

## All Hail 361

### Chapter 361 Moving to the Manor

At noon, Yu Zongshen and Yu Zongzheng finally left the court. When they returned home, they went straight to An Shou Hall.

Old Madam Yu leaned against the couch and listened to her eldest son. "...King Ping is seriously injured. The emperor has arranged for him to be placed in the palace in Autumn Mountain and has sent an imperial physician to treat him. For the sake of King Ping's safety, he has also sent a large number of troops to guard him. He has also given King Ping a private courtyard and arranged for his heir, Liang Jingye, to stay in the capital in the future."

Old Madam Yu opened her eyes and was stunned for a long time. "King Ping has entered the capital. Not only is he seriously injured, but his heir will be kept in the capital for a long time. After suffering a defeat, we can probably let go of this matter. Since ancient times, rulers have always valued human lives and the country. In the future, we will have to rely on King Ping for the war on the southern border. Even if we lose, so what if some people die? As long as King Ping shows his loyalty, he will still be a worthy minister."

Yu Zongshen spun the oily red walnut in his hand. "King Ping has been dealt with. Next, it's time for Youzhou."

It was also a war. One had suffered a defeat, and the other had won a battle.

Since he had already dealt with one, he couldn't always keep the other to himself.

The fact that the vassal lords had entered the capital privately meant that the emperor had been lenient and did not pursue their crimes. However, he could not help but feel angry. He wanted to reward the Marquis of Changxing, who had won the battle last year, to intimidate the vassal lords.

This was the mind of an emperor.

Just like that, the Marquis of Weining's lineage was really unstoppable.

The room was silent for a moment.

The matter of the vassal king entering the capital caused an uproar.

In less than two days, the Cabinet Grand Secretary, Xia Yansheng, resigned as the Minister of Revenue on the grounds that he was old. He also recommended his disciple, the Assistant Minister of Revenue, Yu Zongshen, to the emperor.

The emperor approved it in court and ordered the cabinet to discuss the reward of meritorious officials. This matter was supervised by the new Minister of Revenue, Yu Zongshen.

In the end, the matter of the vassal king entering the capital had broken the long-standing balance of the court.

Yu Youyao shook her head and shaped the polished cooling beads into pearls.

The finished Cooling Pearls had a hint of bitter medicinal fragrance, but also a hint of floral fragrance. After the fragrance entered the body, it was like a piece of cedar, with a touch of coolness. In the hot summer, wearing the beads would make you feel comfortable physically and mentally.

Yu Youyao took out a string of summer pearls and placed them in a treasure box. She handed it to Xia Tao. "Send this string of summer pearls to Cousin."

Xia Tao took the box and went to The Green House.

At this moment, Liu'er came over to report, "Young Miss, Third Miss went to Old Madam's house. I heard that she had copied a lot of Buddhist scriptures recently and wanted to send them to Old Madam personally. It wasn't easy for the gatekeeper to stop her, so she opened the door."

She closed the courtyard door so that Yu Jianjia could recuperate well. She did not explicitly say that she wanted to restrain Yu Jianjia.

Yu Jianjia had a suitable reason, so the old maid guarding the door naturally did not dare to stop her.

Yu Youyao put another string of Cooling Beads into a box and stood up. "The Cooling Beads are ready too. Grandmother is feeling hot, so it's just right."

With that, she brought Liu'er to An Shou Hall.

When Yu Youyao entered the hall, she saw Yu Jianjia wearing a light purple dress that accentuated her slender and weak figure, as well as her pale and sickly face. She was really weaker than before.

Seeing that she had arrived so quickly, Yu Jianjia suddenly tightened her grip on her handkerchief, but she was not surprised. Everyone in the courtyard had been changed to Yu Youyao's men. She was afraid that Yu Youyao would have already received the news as soon as she left the courtyard.

Yu Youyao stepped forward and bowed to Old Madam Yu.

Yu Jianjia also stood up and bowed to Yu Youyao. "Big Sister."

Yu Youyao returned the greeting and sat beside her grandmother. "Is Third Sister feeling better?"

Yu Jianjia's eyelashes trembled slightly. She lowered her head and said weakly, "Thank you for your concern, Big Sister. I've already recovered a lot after taking Imperial Physician Hu's new medicine."

Everyone in the courtyard was Yu Youyao's men.

How could Yu Youyao not know how her health was?

Yu Youyao smiled gently. "That's good. Third Sister, take care of yourself more in the future."

Yu Jianjia lowered her head and agreed.

At this moment, Old Madam Yu put down her teacup and smiled at Yu Youyao. "You came at the right time. I happen to have something to discuss with you."

Yu Jianjia's breathing tightened, and she tightened her grip on her handkerchief.

It seemed that Yu Jianjia had not come to An Shou Hall just to deliver the Buddhist scriptures. Yu Jianjia was very scheming. For a moment, Yu Youyao could not guess what Yu Jianjia was up to.

She was a little curious. "What is it?"

Old Madam Yu glanced at Yu Jianjia before saying, "It's all because of your third sister. Previously, when her condition worsened, didn't Imperial Physician Hu say that she had to recuperate in peace? Your third sister is also someone who knows the severity of the matter. She felt that the matters in the capital were complicated and not good for her recovery, so she invited herself to the manor to recuperate. It's also peaceful."

Yu Youyao was a little surprised and did not expect this. "It's naturally more peaceful to recuperate in the manor than in the residence. I think it's beneficial for Third Sister to rest." At this point, she changed the topic. "It's just that Third Sister is still young. I'm afraid it's a little inappropriate for her to live alone in the manor!"

On careful thought, it was actually easy to guess what Yu Jianjia was thinking.

Perhaps she felt that she was in charge of the residence now, so she couldn't even recuperate well.

Although she couldn't avoid her eyes in the manor, at least he could escape her control and be more autonomous.

Yu Jianjia had long expected Yu Youyao to say this and had prepared an excuse. She said calmly, "After coughing up blood that day, I was terrified every day, so I only want to recuperate well. If Big Sister feels that it's inappropriate, send more people to follow me. After all, it's our residence. There's no need to worry about my safety."

She even said that she coughed up blood. She would not stop until she achieved her goal.

Imperial Physician Hu had already said that Yu Jianjia needed to recuperate from her illness. How could there be any place in the residence who could let her recuperate better?

If she did not agree, it would be her disregard for her sister's health.

Yu Youyao hesitated for a moment. "But, there aren't any elders around. This..."

Afraid that she wouldn't agree, Yu Jianjia continued, "Mother has a hot spring manor in the suburbs of the capital. The scenery there is not bad, and it's not too far from the capital, so it's convenient for me to travel. Previously, when Imperial Physician Hu was taking my pulse, I also asked him. He said that soaking in the hot spring more would be very beneficial to my health."

Why would she be soaking in a hot spring on such a hot day?!

However, since Yu Jianjia had even mentioned Imperial Physician Hu, Yu Youyao couldn't say anything else. "Grandmother, what do you think?"

Old Madam Yu said calmly, "Third Miss can judge her own health. Since she feels that it's better for her health to recuperate in the manor, we naturally have to prioritize Third Miss's health."

It meant that she had agreed.

She had no choice but to agree.

Yu Jianjia's health was indeed very weak. If she did not take advantage of her young age to recuperate quickly, her future would be over if she kept falling ill.

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Chapter 362 Mr. Xian Yun Enters the Capital

Moreover, Yu Jianjia was eager to go to the manor to recuperate. If she did not agree, how could Yu Jianjia rest in peace?

In that case, her illness would probably worsen.

She might as well do as she wanted.

Yu Youyao had an idea, so she said, "Third Sister is still young after all. She lives alone outside and doesn't even have an elder by her side. It's indeed inappropriate. I'll have to trouble Grandmother to manage this matter. We have to settle it properly."

During this period of time, many things had happened in the residence.

First, Yu Shansi fell into the water, then Madam Yang had a migraine and recuperated in Tranquil Heart Residence. If even Yu Jianjia was sent to the manor, outsiders would still think that she, as her sister, was intolerable.

It was better to avoid it and not touch it.

Old Madam Yu smiled. "I have the same intention. I plan to send a letter to the clan and pick a clan aunt to take care of Third Miss. It'll be more appropriate."

She turned to look at Yu Jianjia and asked, "What do you think?"

Madam Yu had a big family, and there were many widowed aunties. If she chose someone suitable and famous to take care of Yu Jianjia, she could also teach her some principles from the side. It was also a win-win situation.

Even if word got out, it wouldn't be blamed on Yao Yao.

The clan aunt wasn't someone a junior like Yao Yao could find. It could only be done by her grandmother.

Yu Jianjia quickly said, "It's all up to Grandmother."

Yu Youyao said, "In that case, it's more appropriate to have an elder by your side. However, we can't be too anxious about this matter. Third Sister's body is a little weak, so she needs to be more careful with her food and clothes. She needs to prepare carefully. In addition, the houses in the manor have to be repaired separately before anyone can live in them. Third Sister, rest well these few days. When everything is ready, we'll go to the manor. What do you think?"

The two of them exchanged blows and settled this matter!

Yu Jianjia had achieved her goal. She should be happy, but she couldn't help but feel a little stifled. "Thank you for your hard work, Grandmother and Big Sister."

Old Madam Yu waved her hand and said earnestly, "You still have to rely on yourself to recuperate. No one else can replace you. You're still young, and you still have a long way to go. If you don't have a good body, you'll be the one suffering in the future. Imperial Physician Hu also said that the younger you are, the easier it is to recuperate."

Yu Youyao lowered her head and drank her tea. Her grandmother had never liked Yu Jianjia's behavior and did not think much of her.

However, Yu Jianjia was her biological granddaughter after all. Be it rules or etiquette, she was extremely thorough. Naturally, she hoped that she would be well.

In the past, with Madam Yang in the way, her grandmother couldn't interfere in Yu Jianjia's upbringing. Now that Yu Jianjia had taken the initiative to go to the manor to recuperate, she also wanted to help Yu Jianjia.

Most of the clan aunties who could be invited were extremely famous. Yang Shuwan, the daughter of a concubine, was completely incomparable.

It was true that she was taking care of Yu Jianjia, and it was also true that she was teaching her.

It was rare for Yu Jianjia to hear a hint of "kind motherly love" from her grandmother who had always been very cold to her. She only felt that it was ironic. "Thank you for your concern, Grandmother. I'll definitely take good care of myself now. I won't let you worry."

In the past, Old Madam only had eyes for Yu Youyao and had never taken her seriously.

Now, she was "concerned" about her granddaughter.

Unfortunately, it was too late.

If it weren't for Old Madam's orders, why would her mother be locked up in the Tranquil Heart Residence?

Previously, she had asked the old maids in the courtyard to pass on a message a few times, wanting to see her mother. However, Old Madam had used the excuse that she had fallen ill previously and wanted to recuperate calmly, preventing her from even seeing her mother.

Her mother had married into the Yu Residence for so many years and had helped the Yu Residence grow. Even her father's only son had been born by her mother. Even if she had not contributed much, she had worked hard. Now, she had ended up like this.

What was even more ridiculous was that there were actually rumors in the residence that Yu Youyao's mother's first wife, First Madam Xie, had been killed by her mother!

Even though it was a little inappropriate for her mother to have feelings for her father when she was pregnant, Eldest Madam Xie had a short life. What did it have to do with her mother?

After Yu Jianjia left, Old Madam Yu sighed slightly. "I hope that when she goes to the manor, your third sister will really be able to recuperate well."

Yu Youyao did not reply. She took the box from Liu'er and handed it to her grandmother. "This is the cooling bracelet I made today."

Old Madam Yu did not think about Yu Jianjia anymore. She smiled and said, "I heard long ago that you were fiddling with the heat-repelling beads. It took you so long to make it. I don't think it's easy!"

As she spoke, she took the box and opened it.

There was a string of brownish-black hand beads inside. Every bead was the size of a lotus seed. They were ancient in color, hard, and full. There were "fortune" patterns carved on them, which meant longevity.

Even though they had just been made, the beads were still exquisitely made of wood. Such beads had to be worn on one's body. After some time, they would be smooth and shiny.

Yu Youyao smiled and said, "It took more than half a month. However, if it's maintained well, the medicinal fragrance will only increase and not decrease even if it's worn for many years. If you smell it carefully, it'll calm your mind. When you play with it, you'll also smell the fragrance. It'll be fragrant for a long time. If you wear it between your wrists and your skin, it can better regulate your Qi and relieve the wind and dryness. If you get a heat stroke and eat it, it can also clear the heat and detoxify poison, nourishing the spleen and lungs."

Old Madam Yu sniffed it and put the pearls around her wrist. Her face was smiling so widely that she looked like a chrysanthemum. "The fragrance is also good. When I first smelled it, it was a little bitter, but it was very refreshing. When the fragrance entered my lungs, it felt a little cooler. Even my heartbeat relaxed. This is really good stuff."

The weather had been hot these past few days, so she kept feeling suffocated. After smelling this cooling summer pearl, she indeed felt much better.

Yu Youyao smiled. "As long as Grandmother likes it."

A few days later, the Imperial Court rewarded the Marquis of Changxing.

The Marquis of Changxing, Cao Xing, had rendered meritorious service in guarding Youzhou. He was promoted from a second-grade marquis to a first-grade Marquis of Changxing. His title was equivalent to that of a duke. He led 300,000 troops in Youzhou and was in charge of the war in Youzhou. He was also given good farmland, beautiful jade, cloth, and so on.

For a moment, the Marquis of Changxing's Residence was in the limelight.

At this moment, a green-topped carriage quietly entered the capital without attracting anyone's attention.

The next day, at 5am, Yu Zongshen left the government office and came to An Shou Hall. "This morning, Mr. Xian Yun sent a greeting card to the residence. Tomorrow, he will enter the residence to visit Mr. Hu Shan."

Old Madam Yu was immediately shocked. "Mr. Xian Yun has entered the capital?!"

Yu Zongshen nodded. "Yes, he entered the capital quietly and did not alarm anyone. Mr. Hu Shan is temporarily staying in the Yu Residence. He and Mr. Hu Shan are old friends. It's rare for him to enter the capital, so he naturally has to reminisce with Mr. Hu Shan."

After being shocked, Old Madam Yu also calmed down. She stopped twirling her prayer beads and looked confused. "This is really a Bodhisattva entering the family. I can't afford to mess up!"

### Chapter 363 Heir Yin Huaixi

Mr. Hu Shan was old friends with Old Master, so he was willing to come to the residence to teach his brothers.

Since their relationship was different, they were more casual.

However, Mr. Xian Yun had nothing to do with the Yu Residence in the past. He had only borrowed a place to stay to visit his friends, so it had nothing to do with the Yu Residence.

After Mr. Xian Yun entered the residence, it was not easy to grasp how to greet him.

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If they were too solicitous, they would lack the bearing of a scholarly family. Mr. Xian Yun was also a scholar, so no one underestimated him.

However, she couldn't take it lightly. It would be disrespectful and upsetting to the guest.

She had to be especially careful.

Yu Zongshen also said, After Madam Yao received the invitation, she didn't dare to make it public. She immediately sent someone to the government office to report to me and wait for me to come back to deal with it.

Old Madam Yu nodded. Your wife did things appropriately.

The smile on Yu Zongshen's lips was elegant. He looked handsome and gentle, but he seemed to be separated from everyone else by a layer. He treated everyone with a trace of distance. Even when his wife was mentioned, his emotions did not fluctuate at all.

The smile on Old Madam Yu's face faded, and a hint of defeat appeared on her face. Are you still blaming me for not

Mother. Yu Zongshen's tone was also filled with warning, completely unlike how a son treated his mother. At this point, be careful not to cause trouble with your words.

Old Madam Yu held her breath and clutched her chest, panting.

Yu Zongshen had already returned to his usual handsome and gentle self. Mother, you have to take care of yourself.

Old Madam Yu picked up the teacup in front of her and took a few sips before feeling a little better. Mr. Xian Yun is going to enter the residence. How did you arrange it?

Yu Zongshen said, Madam Yao is young. I'll have to trouble Mother to move to the West Mansion tomorrow to keep an eye on her, in case anything goes wrong.

Alright, I'll be there early tomorrow morning. Old Madam Yu thought for a moment and said, Tell your wife that everything in the residence will continue as usual tomorrow. Don't let anyone know. Mr. Xian Yun is a carefree person. He's free and unfettered. He doesn't follow strict rules. Don't mess things up.

Yu Zongshen nodded.

The inner room was silent for a while. No one took the initiative to speak. It was as if the mother and son had nothing else to say.

Old Madam Yu tightened her grip on the prayer beads in her hand and said, The last time Mr. Xian Yun entered the capital was after King You's rebellion. He took in Song Mingzhao, the heir of the Marquis of Zhen, as his disciple. After that, he left freely like a wandering crane. Now that he has entered the capital, he probably has a deeper meaning.

On the surface, accepting Song Mingzhao as his disciple had nothing to do with the royal court.

In reality, that was not the case!

The Marquis of Zhens Residence was a meritorious family that had contributed greatly to the country during the time of their great ancestors. They had taken root in the capital for many years and had deep roots, representing the interests of the old and noble.

Most of the old nobles were from the royal faction. Unless it was absolutely necessary, they would not interfere in the struggles of the royal court, let alone take sides.

It was also because of this that the old nobles were passed down their status generation after generation.

However, there was also a bad thing.

The old nobles were deeply rooted and their power was intertwined. Once they took over the power, it was easy to threaten the imperial power and they were usually not placed in an important position. However, they still cared about the meritorious deeds of generations.

After King You's rebellion, the Marquis of Weinings Residence took over the military power and rose up. In addition, there was Imperial Consort Lu in the harem, who was like the sun in the sky. It was inevitable that she would threaten the interests of the old nobles.

Mr. Xian Yun had nurtured Song Mingzhao. When Song Mingzhao shone brightly in the imperial examination, he would be placed in an important position by the Imperial Court as soon as he entered the court. With such a capable young talent on the old and noble side, it would be like adding wings to a tiger. The two sides would be on par.

Mr. Xian Yun was using the Marquis of Zhens Residence to balance the Weining Marquis Residence.

Now that King Ping had entered the capital on his own, there was a commotion in the imperial court.

Mr. Xian Yun probably had a deeper meaning for entering the capital at this time.

Yu Zongshen's expression also turned serious. I heard that more than three years ago, Mr. Xian Yun had traveled to Youzhou and set up an unprecedented precious chess game in Youzhou. When they found out about this, all the scholars in the world rushed to Youzhou. Mr. Xian Yun's door was also crowded, but no one had cracked this chess game in Youzhou for more than ten days.

Old Madam Yu frowned. Second Brother meant that Mr. Xian Yun's return to the capital this time was probably related to Youzhou.

Yu Zongshen paused for a moment and said, In the end, this game was cracked by a mysterious young man who came anonymously. There were rumors that Mr. Xian Yun wanted to take this young man as his disciple. For some reason, it was left unsettled in the end.

When Old Madam Yu heard this, her heart skipped a beat. She was a little wary of this young man's identity. Did you find out the identity of this mysterious young man?



Yu Zongshen said, According to the information obtained by the spy, its very likely that the young man is a At this point, he couldn't help but feel cautious. The heir of King You, Yin Huaixi.

What? Old Madam Yu sat up straight in shock. She did not even care that the prayer beads in her hand had fallen to the ground. How confident are you about this news?

40-50%, Yu Zongshen said solemnly. The spy is proficient in some disguise techniques. Although that young man hid his identity, when he left, the spy saw him. Yin Huaixi can be said to be very high profile in Youzhou, so he became suspicious.

Old Madam Yu's lips trembled. 40-50% confidence was probably a conservative estimate. It seemed that the mysterious young man was most likely the heir of King You, Yin Huaixi. More than three years ago, the Di clan invaded the north wantonly. The emperor ordered the Marquis of Weining to be the commander-in-chief, and the Marquis of Changxing to be the general of the expedition to the north. He will follow the army and help the north. She closed her eyes. When she opened them again, her eyes were already deep. Now, the vassal lord has entered the capital on his own. The Marquis of Changxing's Residence is like the sun in the sky. Everything is related to Youzhou.

Yu Zongshen said solemnly, Mother, the royal court is going to be chaotic.

The Marquis of Weining was a new noble, so he might not be able to intimidate the vassal lords.

The two of them chatted for a while longer before Yu Zongshen left. Old Madam Yu looked at his distant and cold back and couldn't even hold her prayer beads anymore.

All these years, the mother and son had become strangers. Other than the matters in the royal court, their mother-son relationship was never mentioned.

Nanny Liu quietly entered the house and brought over a cup of medicinal tea. Old Madam, have some tea

Old Madam Yu shook her head, her expression ashen. Second Brother still blames me in the end. I originally thought that he'd heal Old Madam Yu suddenly paused, and even her breathing became chaotic. It was just a thought. When his delicate wife enters the family and his children are around him, he'll be able to let go of it. I didn't expect that he would be so unlucky. He died at the prime of his life, and Second Brother missed him for many years.

Nanny Liu's heart skipped a beat. She wished she could cover her ears with two balls of cotton. How could she dare to continue listening? She hurriedly lowered her head and recited the Heart Sutra in her heart.

Old Madam Yu said dejectedly, Back then, Second Brother was in the rankings and entered the Hanlin Academy. However, he did not enter the cabinet. His future was very bright. How could I let him marry a businesswoman and hinder his future?

#### Chapter 364 God-like Moves

At this point, Old Madam Yu looked dejected. "It's not that I'm biased towards Second Brother. Eldest Brother's talent is a little shallow, and his future is limited. However, he needs money and some effort to build some connections to stand tall in the royal court. I've been planning for the two

of them in every way, and I think that I've settled everything. In the end, I lost Second Brother's entire future and a life..."

Nanny Liu acted as if she hadn't heard her.

Old Madam Yu sighed softly. "If it were me back then... Forget it, it's too late to say anything. I don't want to do anything guilty, but this guilty thing came to me."

In the dead of night—

The study was dark and deep. There was only a pewter stick. The firelight danced slightly, and the weak light gave off a dark feeling.

Zhou Linghuai played with the cooling summer pearls with one hand and rested his forehead on the other as he leaned against the wheelchair. There was a faint fragrance of medicine in his nose, exuding a faint bitterness and fragrance of flowers.

Below, a black-clothed and masked man was reporting, "Ye Hanyuan disguised himself as Mr. Xian Yun's servant and entered the capital with him. Young Master is indeed as accurate as a god..."

"Why did you think he went to Youzhou three years ago? Was it really to travel? Heh." Zhou Linghuai slowly raised his head. His flawless white face revealed a sickly paleness under the dark firelight. It actually made one's heart skip a beat. "He's following the example of the Saint to travel the world, but his heart is with the royal court."

King You was treated as a traitor. Mr. Xian Yun suddenly accepted Song Mingzhao as his disciple with the intention of nurturing him. In the future, when Song Mingzhao entered the court, he would be placed in an important position and quickly gain a foothold in the royal court.

This move was to balance the power of the parties in the court.

Now that King Ping had entered the capital, the Marquis of Changxing's Residence had contributed greatly, and the Marquis of Weining's family was famous.

How could that old man sit still?

Zhou Linghuai said coldly, "Mr. Xian Yun, you look at the world clearly. As a capable person, you're famous in the world. Without peace, how can you be free and unfettered?"

Yin San lowered his head. "Young Master is right, but..."

If not for that, how could Young Master have set up the Allheaven Chess Game to lure Mr. Xian Yun into it?

It was only Young Master's first move to plan for King Ping to send the heir into the capital to be a hostage.

This move counted as the vassal lord's disloyalty.

This second step counted as creating a backer.

Zhou Linghuai brought the cooling summer pearl bracelet to his nose and sniffed it gently. "Back then, when I met Mr. Xian Yun, I narrowly won, but just as he said, it was an unfair victory. But

now, he's only worthy of being my chess player and at my mercy. No matter how the situation develops, I can still achieve my goal in the end. Why should I personally participate and dirty my hands?"

Yin San was slightly stunned.

Zhou Linghuai opened his hands. His hands seemed to be carved from beautiful jade, and they exuded an exquisite aura. "These hands are playing the zither, painting, carving, calligraphy... It won't be good if they're stained."

Yin San was stunned. Young Master had a surly personality since he was young. He was in the mortal world, but his heart was in the purgatory.

Everyone said that the heir of King You, Yin Huaixi, was unpredictable. Although he smiled, he might not be happy. When he did not smile, he might not be angry. He was vengeful and unpredictable. His methods were ruthless and unpredictable. Anyone who dared to provoke him would not have a good ending.

In the past three years, he had followed Young Master's side and personally witnessed how Young Master schemed and laid down his pieces in the chessboard of the world. From then on—

His god-like moves were endless.

His killing intent was endless.

If anyone stood in his way, he would kill them. If Buddha stood in his way, he would kill him.

However, it was still different in the end.

The butcher's knife in his heart had a scabbard and restraints.

Eldest Miss Yu's body and mind were clean, and her heart was like glass. With her glass-like body, she looked magnificent, illuminating the darkness heart. From then on, not only did he have the goal of killing, but he also had the goal of protection.

He was willing to crawl in front of Buddha and listen to Buddhism. His killing intent was endless, and he only felt at ease.

Zhou Linghuai wore the pearls on his right wrist and said softly, "It's not a good sign when things look too good. Often, one will climb too high and fall too hard, and their bones will be shattered."

The next day was the day Mr. Xian Yun entered the residence.

Old Madam Yu had brought Yu Youyao to the second house early in the morning to help Madam Yao manage it.

At ten o'clock, a green-topped carriage drove all the way from the entrance of the Yu Residence into the courtyard. Yu Zongshen was already waiting in front of the door.

After Mr. Xian Yun alighted from the carriage, Yu Zongshen stepped forward and greeted, "Greetings, sir."

It was the etiquette of a scholar.

Mr. Xian Yun was dressed in a crane-patterned gray robe. His hair and beard were all white. He stroked his white beard and nodded. "Lord Yu, you're too polite. I've already disturbed you by visiting you rashly today and using your residence to greet an old friend."

The two of them exchanged pleasantries. Yu Zongshen did not waste any time and brought Mr. Xian Yun to Mr. Hu Shan's courtyard.

Mr. Hu Shan was sitting in an octagonal pavilion. A chess game had already been made on the chessboard. When he saw his old friend coming over, he said, "We haven't seen each other for many years. Why don't we play a game?"

Mr. Xian Yun sat opposite him and held a white chess piece. He nodded. "That's what I meant."

The two of them drank their tea.

Mr. Hu Shan asked, "Is your visit to the capital related to Youzhou?"

Mr. Xian Yun sighed slightly. "Do you know the You Prefecture's Ye Xiaoci, Lord Ye?"

The vassal lords led troops and guarded the vassal lands. The imperial court set up state capitals in the vassal lands to help the vassal lords govern the vassal lands, but also to monitor and restrain them.

Mr. Hu Shan nodded. "I know a little. I heard that this person is from the side branch of the Ye family in Linjiang. He's a scholar. As he's quite talented, he was sent to Youzhou to take on the position of governor."

Mr. Xian Yun twirled the white chess piece and placed it in a corner of the chessboard. "Ye Xiaoci has a son called Ye Hanyuan. This person is good at the art of war, riding, and archery. At the age of 12, he joined King You's camp and made extraordinary contributions."

Mr. Hu Shan's heart skipped a beat. "The Great Zhou Dynasty is weak, but there are many talents in Youzhou. Not to mention people like Yin Huaixi and Zhou Linghuai, there's actually a general like Ye Hanyuan. No wonder you wanted to make a trip to Youzhou back then."

Back then, when he wrote to Mr. Xian Yun, he happened to praise Zhou Linghuai's talent.

Now that Zhou Linghuai was in the Yu Residence, he had even become his student by mistake. Things were really unpredictable!

Mr. Xian Yun nodded. "A few days ago, it was said that a Di spy had infiltrated the city in Youzhou. The Marquis of Changxing made a fuss and searched for the spy. This so-called spy is Ye Hanyuan. I brought him into the capital this time."

Hu Shan was about to drink his tea when he paused. "Why is that?"

He had heard that back then, the evidence of King You colluding with the enemy to commit treason had included Ye Xiaoci's confession. In the past few years, Ye Xiaoci had been in Youzhou and was very close to the Marquis of Changxing.

How did Ye Hanyuan become a spy and suddenly enter the capital?

...

Mr. Xian Yun did not even play chess. “Do you know why the Di people invaded the Northern Region back then? And why King You, who has always been outstanding in battle, was retreating step by step?”

#### Chapter 365 The Death of King You

Mr. Hu Shan pondered for a moment. “The Marquis of Weining’s Residence controls the Ministry of War. Every year, they owe money to the You Prefecture army. King You’s performance is suppressed by the Ministry of War. The army is bitter and cold. The soldiers can’t eat their fill, their clothes can’t withstand the cold, their armor can’t defend against the enemy, their swords can’t kill the enemy, and their thin horses can’t charge. King You fights with the Northern Barbarians every year, and there are casualties every year, causing the Northern Region to be short of supplies. It’s fine if they fight at close quarters, but it’s not enough to go to war.”

Mr. Xian Yun shook his head. “That may not be the case. According to Ye Hanyuan, someone in the imperial court was colluding with the Di people, revealing that the You army was short of money and food. That was why the Di people invaded on a large scale and invaded the north. They also changed their tactics. Instead of plundering, they used a delaying tactic to wear down the You army, which was short of supplies. This led to the loss of three cities in a row in the north.”

Mr. Hu Shan’s expression changed slightly.

Mr. Xian Yun sighed slightly. “In order to reduce his father’s danger and Youzhou’s predicament, Yin Huaixi led people to close the city gate and not allow anyone to escape. He also brought the soldiers from the prince’s residence and captured many officials and nobles from Youzhou. He gathered resources wantonly. Anyone who resisted was killed on the spot. He personally escorted the supplies to the battlefield. Only then did he turn the tide and save the situation. However, his actions completely angered the local officials and nobles.”

Yin Huaixi’s boldness was enough to tell that his worldview was vast and beyond what he saw in front of him.

Unfortunately, since ancient times, loyalty had always been betrayed.

Mr. Xian Yun continued, “The local officials and nobles jointly reported to the Imperial Court that King You had gathered his troops and bullied the commoners. The officials took the opportunity to ask the emperor to summon King You into the capital and ordered the Marquis of Weining to be the commander-in-chief. The Marquis of Changxing was to be the general of the north and help the north.”

Mr. Hu Shan frowned. “The war is tense. The local nobles and officials should support the war in Youzhou. Although Yin Huaixi’s actions are fierce, it’s still understandable. King You has contributed to guarding the north. Even if the local nobles and officials join forces, at most, their merits and mistakes will be offset. Why would King You be accused of colluding with the enemy and betraying the country?”

Even though he was as calm as Mr. Xian Yun, his expression couldn’t help but darken. “You don’t know that this is just a diversion. The Marquis of Changxing ambushed and killed Yin Huaixi on the battlefield. Yin Huaixi didn’t even have a corpse left, and only women and children were left in King You’s Residence.”

Mr. Hu Shan’s heart skipped a beat. He had already guessed what would happen next.

Indeed!

Mr. Xian Yun changed the topic. “They forged false evidence that King You had colluded with the enemy and wanted to rebel. They sent people to besiege the King You’s Residence and used the excuse of searching for the King You’s Residence to enter the residence.”

“When her husband entered the capital, distant water cannot quench the present thirst. Her son’s life and death were unknown, and the Marquis of Changxing was very powerful. Consort You knew that once these people entered the residence, even if they weren’t guilty, they would still “search” for evidence of their crimes. In order to protect her husband’s reputation, she was also worried that she would be humiliated. She took poison with the princess and committed suicide, then burned down the You Residence.”

Mr. Hu Shan immediately couldn’t even drink the tea that was in his mouth.

Back then, King You’s rebellion was very suspicious.

He had also used the name of the Grand Tutor to ignore the emperor, but in the end, the words of the court officials were left unsettled. He did not know that there was such an inside story.

Mr. Xian Yun shook his head repeatedly. “King You and the Consort have been in love for most of their lives. Now, his wife has died, his son has died, and his daughter has died. When the news reached the capital, King You already had the intention to die. In the Golden Hall, he severed his own heart meridian and died. The current emperor was afraid that it would be difficult for him to answer to the world if his hero died, and he was also worried that it will damage the reputation of the royal family. He joined forces with the court officials to frame a dead person for treason.”

Mr. Hu Shan was furious when he heard this. “These people are so unscrupulous. I’m afraid someone instructed them to do this!”

Everyone in King You’s Residence was dead.

However, the Marquis of Weining’s Residence was like the sun in the sky with flowers and brocade.

It was obvious who had instigated such a despicable act.

After saying this, the two of them stopped talking.

After a long while, Mr. Hu Shan finally couldn’t help but sigh. “It’s a pity. King You was a hero for a lifetime and has won many battles.”

A generation of loyal souls had died on the battlefield without any horses.

However, he had died in a conflict between court officials and friends.

It was pathetic, hateful, and lamentable!

Mr. Xian Yun placed a few pieces down and seemed to sense something. He looked up at the outside of the pavilion.

He saw a young lady in light green clothes, just like the green jade beside the octagonal pavilion. He couldn't help but ask, "Who is that young lady?"

Mr. Hu Shan knew immediately that this was his old habit. He did not answer directly. "What's wrong?"

Mr. Xian Yun did not hide anything. "The phoenix marrow is in her bones, and the Phoenix God is in her eyes. This woman is born with a phoenix life, but her eyebrows are a little thin, and she can't suppress her blessings. She's born unlucky, and her death isn't good. She's destined to die a tragic death." He looked up at the sky and saw a green parasol tree in the east. He pointed in that direction. "The phoenix doesn't land unless it's a parasol tree. This is fate."

Mr. Hu Shan was stunned when he heard this. He lived in the Yu Residence and had heard of all kinds of things in the Yu Residence. "She's the eldest daughter of the first wife of the Yu family, Yu Youyao."

Mr. Xian Yun shook his head. "More than three years ago, when I was traveling to Youzhou, I happened to meet a boy. His rhinoceros bones covered the central courtyard, and his forehead was facing the sky. His fate was especially precious. It was the fate of a true dragon that could live forever. However, he was born with evil spirits and was a jinx. Asuras had the intention to kill endlessly in their lives. He was the Asura of the world. Not only did he ruin the momentum of the rhinoceros, but he also formed a dragon trapped in a shallow pool. A proud dragon with a regretful physiognomy."

Mr. Hu Shan lowered his eyes slightly and placed a black chess piece. "Is the person you're talking about the heir of King You, Yin Huaixi?"

Mr. Xian Yun did not answer and only said, "One of them has a flawed phoenix life, while the other has a damaged true dragon. They don't have any power, so when they're combined, it's auspicious. The two of them complement each other's fates. It's quite strange."

Mr. Hu Shan's expression did not change. "It's said that the big one hides in the city, while the small one hides in the forest. A so-called free bird is not as peaceful as an old man."

Mr. Xian Yun lowered his eyes. "Firstly, the Marquis of Changxing can't defend Youzhou, and secondly, he can't intimidate the vassal lords. Now that King Ping has entered the capital, he has ulterior motives. The situation in Youzhou can't be delayed anymore. Otherwise, once the Di people break through the defense line of Youzhou and the world is in chaos, only Yin Huaixi can resolve this situation."

Mr. Hu Shan said calmly, "Are you so sure that Yin Huaixi isn't dead?"

Mr. Xian Yun nodded. "When Yin Huaixi was young, he had learned Daoist classics from a Daoist for a period of time. Do you know who that Daoist was?"

Mr. Hu Shan was a little curious. "Who was it?"

Mr. Xian Yun said, "Xuan Jizi, the 108th successor of Ghost Valley. He has received the ancestral teachings of Ghost Valley since he was young. He would hide when things were good and appear when things were in chaos. Yin Huaixi has been taught by him and has learned many tricks. He won't die so easily."

Mr. Hu Shan was really a little surprised this time. “Back then, Master Hui Neng was guided by him to verify his Buddhism. From then on, he hid himself and disappeared without a trace. He was originally in Youzhou.”

#### Chapter 366 Only One Can Dominate

Mr. Xian Yun sighed slightly. “Only one person can dominate the common people. Once the Ghost Valley appears, the world will rise and fall!”

Mr. Hu Shan also sighed slightly. “In the past, Su Qin united the six states and sealed the seals of the six states, forcing the State of Qin to abolish its claim to the throne. However, he was defeated by Zhang Yi who dismantled the alliance of the six states and helped the State of Qin dominate the chaotic world.”

“Pang Juan was brave and invincible. He caused the originally weak Wei Country to dominate the Central Plains, but they were defeated by the invincible Sage Sun Bin. He surrounded Wei to save Zhao, plotted to kill Pang Juan, and wrote an unprecedented war book to be passed down to the future generations.”

“After that, Zhang Liang met Duke Huang Shi and obtained the ‘Six Secret Teachings’. He was wise and resourceful. He urged Liu Bang to speak humbly at the Hongmen Banquet and conserve his strength, allowing Liu Bang to escape successfully and help the King of Han, Liu Bang, win the war between the Chu and Han dynasties.”

“They’re all sages of the Ghost Valley. The words of one person are more important than the treasures of the nine cauldrons. Their tongues are better than a million soldiers. The world will prosper with a smile, and the lords will fear them in anger!”

At the mention of Ghost Valley, Mr. Hu Shan also sighed repeatedly. The first things that appeared in his mind were the unpredictable and famous big shots in history.

He wondered what kind of storm the Great Zhou Dynasty would face.

Mr. Xian Yun sighed slightly. “How could I not know? Now that I’m in a situation, Yin Huaixi is holding a chess piece in his hand and using the world as a chessboard. The first move has destroyed the loyalty and kindness of the vassal kings, forcing King Ping to risk everything and send his heir to the capital as a hostage.”

King Ping valued his heir very much. Unless it was absolutely necessary, how could he send a son he had high hopes for into the capital as a hostage?

“His move is to shake the country and overturn the world. Now, his butcher’s knife is already at the Marquis of Changxing’s neck, pointing at Youzhou. If I don’t become a chess piece and wait for the Di people to march in, who knows how many innocent citizens will die under their cavalry.”

Mr. Hu Shan was silent. Then, he thought of the current situation. The vassal lords would definitely rebel. It was already a foregone conclusion.



Mr. Xian Yun couldn't help but think of the young man who had narrowly defeated him in the thesis discussion back then.

He had originally thought that Yin Huaixi had schemed and won unfairly. However, he had never expected that one day, he would actually become a chess piece in his hands.

After Mr. Xian Yun entered the residence, Yu Youyao went to the Green House to look for her cousin.

Zhou Linghuai was repairing the painting in the study when he heard Yu Youyao's light footsteps. He looked down and saw that the newly repaired part of the painting had already dried, so he picked up the painting and put it away.

At this moment, Yu Youyao poked her head in and smiled. "Cousin, there's a strong smell of paint in the study. Did you paint just now?"

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "I'm repairing the painting. I've just finished a portion."

In other words, he was no longer repairing the painting.

Yu Youyao understood and picked up her dress to enter the house. She looked curiously at the painting that her cousin had placed aside. "Cousin, what did you draw? Can you show it to me?"

This painting was especially big, so it should be large. Her cousin also treasured this painting very much. She had come over a few times and had seen her cousin repairing this painting. Thinking about it carefully, it had been almost a month. She wondered what he had drawn.

Zhou Linghuai shook his head. "I'll show you when it's fixed."

Yu Youyao pouted. "I wonder when such a big painting will be repaired. Cousin, are you worried that I'll ask you for it, so you deliberately didn't show it to me?"

When Zhou Linghuai heard this, he smiled. "That's my thought!"

Ever since he came to the Yu Residence, he had drawn many paintings. These works had all been asked for by the little girl with various reasons, excuses, wheedling, cheating, and acting cute.

He did not leave many behind.

Yu Youyao puffed up her cheeks. "Cousin, what are you saying? It's true that I am asking you for it, but you have to be willing to give it to me. It also has to be consensual."

Zhou Linghuai immediately laughed. Wasn't one willing to fight and the other willing to suffer?

When the little girl started to torture people, even Old Madam Yu, who was old and shrewd, couldn't take it.

Every time he looked at the little girl, she would raise her swan neck and little head to look at him with sparkling eyes. He wished he could give her his heart.

"This time, I beg you to be magnanimous." As he spoke, Zhou Linghuai turned to look at the colorful peony vase behind the desk.

Yu Youyao followed his gaze.

There were only a few scrolls in the huge bottle. If he put in the paintings she had asked for previously, the bottle would be full.

Yu Youyao's eyes wandered around the study. "Cousin, forget it if you don't want to give it to me. I don't have to have it."

Zhou Linghuai was amused by the little girl's guilty expression. "I'll draw other paintings for Cousin in the future."

As for this "Bodhisattva"...

He often thought of the scene of the little girl standing under the Bodhi tree and making a wish. The Bodhi tree was not as bright and beautiful as her. The thousands of glass Buddhas in the world were not as pure and flawless as her.

It was like the meeting of Cao Zhi and Goddess Luoshen at the Luoshui River. He had never seen that scene with his own eyes, but he had also had wild thoughts. Although he did not draw that painting like Gu Kaizhi, he had drawn the Bodhisattva.

On the Bodhi tree, there were thousands of wishing silks, and even more fell in the wind. However, he happened to see the wishing silk that the little girl had made for him.

He did not believe in Buddhism, but he did believe in the so-called karma scripture.

Therefore, he wanted to keep this Bodhisattva for himself.

Yu Youyao, who had originally also felt embarrassed to ask her cousin for a painting in the future, smiled again when she heard this. "Cousin was willing to give it to me."

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Yes, I'm willing to give Cousin all my brushes and ink."

Yu Youyao smiled and raised her eyebrows. "Cousin, don't worry. I've smoked the brush and ink you gave me. I'll keep them in a top-notch wooden box. I'll take them out to ventilate them every once in a while. They'll definitely be preserved for a long time."

The corners of Zhou Linghuai's mouth curled up.

Only then did Yu Youyao change the topic. "Mr. Xian Yun entered the residence today. Why are you still in The Green House? Don't you plan to go to the west room to take a look?"

If her cousin caught Mr. Xian Yun's eye and casually picked his brain, it would be better than studying for countless years.

This was despite the fact that her cousin was talented. Even without Mr. Xian Yun's guidance, he was still very impressive!

However, Mr. Xian Yun was famous around the world. Wasn't it the dream of all the students in the world to meet the famous Great Sage and admire his talent?

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "Do you know that Mr. Xian Yun traveled to Youzhou four years ago?"

Yu Youyao first nodded, then she thought of something and her eyes widened. "Cousin, don't tell me you met Mr. Xian Yun four years ago!"

Calculating the time, autumn had only just started when Mr. Xian Yun traveled to Youzhou. At the end of autumn that same year, the Di people had invaded on a large scale. It had been more than three years, almost four years.

#### Chapter 367 Cousin Is Too Amazing

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "We've met once."

Yu Youyao took a deep breath and thought of something. "I heard that Mr. Xian Yun set up his precious chess game in Youzhou, but no one cracked it. In the last game, it was cracked by a mysterious young man. Could that person be Cousin!"

Zhou Linghuai smiled but said nothing.

Ever since then, there had been rumors that the mysterious young man was the heir of King You, Yin Huaixi. However, it had not spread widely, and not many people knew about it. Later, when the Di people invaded on a large scale, no one mentioned this matter anymore. Later, when King You was accused of treason, no one dared to mention this matter. It was not until Mr. Xian Yun entered the capital and took Song Mingzhao in as his disciple that a dead person was not enough.

!!

"Cousin, you're too amazing." Yu Youyao looked at her cousin with a sigh, her eyes filled with admiration. "However, you've met Mr. Xian Yun once, so you can be considered an old friend. Don't you have to greet him when he enters the Yu Residence?"

Zhou Linghuai's lips curled up slightly as he smiled secretly. "He probably doesn't want to see me for the rest of his life."

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. "Why is that? Back then, you solved his precious chess game and became friends with him. Come to think of it, the two of you are old friends."

Zhou Linghuai lowered his eyes. "That longevity peach blossom stone seal of yours was something I won from the debate with him back then. It's said that he's kind-hearted. He's kept it for many years, but because he hasn't been able to find a suitable carving master, I benefited in the end."

Yu Youyao immediately smiled. "Cousin, you're wrong. I'm the one who benefited. However, I really didn't expect that the peach blossom stone to have such a powerful background."

She held her cheek and looked at her cousin. She felt that her cousin was really amazing in every way. Even Mr. Xian Yun had once lost to him.

She thought about it. Three years ago, her cousin seemed to be only about twelve years old!

It turned out that at that time, her cousin was already so impressive.

Zhou Linghuai felt a little uncomfortable under her burning gaze. He lowered his head slightly, clenched his fist, and pressed it to his lips to clear his throat. The wooden osmanthus incense beads on his left wrist had been replaced with cooling summer beads. The brownish-black beads looked inconspicuous, but they were reserved, heavy, and round, revealing a hint of grace.

At the mention of the longevity peach blossom stone, Yu Youyao couldn't help but think of it. "Cousin, Cousin, didn't you say that you wanted to carve a zither one the stone? Is it done?"

It had been almost a month.

Zhou Linghuai shook his head. "I still need some time. I'll show you then."

During this period of time, he had spent most of his energy on making the boxwood comb. The other portion of his energy was also focused on the "Bodhisattva", so he did not have much time to carve seals.

Yu Youyao nodded. "Cousin, don't worry. Take your time."

Mr. Xian Yun stayed in the Yu Residence until the sun rose in the west before saying goodbye to Mr. Hu Shan.

Before leaving, Mr. Xian Yun suddenly asked, "I heard that the young master of the Youzhou family, Zhou Linghuai, is now living in the residence and has become your student?"

Mr. Hu Shan's heart skipped a beat. He nodded. "That's right."

Mr. Xian Yun was silent for a long time. In the end, he did not say anything and turned to leave the residence.

Just like that, the Yu Residence was peaceful for a few more days.

The clan aunt that Old Madam Yu had invited from the Yu Clan also entered the Yu Residence.

Although she was not a direct descendant, she was still an elder after all. Yu Youyao naturally did not dare to be negligent. As soon as she received the news, she personally welcomed her into the residence.

Auntie Su saw that Yu Youyao was young and did things in a methodical manner. Her words and actions were also quite polite. When she looked around the residence, the servants were all doing their own things obediently. When Eldest Miss came over, she subconsciously put down the work in her hands and bowed. She waited for Eldest Miss to pass before continuing to work. She was also sincerely respectful to her.

The residence was also orderly.

It was said that Eldest Miss Yu was in charge of the first branch now. She had really taken after Old Madam.

To be invited into the Yu Residence, one needed to have some discernment. Auntie Su smiled and held Yu Youyao's hand along the way. After chatting for a while, they arrived at An Shou Hall.

Yu Youyao bowed to Old Madam. "Grandmother, Auntie Su is here."

Old Madam Yu smiled. Auntie Su was quite famous and talented in the clan. She was a capable person. Not only was she proficient in pharmacology, but she also knew how to take care of others.

Her old madam had broken her leg in her early years and was paralyzed in bed. It was she who had served her until she died of old age.

In her early years, when her husband had gained power, she had followed him to work in the capital and had seen the world.

Later on, when her husband died early, she could still stand tall when she returned to the clan as a widow.

She could stand upright, had seen the world, was careful and capable. There was no one better to take care of Yu Jianjia.

Auntie Su quickly greeted Old Madam Yu. "It's been many years since I've seen you. I think you're much healthier than before." Her eyes darted around and she glanced at Eldest Miss Yu, who was sitting beside Old Madam Yu and handing her tea. She also noticed that before Eldest Miss Yu served the tea, she gently tapped her delicate fingers on the wall of the cup. It was obvious that she was a meticulous person. "It's obvious that Eldest Miss is filial!"

It was a simple sentence, but Old Madam Yu's heart skipped a beat. "Isn't that so? This girl has also learned her skills well. She's also the one who helps to take care of the daily life in my house. She's also the one who's worried about everything in the family. It's stable inside and out, so I feel more at ease."

If it were an outsider, she might have even said a few more humble words.

However, the clan and the Yu Residence were connected by flesh and bones. The matter in the main house had long been spread to the clan. She wanted to show off so that her granddaughter wouldn't be underestimated.

As soon as Auntie Su entered the residence, she observed a lot. Naturally, she knew that Old Madam's words were probably true. She smiled and flattered, "Isn't that so? Old Madam has worked hard for most of her life. It's time for her to enjoy the blessings of her grandchildren. Eldest Miss is a capable person. Your comfortable days are still ahead."

With just a few words, Old Madam Yu's expression became much more sincere.

On the other hand, Yu Youyao's face turned red with embarrassment.

At this moment, Ai Ye helped Yu Jianjia into the house.

Yu Jianjia went forward to greet Old Madam Yu with a pale face.

Old Madam Yu pointed at Auntie Su and said, "This is Auntie Su from the clan. She's known to be virtuous in the clan. In the future, she'll take good care of your daily life. You should greet her too."

Yu Jianjia quickly bowed. "Greetings, Aunt. I'll have to trouble you in the future."

"Third Miss, you're too polite." Auntie Su returned the greeting with a smile. She quietly sized up Third Miss Yu. Looking at her thin body and pale face, she indeed looked sickly. It seemed that the rumors in the clan were true. Third Miss Yu was born prematurely, which meant that she was born with some congenital deficiencies.

## Chapter 368 Going Crazy

No wonder Madam Yang had a migraine and needed to recuperate. Old Madam had spent a lot of effort to choose someone from the clan to take care of her.

With a cautious mind, Auntie Su secretly sized her up again. She saw that Third Miss Yu was also well-behaved and polite, so she shouldn't be difficult to get along with.

The two of them greeted each other and sat down.

After Auntie Su entered the residence, it was time to arrange Yu Jianjia's trip to the manor as soon as possible.

Yu Youyao did not get involved and only listened.

Nanny Liu said, "That hot spring manor was also bought two years ago. As there's a hot spring inside, it's rare. After First Madam bought the manor, she renovated it inside and out. Now, it was renovated again, and the people living there are excellent. The manor doesn't lack anything, and it's close to the capital. It's convenient to buy..."

Old Madam Yu listened carefully and felt that it was appropriate, so she nodded. "In that case, I'll have to trouble Auntie Su to clean it. Three days later, I'll take Third Miss to the manor. She has to recuperate in peace."

Auntie Su nodded. "I'll definitely make the arrangements."

Yu Jianjia remained silent.

She had also heard a little about this Auntie Su and knew that she was a virtuous person. Old Madam had invited Auntie Su over to take care of her daily life. It was obvious that she had put in a lot of effort.

However, with Auntie Su's reputation, she probably couldn't be used by her.

Yu Youyao had borrowed Old Madam's hand to send her over to monitor her.

Old Madam Yu and Auntie Su had a discussion. Although Yu Youyao was not involved, she would still interfere from time to time. Hence, this matter was settled.

At this moment, Yu Jianjia put down her teacup and lowered her eyes. "Mother has a migraine and needs to recuperate. Previously, my body had a relapse, so it wasn't appropriate for me to visit. Now that I'm leaving, I have to stay in the manor for some time. I want to see Mother before I go to the manor."

This was not too much to ask.

Yu Youyao only held her teacup and drank it slowly.

Old Madam Yu's gaze darkened slightly as she said, "That's only right. Pick a time to visit your mother later."

Yu Jianjia was delighted. She quickly stood up and bowed to Old Madam Yu. "Thank you, Grandmother."

In the afternoon, Yu Jianjia prepared a lot of tea, medicine, and supplements, as well as some daily necessities. She only brought Ai Ye to the Tranquil Heart Residence.

The old woman guarding the door had received a message early in the morning. When she saw Yu Jianjia coming over, she opened the door without a word.

Yu Jianjia had always known that there was a remote and simple Tranquil Heart Residence in the residence, but she had never been there before. She entered the courtyard. When she saw the narrow courtyard and the tall walls that were like a cage, she finally realized that her mother was not hated by her father, but completely despised by him.

The blood drained from Yu Jianjia's face.

Large families usually did not punish the legitimate wife in the family so easily.

Unless this mistress had made some heinous mistake that they couldn't say out loud.

That meant Madam Xie's death was not groundless.

Yu Jianjia suddenly clutched her chest and panted heavily. Her head was dizzy as Ai Ye supported her into the house.

Although the room was a little small, there was nothing lacking.

Yu Jianjia lifted the curtain and entered the side room. There was a lingering sandalwood smell in the room, similar to the temple hall in An Shou Hall. Then, a Buddhist shrine came into view.

She had long heard that Yu Youyao had sent someone to move it in on the first day her mother had moved into Tranquil Heart Residence.

Seeing Yu Jianjia come over, Nanny Li was shocked. "Third, Third Miss, why are you here?"

Yu Jianjia looked at Nanny Li. She had lost a lot of weight in just a few days. She was wearing gray clothes, and her face was withered and gray. She asked hoarsely, "I begged Grandmother to come and visit Mother. Where's Mother?"

She looked around and saw a simple partition door in front of her. Her mother must be resting in the inner room behind the partition door.

Nanny Li couldn't help but feel sad. "First Madam had a nightmare yesterday and stayed up all night. She only fell asleep when she couldn't take it anymore."

Yu Jianjia bypassed the partition door and entered the inner room.

The inner room was not big, but it was filled with everything. She walked to the bed and suddenly took a look. She suddenly took a few steps back.

On the bed, there was an old woman with gray hair at the temples. Her face was thin, and her eye bags were drooping. The crow's feet at the corners of her eyes were deep and long, and her lips were gray. She looked like she had suddenly aged more than ten years.

Even as she fell asleep, she frowned and muttered nonsense, "Xie Roujia, Mu Jin, Cao'er... You, you, no, don't come over. Ghost, ghost, help..."

Yu Jianjia's chest hurt. She had never expected to see her mother like this.

For a moment, Yu Jianjia couldn't take it anymore. She turned around and left the inner room. She lowered her voice and asked, "What's wrong with Mother? She's so sick. Is no one in the residence to take care of her?"

At this point, even someone who had always been gentle couldn't help but break out in anger.

Nanny Li felt sorrow from the bottom of her heart. “Ever since Madam moved into Tranquil Heart Residence, her emotions have been unstable, and her head disease has acted up a few times, each time more serious than the last. The residence has also invited Physician Ding over to take a look. Physician Ding said that First Madam’s heart disease needs heart medicine. No matter how good his medicine is, if her heart disease isn’t cured, her illness will only worsen.”

Yu Jianjia held her breath. “Who’s in charge of the Tranquil Heart Residence?”

Nanny Li said, “It’s Nanny Liu. The people she uses are all old servants of the north courtyard. They’re Old Madam’s trusted aides.”

Yu Jianjia closed her eyes. Yu Youyao had always been a smart person. She did not even know about her going to the manor to recuperate. She would probably avoid the Tranquil Heart Residence.

Nanny Liu was an old woman following in front of Old Madam. Even though her mother was despised by her father, she was still the madam of the Yu Residence in name. If they cared about the Yu Residence’s reputation, they would still take good care of her.

In that case, her mother’s illness should not have been caused by Yu Youyao.

Yu Jianjia asked again, “Mother has been having nightmares recently?”

Nanny Li said, “It was better a few days ago. Recently, she hasn’t been able to sleep at night. She often wakes up with nightmares in the middle of the night.”

Yu Jianjia suddenly remembered that her mother had called out Xie Roujia, Mu Jin, and Cao’er in her sleep just now. She did not listen carefully. “Did you use any calming medicine?”

Nanny Li nodded. “Yes, the residence did provide the medicine, but it can only be managed for a while.”

As the two of them spoke, a heart-wrenching scream suddenly came from the inner room—

Yu Jianjia was shocked and quickly quickened her pace to enter the inner room. She saw Yang Shuwan closing her eyes tightly and waving her hands above her head crazily, screaming, “Ghost, no, don’t look for me...”

#### Chapter 369 Listening to the Drum

Nanny Li hurriedly stepped forward and shook Yang Shuwan awake. “Madam, Madam, wake up quickly. Madam...”

Yang Shuwan screamed and waved her hands. It took a while for Nanny Li to shake her awake. She screamed and suddenly sat up from the bed. Her body shrank to the side of the bed and she trembled.

Seeing that her mother was in a bad mood, Yu Jianjia was worried. “Mother, Mother, what’s wrong? I’m Jia Jia...”

“No, don’t kill me...” Yang Shuwan muttered to herself as she cowered. It took her a while to calm down. She raised her head and looked at Yu Jianjia in a daze. After a while, she said, “Jia Jia, Jia Jia, why are you here?”

!!



Yu Jianjia's eyes welled up with tears. She said hoarsely, "I begged Grandmother to come and visit Mother." Tears suddenly rolled down her face. She choked and said, "Mother, you've suffered."

Yang Shuwan was extremely excited. She pounced over and hugged Yu Jianjia, crying. "Jia Jia, you, you're finally here to see Mother. I-I thought you didn't care about Mother anymore..."

The mother and daughter hugged each other and cried. Yu Jianjia choked and said, "On the day I entered the Tranquil Heart Residence, I fell ill. Father invited Imperial Physician Hu into the residence to treat me. It took me a few days to recover. Grandmother was worried about my health, so she refused to let me visit you. I'm sorry. I was unfilial and made you suffer..."

When Yang Shuwan heard that her illness had acted up, she became nervous. She quickly pushed Yu Jianjia away and sized her up carefully. Indeed, her face was pale and bloodless. Her heart ached. "My child, how are you? What did Imperial Physician Hu say? Is it serious..."

As Yu Jianjia wiped her tears, she cried. "Imperial Physician Hu said that my condition has worsened a lot and I have to recuperate carefully. I've already discussed it with Grandmother and decided to go to the hot spring manor in the suburbs of the capital to recuperate. Mother won't be able to see me for a long time. However, although I've gone to the manor, I'll often send over some things from the manor into the residence and give them to Mother..."

Yang Shuwan's eyes widened for a moment as she screamed, "What? That b\*tch, Yu Youyao, wants to send you to the manor. No, no, you've been weak since you were young. How can your days in the manor be better than in the residence? She's trying to harm you in different ways. I-I-I'll go look for her..."

She ran out barefoot in only one layer of clothes and her hair was disheveled. She looked messy and crazy.

Even Yu Jianjia was shocked.

Fortunately, Nanny Li pulled her back. "Madam, Madam, calm down and listen to Third Miss."

Yang Shuwan lost her rationality and kept screaming, "What else is there to say? Yu Youyao, that b\*tch, is clearly trying to harm Jia Jia..."

When Yu Jianjia saw this scene, she also knew that her mother was a little crazy. She felt a sense of sorrow.

During this period of time, her father did not dote on her as much as before and kept talking about Yu Youyao. Old Madam only had Yu Youyao in her heart. The huge family was handed over to Yu Youyao to manage. Her mother was despised by her father, and now, she had become like this. As the Third Miss of the Yu Residence, her status in the residence was not as good as before, and her days were not as glorious as before.

Without her mother to plan for her, what should she do in the future?!

Third Miss wanted to go to the manor to rest and recuperate, and the residence was carefully managed. Yu Youyao instructed the stewards of the residence to cooperate with the request of the courtyard, so she did not interfere in this matter.

Auntie Su was an efficient person. It took her two days to pack up.

She brought a few carriages' worth of items to the manor first.

On the third day, the residence spent money to hire more than ten good armed guards from the Military Department of the Five Cities. They also sent a carriage to escort Yu Jianjia to the manor.

As the eldest sister, Yu Youyao should send Yu Jianjia off. She sent her out of the city gate and watched her carriage leave before returning to the city.

Thud...

Knock knock...

Dong dong dong...

Dong, dong, dong, dong...

Yu Youyao sat in the carriage and felt her ears go numb. The sound of the drum was like muffled thunder that kept erupting. It suddenly smashed into her ears and into her heart. It was heavy and smashed into her heart like rain, making her heart tremble.

"This sound is..." Yu Youyao's face turned pale. She suddenly lifted the curtain of the carriage and instructed anxiously, "Go back to the residence immediately..."

As soon as she finished speaking, chaotic voices sounded on Chang An Street—

"It's the drum. Someone has sounded it..."

"Oh my god, someone beat the drum..."

"Unless it's a serious grievance, we can't beat the drum. What happened..."

"Let's go and take a look..."

"Dong, dong, dong..." The drumbeat resounded throughout the capital.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips tightly, and her thin body trembled slightly. She endured it again and again, but in the end, she still lifted the curtain. The commoners on the streets rushed forward, and the crowd ran towards Chang An's right gate.

It was noisy and messy.

Emperor Gaozu ordered the drums to be placed outside the right gate of Chang An in the capital. He ordered the six divisions to take turns to listen to the drums.

Anyone who hit the drum for no reason would be punished with 30 strokes of the paddle. If they did not die, they could immediately go straight to prison and be personally handled by the emperor.

If anyone obstructed them, they would be treated as traitors.

Due to the rule of 30 strokes of the paddle, the commoners did not dare to make a scene. If it weren't for a serious grievance, no one would dare to beat the drum. After all, it was still unknown if their lives could be saved after 30 strokes of the paddle.

Therefore, ever since the Great Zhou Dynasty was established, there had not been many times when the drum had sounded.

However, there were a few times it happened. Every time, it was a bloodbath.

When Emperor Gaozong was in power, there was a flood in Jiangnan one year. An official in Jiangnan beat a drum in the capital and reported that the eunuchs from the Ministry of Works and the supervisors were greedy for money to repair the river. There was a flood in Jiangnan, and the dam burst, causing countless casualties...

Emperor Gaozong personally handled this case and appointed the imperial envoys. He gave them the imperial sword and allowed them to be executed first before reporting. In the end, this imperial sword was used in the capital, Jiangnan and even the deep palace. More than 300 court officials, eunuchs, and nobles were killed until blood flowed like a river, killing everyone in the court.

In addition, anyone who heard the drum and reported secrets and valued relationships would be sealed.

Therefore, in addition to “claiming innocence”, there were also important and confidential reports.

Even though very few people beat on the drum, no one in the court dared to be negligent. They were afraid that they would delay important matters and their heads would still be cut off.

Yu Youyao did not expect to encounter this on her rare trip out. Her hands trembled as she lowered the curtain, and her face could not help but turn pale.

#### Chapter 370 Killed on the Spot

The carriage rushed home at full speed. She could hear the sound of horses neighing. They raised their hooves high and smashed them down heavily. The coachman’s whip cracked, so the carriage was very bumpy. After a while, Yu Youyao’s face turned pale and her forehead broke out in a cold sweat. She grabbed the copper ring in the carriage tightly.

After an unknown period of time, the carriage suddenly slowed down.

Yu Youyao asked groggily, “What happened?”

Before the coachman could answer, Yu Youyao heard a shout from outside the door. “I, Ye Hanyuan, son of Ye Xiaoci of the You Prefecture, want to report the Marquis of Changxing for committing the ten deadly sins.”

Yu Youyao’s ears exploded. Her hands trembled as she suddenly lifted the curtain.

In front of them were two officials with large knives at their waists. They dragged a man covered in blood and with his hands and feet cuffed. They walked on Chang An Street step by step, and the man was bleeding all the way.

There was a sea of people on both sides of the street, and the commoners gathered and made comments.

The carriage was blocked, so she couldn’t leave.

Ye Hanyuan was tall and heroic. Even though he was covered in blood, it could not hide his pride.

In the state capital, he was a third-rank external envoy. He had real power and could mobilize troops, money, and food. He was in charge of more than 30 cities in the north and was a feudal official.

Ye Xiaoci's son, Ye Hanyuan, had entered the capital to play the drum and was willing to be punished with 30 strokes of the cane to report the Marquis of Changxing!

This was simply even more shocking than a vassal king entering the capital.

The Cabinet Grand Secretary, Xia Yansheng, had just returned home from court. Just as he changed his clothes and drank a cup of tea, he heard a drumming sound outside. It was so loud that even his ears were a little dazed.

Holding his tea, he turned to the servant beside him. "Did you hear anything?"

Of course, the servant heard it. "It sounds like drumming!"

"That's bad..." With a clang, the teacup in Xia Yansheng's hand fell to the ground and shattered. Not only that, but the tea that he had just drunk also spewed out of his mouth and he choked on the remaining tea in his mouth.

He coughed violently. As he coughed, he said, "Cough, quickly bring me my court clothes. Cough, cough..."

The servant was also smart. He quickly brought over the court clothes and helped him put them on.

As soon as he finished putting on his court clothes, a servant rushed over to report, "Master, bad news. Ye Hanyuan, the son of Ye Xiaoci from the You Prefecture, has beat a drum and reported the Marquis of Changxing for committing the ten deadly sins. He has already served his caning and is on his way to the palace. Today, there's a market. Chang An Street is filled with commoners. On both sides of the street, the commoners are sending him off..."

Xia Yansheng had guessed that there was a major grievance, but when he heard that this grievance was from Youzhou, his eyes immediately darkened and his body couldn't help but tremble.

"This, this is going to pierce through the sky." As he spoke, his body trembled as he quickly walked out.

Just as he walked out of the door, another servant rushed in. "Not good, Master. Mr. Xian Yun brought the blood letters of the people of Youzhou into the palace to meet His Majesty..."

With a thud, Xia Yansheng fell to the ground. He did not even manage to hold onto the strong servant beside him.

The two servants were shocked and were about to help him up.

Then, they saw their master raise his head and only had time to say, "If I faint, you'll have to carry me into the palace."

With that, his head tilted and he really fainted.

The family immediately prepared a stretcher and carried him into the palace.

News of Ye Hanyuan beating the drum and reporting the Marquis of Changxing was also sent to the Marquis of Changxing's Residence endlessly.

"Old Madam, bad news. The emperor has sent out the imperial guards in the palace and ordered the imperial physician to accompany him to Chang An Street to receive Ye Hanyuan. He has even given an oral order. If Ye Hanyuan dies before entering the palace, no one in the six tribes can escape responsibility."

"The Military Department of the Five Cities has already sent people to clear a path on Chang An Street. Other than the people escorting Ye Hanyuan, anyone who gets within three steps of him will be executed on the spot."

"Not good, Old Madam. The Emperor has mentioned the commander of the Divine Arms Battalion and ordered him to immediately bring 3,000 elite troops to Youzhou and escort the Marquis of Changxing. His generals and all the officials in Youzhou will enter the capital without delay. If there's any resistance, they will be punished."

"Old Madam, Old Madam, there's news from the palace that Concubine Zhuang disrespected the Empress Dowager and was stripped of her title. She's been sent to the Cold Palace to be punished."

"Not good, not good. The emperor has summoned the Marquis of Weining into the palace..."

Bad news came one after another, and Old Madam Cao felt dizzy.

As the old conferred lord of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence, how could Old Madam Cao not know that from the moment Ye Hanyuan struck the drum, no matter what the crime was or if it was true, the glory of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence had come to an end.

As long as this matter involved King You, the relatives of the royal family, the nobles of the royal family, and his descendants, would have to shed a layer of skin even if they were not guilty.

If they were guilty, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to kill all their clans.

At this moment, a few teams of imperial guards rushed past Chang An Street with sabers at their waists. Everyone could only hear the sound of uniform footsteps. Wherever they went, the commoners retreated.

In the blink of an eye, this group of people rushed towards the Marquis of Changxing's Residence and surrounded it.

When Old Madam Cao received the news, she quickly asked someone to help her out, preparing to ask for the truth.

The leading military commander did not even look at her. He raised the document in his hand and announced loudly, "The higher-ups have ordered that no one is allowed to go out of the grounded residence of the Marquis of Changxing's Residence. Those who disobey will be killed on the spot!"

The entire capital was turned upside down because of Ye Hanyuan's drumming.

At this moment, the capital was already under full martial law.

On the streets of Chang An, groups of soldiers with knives rushed to the sides to block the commoners.

The official sedan chairs rushed past Chang An Street and went into the palace.

Under the scorching sun, Ye Hanyuan, who was seriously injured, looked up at the sky and laughed. "I'm Ye Hanyuan from the You Prefecture and I hit the drum. I might be punished with 30 strokes of the cane but I will report the Marquis of Changxing's Residence for ten deadly crimes!"

Yu Youyao's carriage was blocked in the middle of the road. When she heard Ye Hanyuan list the crimes of the Marquis of Changxing, every word was heart-wrenching. It was really terrifying.

"The first crime is for forming alliances for personal gain and colluding with the Ministry of War. Every year, he owes money to the You Prefecture army. King You doesn't report it well, but his tracks are hidden by the Ministry of War. The army is bitterly cold. The soldiers can't eat their fill, their clothes can't withstand the cold. Their armor can't defend against the enemy, their swords can't kill the enemy, and their thin horses can't charge ahead. King You fights with the Northern Barbarians every year, and there are casualties every year, causing countless loyal souls to die in vain in You Prefecture..."

"Secondly, he colluded with external enemies to commit treason. This thief colluded with the Di people to cause Youzhou to lack resources. He colluded with external enemies and caused the Di people to invade on a large scale. He also used a delaying tactic to wear down the 300,000 troops under King You, causing him to lose three cities in a row in the north. This is not King You's fault, but the disaster of a traitor..."