a Buddhist shrine and asked you to copy scriptures every day like Grandmother and chant Buddhist scriptures to pray for the elders in the family and my children."

Even the servants in the room felt that Eldest Miss was kind.

Everyone in the residence said that First Madam's illness was serious and she needed to recuperate in peace. That was why Old Madam had chosen the most remote and quiet residence for First Madam to stay in so that she could recuperate well.

However, today, Fourth Young Master's drowning incident had blown up. Everyone in the residence knew that this was just an excuse.

It was First Madam who had led Fourth Young Master astray and even slandered Eldest Miss. That was why Eldest Master was angered and sent Eldest Madam Yang to this place.

First Madam was not despised by Master. Eldest Miss cared about their relationship, but First Madam did not appreciate it. She was really heartless.

The sandalwood fragrance in front of the Buddha filled the entire room, making Yang Shuwan feel suffocated. She breathed rapidly and took a deep breath.

It was as if there was a demon in front of her. It was clearly Yu Youyao's face, but it had suddenly become Madam Xie's.

Her eyes widened, but in the blink of an eye, Madam Xie's beautiful face had twisted into a green-faced, gnawed demon. She was walking towards her step by step, her mouth wide open...

"Ah..." Yang Shuwan screamed like a lunatic. "Yu Youyao, you're taking revenge on me, right? You hate me for causing your mother's death, so you deliberately attacked Brother Si and acted out today's scene, causing your father to completely despise me. You're so young, but you're actually so vicious. I really underestimated you in the past..."

Yu Youyao's expression was indifferent. "Mother, what nonsense are you talking about? Back then, my birth mother slipped and had a miscarriage. That was why she had a difficult delivery and I was born prematurely. After giving birth to me desperately, she fell sick and passed away in less than a month. How did she get involved with you?"

"Hahaha." Yang Shuwan laughed as if she had lost her mind. "Why are you pretending? Didn't you ask me to repent to your mother? You already knew the truth. Haha, that's right. I was the one who caused your mother's death. I originally only wanted to go with the flow and enter the Yu Residence to be a noble concubine. Who would have thought that your mother would actually have a short life? Instead, she fulfilled my wish and I became the legitimate second wife of an official. Haha, if you want to blame someone, blame Xie Roujia for having a cheap life..."

"Pa—" Yu Youyao suddenly raised her hand and slapped Yang Shuwan's face. "As a junior, I have no right to interfere in the matters between the elders. However, since you've personally admitted that you were the one who caused my mother's death, I don't think this matter is fake. If I don't hit you, it won't be able to resolve the resentment and hatred in my heart!"

Yang Shuwan covered her face and looked up, screaming in disbelief, "Yu Youyao, how dare you hit me..."

Bam! Yu Youyao slapped her again, her eyes like knives scraping across her body. "You harmed my mother's life. This slap was for my dead mother. I don't think it's too much."

Blood seeped out of the corner of Yang Shuwan's mouth. "Yu Youyao, I'm your mother..."

Bam! Yu Youyao slapped her again. "This slap is for myself. All these years, although I've been raised in Grandmother's house, I've always treated you, my stepmother, respectfully and politely. However, you actually caused my mother's death. It's hateful that I've acknowledged a schemer as my mother for so many years. I'm really unfilial."

"Ah..." Yang Shuwan screamed and fell to the ground. She had been slapped three times in a row. Yu Youyao had used all her strength, each slap more

ruthless and heavier than the last. Her face was burning with pain, and even her ears were buzzing. As long as she opened her mouth, the wound at the corner of her mouth would hurt so much that she would gasp.

Yu Youyao turned around. "Let's go!"

The servants in the room looked terrified. It turned out that Eldest Miss had arranged for them to send First Madam some food and clothes, as well as a Buddhist shrine.

Not only did First Madam not appreciate it, but she also said that she had caused the death of the first wife, First Madam Xie!

This, this...

It was simply shocking.

The old people in the residence could most likely guess that back then, Eldest Madam Yang had already gotten involved with Eldest Master before she even married into the family. Who would have thought that Eldest Madam Xie's death was actually related to Eldest Madam?

No wonder Old Madam had locked Eldest Madam Yang up in the Tranquil Heart Residence.

Eldest Miss's three slaps were too light.

Yu Youyao left the house step by step. It was drizzling outside again.

She lowered her head and gently untied the sachet at her waist, playing with it in her hand.

There was a small amount of thorn apple incense in the sachet. This incense would not be harmful to the human body for the time being, but the fragrance would cause one to be in a daze.

Yang Shuwan had migraines. She only needed to inhale a little thorn apple fragrance to be affected.

Thorn apple incense, when used together with the sandalwood in front of the Buddha, would have a slight hallucinatory effect. It could induce fear in people's hearts and make them become irritable and crazy.

If she hadn't known that her mother's death was also Yang Shuwan's doing, she wouldn't have used the thorn apple fragrance to deal with Madam Yang.

Letting Madam Yang live alone for the rest of her life was also the greatest punishment for her.

Unfortunately, she knew.

She had gone crazy in front of the servants in the residence and admitted that she had harmed the first wife. Madam Yang's reputation was completely ruined, and she could forget about ever making a comeback in this lifetime.

Mother, the Yu Residence owed you the truth.

I've given it back to you!

The Yu Residence owed you justice.

I'll get it for you.

Chun Xiao held the lamp and was a little worried. “Young Miss, are you alright?”

“Let’s go. Imperial Physician Hu should be here soon.” It was already dark, and the rain was pattering on the umbrella. Yu Youyao was wearing small sheepskin boots and stepping on the rain.

After managing the family again, most of the Yu Residence was under her control. That was why she could make arrangements as soon as possible and take the initiative after Yu Shansi fell into the water.

Therefore, after she left the Songtao Courtyard, someone reported what happened after that to her.

Yu Zongzheng had hidden Yang Shuwan from her. Her mother had lost a lot of blood because she had been pushed and fell. She had not been treated in time and had barely given birth to her. That was why she had died early.

On the other hand, Yang Shuwan had always thought that it was the handkerchief she had left on Yu Zongzheng that had caused her mother to slip.

...

Chapter 337 Yu Youyao Is a Monster

But none of that mattered anymore.

Since she had sinned, she had to pay the price.

In the darkness, the shadows of a few yellow lanterns were sparse, accompanied by light and darkness.

Yu Youyao’s figure disappeared into the rain. On the limestone path, there was a sound of wheels. Chang An pushed Zhou Linghuai out of the dark.

!!

Yin San recounted everything that had happened in the Tranquil Heart Residence.

In the darkness, Zhou Linghuai was leaning against the wheelchair, his elbows on the armrests. He supported his forehead with his hand and said in a deep voice, “Have you done everything?”

Yin San said, “Eldest Miss Yu used very little thorn apple Fragrance. After inhaling it, it will be expelled from the human body in about an hour. There’s no problem with the sandalwood incense used for praying to Buddha.”

Even so, no one knew.

This little girl had some tricks up her sleeve.

Madam Yang’s evil deeds were not enough to kill her. Ruining her reputation was indeed the best punishment for her.

But!

This was only relative to the little girl.

Zhou Linghuai sat up straight and untied the incense bead bracelet around his wrist. He wrapped it around his wrist again and again. "There seems to be a medicine to clear the liver in Yang Shuwan's medicine for her headaches?"

Yin San said, "The last time Doctor Ding diagnosed Yang Shuwan, the result was that not only was her gastric was too intense, causing her blood to stagnate. She also had liver circulation problems."

The corners of Zhou Linghuai's mouth twitched slightly. "Change that medicine to Chinese violet."

Chinese violet would clear her liver and her vision and affect Yang Shuwan's head disease.

Using it for a long time with another spice in sandalwood can cause bad temper and mental disorder.

Yin San said in a low voice, "Yes!"

Zhou Linghuai rubbed the incense bead in his hand and suddenly thought of the little girl pouting and saying, "Cousin, I'm very petty. I can only pretend to like someone I care about. If anyone dares to bully me, I'll definitely take revenge for the people I care about."

He chuckled. "What a coincidence. I'm also very narrow-minded."

Yu Youyao brought Chun Xiao to the courtyard. Yu Zongzheng also brought Imperial Physician Hu to the courtyard.

After Yu Youyao stepped forward and bowed, she said, "Grandmother is old and her health is poor. Mother also has a headache and needs to recuperate. Now, I am in charge of the household. If there's anything wrong, I hope Imperial Physician Hu can understand. Please treat my third sister carefully."

Imperial Physician Hu nodded. "Eldest Miss, you're too polite. I'll naturally do my best."

Yu Youyao led Imperial Physician Hu into the inner room.

Behind the sky-green curtain, Yu Jianjia's hair was disheveled, and her face was ashen as she leaned against the pillow. Even the faint pink color on her lips had completely faded.

Hui Xiang whispered, "Young Miss, Imperial Physician Hu is here."

Yu Jianjia struggled to sit up straight and said hoarsely, "It's raining today, so it's not easy to walk outside. I'll have to trouble Imperial Physician Hu to specially come and treat me. Please forgive Jia Jia for making things inconvenient and being unable to get up to greet you. If I've neglected you, please forgive me."

Although it wasn't time for etiquette, she was extremely polite.

Imperial Physician Hu hurriedly said, "Third Miss, you're too polite. Let me take your pulse."

Yu Jianjia leaned back against the pillow and stretched out her wrist. However, she couldn't help but look over. Yu Youyao, who was standing beside Imperial Physician Hu, felt her heart skip a beat again. She couldn't help but cover her mouth and cough lightly.

She suddenly had a bad feeling. Why was Yu Youyao here?

Imperial Physician Hu took Yu Jianjia's pulse. As he had taken her pulse once before, he knew what was going on. In just a moment, he understood Yu Jianjia's illness.

Imperial Physician Hu removed his hand and said, "The medicine I prescribed previously has been stopped. I'll prescribe a new prescription for Third Miss. Third Miss's illness needs to be recuperated."

Yu Jianjia's face turned pale. The prescription that Imperial Physician Hu had prescribed had always been very effective.

During this period of time, she had been acting up again. It wasn't that Imperial Physician Hu's medicine wasn't effective, but that her condition had worsened.

Yu Youyao gently lifted the sky-green curtain and tucked Yu Jianjia in. "Third Sister, rest well. I'll accompany Imperial Physician Hu outside to get a prescription for you first. Father is also outside."

Yu Jianjia clenched her fists and said gently, "Thank you, Big Sister."

When they reached the outer room, Yu Youyao instructed the servants to serve tea.

After Imperial Physician Hu drank his tea, he said, "The medicine I prescribed previously was a good prescription for strengthening the foundation and nurturing the essence. It should be effective. Third Miss's illness shouldn't be so serious in such a short period of time." He pondered for a long time before asking, "Has Third Miss been having relapses recently?"

Yu Youyao looked at Hui Xiang.

Yu Zongzheng's expression darkened as he stared at Hui Xiang. "You're Third Miss's personal maidservant. Tell me the truth about Third Miss's health."

Hui Xiang did not dare to hide anything anymore and quickly knelt on the ground. "Master, Third Miss's illness has indeed acted up a few times recently. However, the medicine prescribed by Imperial Physician Hu is good. Every time she falls ill, she can recover after taking the medicine, so..."

Yu Zongzheng was furious and slammed the table.

Hui Xiang trembled in fear.

Yu Youyao quickly said, "Father, please calm down. Third Sister's condition is more important."

Yu Zongzheng's anger subsided a little, and he quickly looked at Imperial Physician Hu. "What's going on with my daughter's condition?"

Imperial Physician Hu sighed slightly. "Third Miss's illness is caused by a congenital deficiency. Her Qi and blood are weak, so her body has been weak and difficult to treat. However, as long as she uses the right prescription, strengthens her foundation and nourishes her mind, she can recover."

At this point, he shook his head. "Previously, I've said that Third Miss's illness is the most taxing on the mind. It's not good to think too much. She has to relax often, nourish her blood, and calm her mind. Only then she can recover from this illness. Unfortunately," he shook his head and sighed, "it's obvious that your residence didn't listen to me."

In just two months, Third Miss Yu's illness had worsened a lot. There was not much left of her foundation. In the end, there would be difficulties in having children. If she did not recuperate well, her life would be in danger.

Yu Zongzheng also understood.

Hui Xiang had said that Imperial Physician Hu's prescription was good and effective. In that case, his third daughter's condition had worsened, so she definitely had not recuperated well.

Imperial Physician Hu said, "Third Miss is feeling depressed after taking her pulse today. I'm afraid she's been feeling depressed recently and it's difficult to relieve it. It's very disadvantageous for her recovery."

Yu Zongzheng's face darkened.

She also remembered that ever since Madam Yang had returned to managing the household, there had been endless messy matters at home. Jia Jia was meticulous, considerate, and filial, so she had to worry for her mother.

...

It was probably because of this that she couldn't recuperate well.

As a result, he became even more angry with Yang Shuwan.

Yu Youyao quickly asked, "I wonder if my third sister's illness can be cured?"

Imperial Physician Hu pondered for a long time before saying, "I'll prescribe a few more sets of medicine for Third Miss and increase the dosage a little. Take it first!"

Chapter 338 Definitely a Calamity

He did not say if it could be treated, but Yu Zongzheng knew very well that his third daughter's illness was probably not easy to treat. He was furious. "Thank you, Imperial Physician Hu."

Imperial Physician Hu spread out some paper and began to write a prescription. He prescribed three sets of medicine in a row. After explaining how to use them, he stood up. "Although medicine is important, recuperation lies in the foundation. This illness can't be delayed."

Yu Youyao quickly got someone to prepare a generous gift and sent Imperial Physician Hu out. She also instructed Ai Ye, who was in front of Yu Jianjia, to get the medicine.

After everything was arranged, Yu Youyao returned to her house.

Yu Zongzheng was already furious. He ordered someone to gather all the servants in the courtyard.

"Third Miss's illness has acted up again. You're serving her in front of her, but all of you didn't report it. You hid your Master's illness, causing her illness to worsen. It's simply hateful."

Hui Xiang was shocked and quickly explained, "Master, I'm innocent. During this period of time, Master was busy in the government office, so Third Miss didn't allow me to tell Master about this. She said that she was afraid that Master would worry."

Yu Youyao frowned and said, "Third Sister doesn't want Father to worry because she's being filial. However, there are other elders in the family, and Third Sister has fallen ill frequently. You're just a

servant. How can you bear the responsibility of hiding Third Sister's illness and delaying her recovery?"

Hui Xiang said anxiously, "Master, Master, I didn't mean to hide it. It's just that Old Madam is old, and First Madam's illness flares up from time to time. Third Miss has always been considerate and filial, and she doesn't want the elders to worry about her health..."

Bang— Yu Zongzheng slammed the table and glared at Hui Xiang. "You're full of lies. Third Miss's health isn't good, so she doesn't want her elders to worry. Isn't there still Eldest Miss in this residence? Eldest Miss is the eldest daughter of the first wife, and also the eldest sister. She has the responsibility to take care of and raise the younger siblings in the family. Third Miss is weak, but you're actually so negligent. You're even using such sweet words to push the blame to her. What exactly are your intentions?"

Yao Yao cared about their sisterly relationship. If she had known about Jia Jia's health earlier, why would her condition have worsened to this extent?

Hui Xiang's eyes widened in shock. "I'm innocent. It's Eldest Miss. Eldest Miss didn't allow me to say anything. I didn't mean to hide it. I've been with Third Miss since I was young and am loyal to her."

Yu Youyao said coldly, "You're indeed loyal to Third Sister. It's just that she's weak and has a gentle personality. You're all arrogant and don't know the severity of the matter. Previously, Third Sister fell to the ground. She was frightened and had a high fever. She was in a coma for three days and three nights and almost lost her life. Now, there's also you, a sly maidservant. You hid Third Sister's condition and made her so seriously ill."

When Hui Xiang heard this, she felt dizzy and kowtowed. "Master, I'm innocent..."

"Shut up." If Yao Yao hadn't mentioned it, Yu Zongzheng would have almost forgotten about it. Previously, he had thought that it was because Yao Yao was pampered that Jia Jia had fallen and was frightened. How could he have known that it was obvious that Jia Jia was neglected by the maidservant in front of her? Immediately, he was furious. "Someone, tie up all the servants in front of Third Miss. All of them will be punished with 30 strokes of the paddle and sold to the brokerage house."

Immediately, a few old maids found ropes and tied them up without any explanation.

"Master, show mercy..."

"I'm innocent..."

"I know my mistake. Master, please spare me this time..."

The servants cried and kowtowed, begging for mercy. The room was in chaos.

When Yu Jianjia received the news, she couldn't care less about being sick or weak. She asked the little girl in the room to help her out. "Father, w-what are you doing? They've served me for many

years. Even if they haven't contributed much, they've worked hard. Father, please spare them this time on my account. I-I'll definitely discipline them strictly later..."

Yu Youyao's lips curled up slightly as she tapped her teacup with one hand. "It's raining today. The weather is cold and humid. Third Sister is weak to begin with, so why did she run out without even wearing a thick set of clothes? How did your maidservant serve you?"

Yu Jianjia knew that something was wrong.

Her father was angry because the servants in front of her were useless and did not know the severity of the situation. Yu Youyao's words undoubtedly further confirmed this.

Indeed!

Seeing that his third daughter was only wearing a thin white shirt and not even a cloak and her thin body was trembling, Yu Zongzheng frowned. "Your sister is right. Your health isn't good, so you should stay in the house and recuperate well." With that, he turned around and instructed the old maids that Yu Youyao had brought over. "Help Third Miss back to rest."

The servants in the courtyard were too outrageous.

Yao Yao was right. Jia Jia was too gentle and kind, which was why they were so arrogant and didn't know their limits. They couldn't even serve their master well.

They could not let it go easily.

Yu Jianjia refused to leave and knelt on the ground with a thud. Her lips trembled as she said in a trembling voice, "Father, please let them off this time. I'm weak and they're used to serving me. If Father punishes them and I get someone new to take care of me, it won't be as appropriate as them..."

Yu Zongzheng frowned, feeling that what she said made sense. He turned to look at Yu Youyao and asked, "Yao Yao, what do you think we should do?"

Yu Jianjia looked at her father in shock. When had her father trusted Yu Youyao so much that he even asked about her opinion when dealing with the servants?

Yu Youyao put down her teacup and fiddled with the blood beeswax prayer beads on her wrist.

In the yellow room, the crystal clear blood beeswax prayer beads shone like jade under the dense light. They were pure and beautiful, almost piercing Yu Jianjia's eyes.

She knew that this string of blood beeswax prayer beads had been enshrined in the Precious Peace Temple before Yu Youyao was born. Some time ago, when she was old enough, Old Madam had given it to Yu Youyao as a gift for her tenth birthday.

After Yu Youyao put it on, it never left her side.

Who wouldn't like beautiful and rare things?

Every time she saw her, she couldn't help but take a few more glances. When Hui Xiang saw her, she would complain about how biased Old Madam was. Everything good was for Eldest Miss, and she only had Eldest Miss in her heart.

She had said it after hearing it from Hui Xiang, but why didn't she think so in her heart?!

But!

She had her father's love, and Yu Youyao could never compare to her.

Now, not only had Yu Youyao gained her father's trust, but she had also snatched away his love for her. Could it be that as her mother had said? Yu Youyao was not human, but a monster?

Yu Youyao pondered for a moment before saying, "We definitely can't keep the same people in front of Third Sister. Otherwise, it will definitely become a disaster in the future."

Chapter 339 Rendered Powerless

Yu Jianjia opened her mouth, wanting to retort.

Yu Youyao looked at Yu Jianjia's thin body and her face darkened. "It hasn't been long since Third Sister's illness acted up, but she actually ignored her health and ran out without even wearing her clothes properly. Third Sister's body is weak and can't withstand any torture. If she catches a cold, it'll only be a matter of a few sets of medicine for ordinary people. However, to Third Sister, I'm afraid there'll be more frost on the snow."

Yu Jianjia's body went limp, and her mouth trembled, unable to say anything.

Indeed!

Yu Zongzheng felt that his eldest daughter made sense. "Your eldest sister is right. The people in front of you are all bad-tempered. If we don't deal with them, they will definitely become worse in the future. In the end, they will still be a disaster, so we'll deal with them all. Then, we'll choose some capable people to serve you. Even if you're not used to it, it's only for a moment. I remember that a while ago, many new people entered the residence. After training them for a while, they'll probably be useful."

Yu Jianjia felt bitter and indignant. "Father, other than Hui Xiang and Nanny Qin, I still have some capable people around me. You..."

Yu Youyao continued, "Third Sister's health isn't good. It's indeed a little inappropriate to change your servants rashly. Let Ai Ye stay. It's appropriate for her to serve you since she has followed you in the past."

Yu Jianjia was speechless.

Ai Ye was indeed a very capable person, but she was honest and wooden. She was not good to be deployed, but Yu Youyao had already given in. If she made any other requests, her father would probably be angry.

Yu Zongzheng nodded. "We'll do as your big sister says."

At this point, Yu Jianjia knew that it was over.

It was only at this moment that she suddenly realized that ever since Yu Youyao had suddenly stepped into the courtyard, she had unknowingly fallen into a trap.

Her sickly appearance was exactly what Yu Youyao wanted.

Then, Imperial Physician Hu came knocking on her door. Yu Youyao had already planned it all out. Even if she did not take the initiative to invite Imperial Physician Hu over, Yu Youyao would still use her illness to invite him over.

With the incident of Fourth Brother's drowning and his mother working with the servants to deceive the higher-ups, his father was filled with distrust for the servants in the residence.

Now, if her condition worsened again, her father would definitely be furious.

Yu Youyao naturally took this opportunity to deal with all the people who served her and replaced them.

Without anyone she trusted, she was controlled by Yu Youyao in the residence and became Yu Youyao's pawn. Her life and death depended on Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao was so scheming!

This step-by-step plan made her suffocate. She changed the trusted aides of everyone in the main courtyard. From now on, the Yu Residence was under Yu Youyao's control.

Yu Jianjia slowly closed her eyes. She had underestimated Yu Youyao, causing her to fall into her trap without realizing it.

While she was still using her illness to gain her father's pity and was still his most beloved daughter, even though her mother was despised by her father, no one could shake her status in the residence. Just as she was feeling smug...

Yu Youyao's butcher knife was already at her neck.

Seeing that she did not look too good, Yu Zongzheng said earnestly, "Jia Jia, your big sister is a thorough and appropriate person. You have to get closer to her. If there's anything, look for her. Your big sister values friendship and cares about sisterhood the most. She will definitely help you."

Just because Yu Youyao had saved Fourth Brother today, her father was certain that Yu Youyao valued friendship and cared about her siblings, so he trusted her even more?

How could she, who had single-handedly planned for her fourth brother to drown, endure this?

In the end, she had also shot herself in the foot.

This was what "self-inflicted trouble" was.

Yu Jianjia's heart palpitated as she lowered her head. "I understand, Father. Hui Xiang and the others have served me for many years. I can't bear to see them like this. I know that you're doing this for my own good. It's my fault for making you worry for me."

Yu Zongzheng's brows relaxed. "It's not your fault. It's also because your mother can't be in charge. She can't manage the family well and has caused trouble in the residence. All the servants are in a mess. Fortunately, your eldest sister is thorough and appropriate. In the future, with her in charge of the family, you can rest in peace. Don't think too much."

She heard her father saying that Yu Youyao was thorough and appropriate, and how unbearable her mother was.

Yu Jianjia's heart felt like it was being stabbed by a knife, and she suddenly felt a surge of resentment.

Her eyelashes fluttered slightly to hide the wet tears in her eyes. She said hoarsely, "Father is right." With that, she stood up and bowed to Yu Youyao. "I'll have to trouble Big Sister in the future."

"We're all sisters. Third Sister, you don't have to be so polite." Yu Youyao looked at Yu Jianjia coldly. She had never felt that Yu Jianjia's expression was real.

Yu Jianjia couldn't help but look up. The light in the room was a little dim, so she couldn't see the expression on Yu Youyao's face.

"Help Third Miss to rest." With Yu Youyao's order, two old maids helped Yu Jianjia back to the inner room.

Yu Jianjia took a few steps and couldn't help but turn around.

Yu Youyao instructed, "Tie up all the people who served Third Miss and send them to the manor. Get Nanny Liu to choose some capable people to serve Third Miss."

Yu Jianjia slowly closed her eyes. She finally understood why her father had always said that Yu Youyao was thorough and appropriate.

Everyone in the courtyard had changed, but Yu Youyao did not personally choose anyone. Instead, she borrowed Old Madam's hand and asked Nanny Liu to choose. If anything went wrong in the future, it would not be her fault.

Nanny Liu was Old Madam's subordinate, and Old Madam was biased towards Yu Youyao. These people were nominally chosen by Nanny Liu, but what was the difference between them and Yu Youyao?

Even her grandmother was at ease with Nanny Liu's work. Her father would definitely think that Yu Youyao cared about her because she valued friendship and cared about her siblings. He would admire Yu Youyao even more.

The process was different, but the outcome was exactly the same.

This temperament and method were really flawless.

As expected, Yu Zongzheng said in satisfaction, "Jia Jia, don't worry now. Nanny Liu has always done things appropriately. The people she chooses will definitely be the most capable. Even if she chooses someone new, there won't be any mistakes."

Yu Jianjia's eyes darkened when she heard this. Then, she heard her father praise Yu Youyao, "Yao Yao, you've indeed thought it through. Your mother is recuperating in peace, and your third sister's body is weak. You'll have to spend more effort on them in the future."

After he indirectly handed her over to Yu Youyao, Yu Jianjia felt suffocated. She kept feeling like she was being supported and controlled by Yu Youyao, and she desperately wanted to escape.

Chapter 340 Coughing Blood

Yu Youyao agreed and instructed, "Third Miss is seriously ill. Imperial Physician Hu has instructed that you have to calm your mind and nourish your blood and Qi. Don't think too much. From today onwards, seal the courtyard door. There's no need to tell Third Miss about the matters in the residence. Let her rest in peace."

This was a disguised grounding!

It was also an indefinite restriction!

When the seal was unsealed depended on Yu Youyao's words.

!!

Yu Jianjia couldn't stand it anymore. She staggered into the house with the old woman and couldn't help but cough violently.

She quickly covered her mouth with a handkerchief.

The two old maids were indeed quick to react. One of them hurriedly helped her to the bed, while the other had already brought over warm water.

Yu Jianjia barely held back her coughing and took off the handkerchief that was covering her mouth. Immediately, the handkerchief was shockingly red and dazzling.

She coughed up blood!

The two old maids were also shocked. One hurriedly served Yu Jianjia some water, while the other ran off to look for Eldest Miss and report this matter.

Yu Youyao was also a little surprised. She did not expect Yu Jianjia to cough up blood. She quickly said, "Imperial Physician Hu's carriage has probably just left the residence. Hurry up and chase him back to treat Third Sister."

The old woman quickly ran out.

Yu Youyao did not go into Yu Jianjia's house. She sat in the hall and waited for about an incense stick to burn before Imperial Physician Hu returned.

Yu Youyao quickly explained the reason. "Imperial Physician Hu, please forgive me for troubling you to run back and forth."

Imperial Physician Hu shook his head. "A doctor is benevolent. It's only right if something has happened to Third Miss's body. I'll treat her again and it'll be more accurate."

With that, he followed Yu Youyao into the house.

Yu Jianjia leaned against the bed, but the curtain was not lowered.

Perhaps it was because she had coughed up blood, but her face was no longer as pale as before. Instead, there was a hint of yellow in her white face, and she looked slightly withered. It was as if this mouthful of blood had exhausted all her energy.

After a while, Imperial Physician Hu said, "Third Miss is depressed. The blood has accumulated in her body, and she's so anxious that she coughed up blood. I'll prescribe another set of medicine.

Use it with the three sets of medicine from before. As long as she recuperates well in the future, she'll be fine."

Yu Jianjia heaved a sigh of relief and closed her eyes tiredly. Her thin figure was curled up on the bed, looking very pitiful.

Yu Youyao instructed the two old maids to take good care of Yu Jianjia, then brought Imperial Physician Hu to the outer room.

Before she could ask, Imperial Physician Hu said, "Third Miss coughed up blood and injured her vitality. This way, the results of her meticulous recuperation for many years in the past are gone. In the future, every time she falls sick, her body will suffer a little. If she can recuperate carefully, she can recover up to 70%. It's impossible for her to recover completely."

If it were in the past, she could still recuperate.

Yu Youyao understood. She ordered someone to hand over a lot of gifts and politely sent Imperial Physician Hu to the carriage personally. Only when the carriage left the residence did she return to the courtyard.

Xia Tao brought over a food box. "Young Miss has been busy all afternoon and hasn't even had time to eat dinner. Nanny Xu asked me to send you a bowl of bird's nest. Have some first."

Yu Youyao was indeed hungry, so she took the bird's nest from Xia Tao and ate it in small bites.

After finishing the bowl of bird's nest, Nanny Liu finally led the servants into the courtyard. She hurriedly said, "It's been hard on Eldest Miss today. I'm still here in the courtyard. It'll be safe. Hurry back and rest. If you're exhausted, I don't know how much Old Madam's heart will ache."

Yu Youyao was indeed a little tired. She rubbed her forehead. "The person who bought the medicine for Third Sister has returned. I've already instructed the small kitchen to brew it. After the medicine is brewed, I'll immediately feed it to Third Sister. I'll have to trouble Nanny for the rest."

Nanny Liu smiled and nodded. "Go back and rest!"

When she returned to the Jade Courtyard, it was already 7pm. Nanny Xu ordered someone to prepare dinner.

Yu Youyao had eaten a bowl of bird's nest and did not have much of an appetite now. She forced herself to eat a few mouthfuls before putting down her chopsticks. "Keep them all. Also, instruct the small kitchen to make white jade ginseng medicinal cuisine and send it to Cousin later."

Qin Xin led the maidservants to pack up.

Yu Youyao asked Chun Xiao to help her soak in a medicinal bath. Then, she took out Zizhi Tongjian and leaned lazily against the chaise lounge to read it.

Liu'er took a large towel and helped Young Miss dry her hair, then rubbed in jasmine head oil.

The pitter-patter of the rain outside became urgent.

In the study, the sun shone brightly.

Zhou Linghuai frowned and lowered his eyes as he drew.

Chang An looked at it from time to time and couldn't help but say, "Young Master, you're going to give this painting to Miss again, right?"

Didn't he just draw a painting of the Dragon Boat Festival and give it to Young Miss yesterday?

Why was he giving her another painting?

Zhou Linghuai asked instead, "Why do you think so?"

Chang An pursed his lips. "If it weren't for Young Miss, would you be so obsessed with painting? I've never seen you so focused on painting in the past!"

Although Young Master had often painted in the past, ever since he entered the Yu Residence, this "often" had become a frequent occurrence.

Zhou Linghuai's lips curled up slightly.

Chang An glanced at what his young master had drawn. "Is this a gift for Young Miss during the Dragon Boat Festival? Didn't you already prepare a gift? Why are you still giving her a painting?"

Zhou Linghuai said calmly, "Double the gift and double the joy. Do you understand?"

Chang An was speechless. "But Young Master, it's already half an hour past nine. Shouldn't you rest?"

Zhou Linghuai did not even look up. "You can leave first."

There was already the outline of a moat on the paper. The day after tomorrow was the Dragon Boat Festival. If he spent more time, he should be able to finish drawing by the Dragon Boat Festival.

When Chang An heard this, he understood. "Young Master, don't tell me you're going to stay up all night again? No, no, definitely not. It's raining today and the humidity is high. You have a leg problem and need to rest well. You promised Young Miss that you would rest at 10pm every night."

Hearing him mention Yu Youyao, Zhou Linghuai was finally willing to look at him seriously. He looked up. "If I don't agree, are you going to report me to Cousin immediately?"

Chang An said self-righteously, "Young Miss asked me to keep an eye on you."

Zhou Linghuai's breath was stuck in his throat. "When did you start listening to her? Who's your master?!"

Chang An's eyes darted around. "Didn't I learn this from you, Young Master? Aren't you also obedient to Young Miss? You're my master, so of course I follow your lead."

...

Zhou Linghuai was furious. "Tell me clearly, when did I listen to her?"

Chang An pursed his lips.

Without waiting for him to answer, Zhou Linghuai did not want to say anything else. "Get lost. Get lost as far as you can."

Chang An stood still.

Zhou Linghuai had been defeated by him. No, he had lost to his younger cousin, Yu Youyao. "I'll rest at 11pm at the latest."

