

All Hail 381

Chapter 381 Phoenix Life

He was extremely amused when he heard this. Then, he heard his father continue, "I've been slacking off on myself for the entire day today. Tomorrow, when I go to the battlefield, I'll have less chance of winning. Perhaps in the future, your mother will have an additional danger of being a widow. I'm a man, so why should I be tired? Besides, no matter how tired I am, when I return home and see your mother smiling at me, I'll be full of energy!"

After his family was destroyed, he dragged his broken body and struggled to breathe. He was in hell, and his heart was in a boundless purgatory. He did not know if he was tired, because he did not have long to live. He did not have much time left, but there were still many things he needed to do, so he could not allow himself to stop.

These days in the Yu Residence were undoubtedly the most comfortable for him.

His hands, which were stained with blood, finally put down the butcher's knife. He played the zither, painted, carved, and carved...

Everything made him happy.

In particular, when he personally brought these things to the little girl, the little girl's happy and admiring expression made him feel even happier.

At this moment, the little girl looked at him with heartache.

He suddenly felt that his entire body had endless strength!

In the blink of an eye, it was time for Mr. Xian Yun to visit.

There wasn't much to manage in the house, but in order to show her respect for the guests, Yu Youyao arranged for servants to clean up the residence.

At quarter to ten, Mr. Xian Yun arrived.

It was still the low-key and simple green-topped carriage.

Yu Zongzheng stepped forward and bowed. Compared to Yu Zongshen, his attitude was much more serious, and his expression was filled with excitement.

Yu Zongzheng and Mr. Xian Yun finished exchanging pleasantries.

Only then did Yu Youyao walk out from behind her father. She bent down and bowed to Mr. Xian Yun. "I'm Yu Youyao, a junior of the household. Greetings, sir. My mother is still sick, and Grandmother is old. I'm in charge of the household now. Please forgive me if I've neglected you."

Mr. Xian Yun's status was noble, but it was not good for her grandmother to welcome him.

Mr. Xian Yun looked at her eyebrows. Her long eyebrows were drawn with brow powder. They were thick and light. Her eyebrows were curved like the moon, and the ends were curved. They were already a little different from when he had seen them a few days ago.

He stroked his white beard and said, "I heard that the Empress Dowager praised Miss for being clean and honest. Yao Yao is kind-hearted."

Yu Youyao looked embarrassed. She did not know how to say this, but Yu Zongzheng smiled and said, "The little girl is mischievous. Don't take it so seriously."

His tone clearly showed that he was very satisfied with his daughter.

Mr. Xian Yun looked unfathomable. "I know some face-reading techniques. Looking at you, you have a natural noble aura between your eyes and a purple qi around your forehead. Your fate is extremely precious. If you can do good deeds, you will definitely be able to have a good beginning and end."

This noble aura was the power of a phoenix's life.

Purple Qi was attributed to merit.

Of the two, if one was missing, one's fate would not be good. If one's fate was lacking, one would ultimately be born unlucky and die unlucky.

It seemed that that person...

Mr. Xian Yun gathered his thoughts and looked at Yu Youyao with a probing gaze.

Yu Youyao bowed and thanked him. "Thank you, Mr. Xian."

However, she complained in her heart. She had never heard her cousin say that Mr. Xian Yun liked to play tricks!

On the other hand, Yu Zongzheng was overjoyed. He had also heard that Mr. Xian Yun had learned Confucianism and Daoism at the same time and was proficient in some physiognomy skills. It was probably because Yao Yao had caught his eye that he had decided to meet her for the first time.

Hence, he thought of another matter.

When Yao Yao was young, there were rumors in the residence that Yao Yao was born with a hard life. They wanted to send her to the Li Residence for a few years. When her mother heard this, she was so angry that she couldn't even care less about her illness. She personally brought Yao Yao to the Precious Peace Temple and asked to see Master Hui Neng, asking him to evaluate her life.

On the other hand, after seeing Yao Yao, the first thing Master Hui Neng, who had always kept quiet, said was, "Amitabha. You're fated with Buddha."

After that, he really evaluated Yao Yao's life.

He still remembered that at that time, Master Hui Neng had left behind a nine-character Buddhist prayer. "She can reach Nirvana."

Finally, he said, "Noble!"

In the past, he had never been close to his daughter. He saw that his daughter was born stupid and did not have anything special, so he did not pay much attention to her.

However, from the looks of it, Master Hui Neng was indeed an enlightened monk with a discerning eye.

Yu Zongzheng led Mr. Xian Yun all the way to the Green House. He also instructed Zhou Linghuai not to neglect Mr. Xian Yun, so he did not stay any longer. He returned to the front courtyard to change into his official uniform and went to court.

Mr. Xian Yun sized up Zhou Linghuai's residence.

It was May, and the roses in the corner were blooming. The colorful flowers were indistinguishable. The big and small paths in the courtyard were paved with limestone bricks that could be accessible by wheelchair. There were also patterns carved on the bricks to prevent the wheelchair from slipping. The garden was filled with expensive flowers and trees. The best part was that under the grape trellis, there was greenery.

Even on a hot summer day, it was comfortable to sit down.

It was really meticulous.

As Mr. Xian Yun stroked his beard, he nodded. "It's a good place. Every blade of grass and tree seems to be without order, but it secretly conforms to the five elements of the world. The five elements are full, and Yin and Yang are in balance. When the essence of the world is here, its vitality will appear. The essence of the world will nourish nature which in turn nourishes people. I think that although the person who set up this place didn't plant a willow by accident, it looks intentional."

It was an unintentional move, but because of his heart, it had created a treasure land.

Zhou Linghuai sat under the trellis, and mottled sunlight danced around his body. He held a Ru ware teacup and drank tea with narrowed eyes. Under the vines, there was an incense table with incense burning on it to relieve the heat. There was also an incense wooden chessboard on the table. There was a small table beside it, and there was a teapot, cups, bowls filled with exquisite snacks, melons, fruits, and so on.

Mr. Xian Yun also brought some tea over to drink. There was a hint of bitterness and coolness in his mouth. When it entered his throat, it seeped into his mouth, making his mind clear. He couldn't help but praise, "It's better to taste bitterness in the summer. Good tea, good tea."

Zhou Linghuai put down his teacup. "You didn't come here today to drink tea, right?"

In other words, if you have something to say, say it quickly.

Mr. Xian Yun did not keep him in suspense anymore. "Heir Yin, you're hiding in the Yu Residence of the Imperial Capital. I'm afraid it's not just to avenge King You!"

Although he had never seen Yin Huaixi's true appearance, he knew before bringing him into the palace that the so-called heir, Yin Huaixi, was just a puppet substitute.

One was born with fate, and he knew how to read faces.

Yin Huaixi's fate was definitely unique in the world. No matter how much a fake looked like Yin Huaixi, it was impossible for him to have the same fate.

Since the substitute had already entered the capital, Yin Huaixi must be hiding in the capital.

...

The last time he came to the Yu Residence to visit his old friend, Hu Shan, and found out that Zhou Linghuai was staying in the Yu Residence, he vaguely sensed that something was amiss.

However, he wasn't completely sure.

Therefore, he sent a greeting card.

As he had expected, Yin Huaixi used Zhou Linghuai's identity to move into the Yu Residence. He hid in the inner residence and stirred up trouble.

Zhou Linghuai smiled faintly. "Oh, what do you mean?"

Mr. Xian Yun did not look at him. He only held a black chess piece and placed it on the chessboard. "In the past, when I traveled to Youzhou and met you, I had once met the young master of the Youzhou family, Zhou Linghuai. At that time, I told him that if Yin Huaixi did not die, he would definitely rebel."

Zhou Linghuai sneered. "All these years, one of the factions that have been chasing after me was you?"

Mr. Xian Yun did not deny it. "If you die, Zhou Linghuai, Song Mingzhao, and Xie Jingliu can be good supporters. They can last for hundreds of years in the Great Zhou. If you live, they will all be rebels."

Zhou Linghuai sneered. "If I want to rebel, no one in the world can stop me."

Mr. Xian Yun said nothing.

Zhou Linghuai said calmly, "You don't have to trouble yourself to test me. When I was young, I was familiar with history books and often gained insights. The Tang Dynasty had black-armored cavalry. In the battle of Hulao Pass, which determined the domination of the world, Dou Jiande led more than 100,000 elite troops to support Wang Shichong. Meanwhile, Li Shimin only used 3,500 black-armored elite troops as reinforcements at Hulao Pass. Later, he broke through more than 100,000 of Dou Jiande's troops."

"After that, Wang Shichong of Luoyang saw that more than a hundred thousand troops of King Xia, Dou Jiande, had been destroyed. He did not even resist. He led his subordinates and hundreds of civil and military officials to surrender. From then on, the war in the world was first settled. Later, this black armor army destroyed the Turks and regained peace in the four seas for the Tang Dynasty. The dynasty came to congratulate them."

"There was also Yue Fei's Yue family's army. In the Battle of Zhuxian Town, they broke through more than 100,000 Jin soldiers with 500 elite soldiers. Later on, the Jin people felt that it was easy to shake the mountains but difficult to shake the Yue family's army."

"There was also the Liaodong Steel Cavalry. With just a few thousand troops, they opened up 800 miles of territory. Their general, Li Chengliang, once led 5,000 light cavalry to attack for 400 miles and broke through the enemy's 100,000-strong alliance army. This special army was best at defeating many with

few troops. In the three major expeditions of the Ming Dynasty, Li Rusong led 3,000 Steel Cavalry and fought 20,000 Japanese troops. They ambushed the Japanese granary and forced them to retreat.”

At this point, Mr. Xian Yun understood.

A truly unfathomable genius was good at reading history, studying history, appraising history, and even learning the essence of history. He abandoned the dregs of history and absorbed things that were beneficial to him.

That wasn't the scariest thing.

Instead, he had the talent and the capital to execute it.

As expected, Zhou Linghuai changed the topic. “Later, I asked Father why he didn't form a cavalry and destroy the Northern Barbarians, occupy the territory of the Northern Barbarians and obtain the Northern War Horses. He could have rode the Northern War Horse and conquered the world, causing the four seas to surrender and ten thousand dynasties to congratulate him. Father asked me, do you know how Bai Qi died? Bai Qi didn't have any intention of rebelling. He was a war god. Why couldn't the Great Qin Empire tolerate him? It's because he didn't have the intention to rebel, but he had the ability to rebel. As the saying goes, an ordinary man is innocent, but his abilities are a sin.”

Unknowingly, the black and white chess pieces on the chessboard collided several times. Mr. Xian Yun looked down for a long time and picked up his tea to drink.

The cavalry was in the hands of those in power and was a sharp weapon of the country.

However, in the hands of the vassal lords, they were the scourge of the country.

He had known this long ago, but he was born rebellious. The more he was not allowed to do something, the more he had to do it and do it to the best of his ability.

He quietly built a cavalry.

His father knew about it, but he did not stop him, because no one could stop what Yin Huaixi wanted to do.

His father had known this for a long time.

In a battle of wits and courage, his father had never won against him.

However, his father did not stop him or support him.

The money needed to raise an army was a bottomless pit, and the military expenses needed to raise a well-equipped elite army were no less than the cost of 100,000 You soldiers.

The difficulties involved were immeasurable.

His father did not believe that he could do it.

However, in fact, he had done it. In the beginning, he was the one who raised the army. Later, this army often appeared in the area of Shanxi. There was a trade route in that area, and there were also many mountains. There were endless bandits in every dynasty.

This cavalry often disguised themselves as escorts to suppress them. They were in the business of taking advantage of others. They had also accumulated combat experience and had never lost in many years.

Zhou Linghuai said calmly, "This cavalry is called the Hidden Dragon. It's under my name and is used by me alone. During war, it hides in the army and takes advantage of the millions of troops to create a chance for our army to win."

"In non-war times, they mostly hide among the commoners, either farming or hiding in the mountains. They come and go as they please. They're unpredictable. One person can fight a hundred people and not lose."

"Three years ago, the Di people's army was fighting at the border. How could they turn the situation around in such a short period of time?"

"The Imperial Court owes the army money every year. How can the 300,000 You soldiers last so long?"

Mr. Xian Yun gasped and couldn't even drink his tea.

Wanting to rebel and having the ability to rebel were two different concepts.

The former was fearful, while the latter was terrifying.

Zhou Linghuai lowered his eyebrows. "The Marquis of Changxing is in charge of 300,000 troops in Youzhou, but he's in charge on my behalf. Once the Hidden Dragon appears, Youzhou will still be mine. I wonder if the three major camps of the capital can resist my 1,000 elite cavalry and 300,000 armored horsemen of the Youzhou army?"

Mr. Xian Yun couldn't help but ask, "Since you have the ability to rebel, why don't you rebel? Why do you still want to stir up trouble in the royal court?"

Zhou Linghuai looked at the small table. There was a stalk of orchid in the small bottle with round petals and a thin stem. This was not inserted by the little girl yesterday. It looked very beautiful. "I can't confirm my father's desire for rebellion. He's a very cowardly person. He has no ambition in his life. It's harder to make him rebel than to kill him. If he finds out that after he dies, his son rebelled and even made him bear the name of rebellion, he'll probably be so angry that he'll turn into a ghost and kill me."

In this life, his father only wanted to live an upright life and grow old with his wife.

As his son, he couldn't deny his intentions.

Mr. Xian Yun suddenly reacted. "So, if you don't want to rebel, you'll force others to rebel? If you don't want to bear the name of rebellion, you'll force others to bear the name of rebellion?"

He suddenly thought of King Ping's entry into the capital. How much of this was his doing?

Once the vassal lords moved, the court would be in chaos.

Zhou Linghuai did not comment. "What's the difference between me and others? After all, it's time for the Great Zhou to come to an end."

Even the Sage, Mr. Xian Yun, was angered by his casual attitude. "Yin Huaixi, there are gods everywhere. You don't have any respect for them. Can you have a good ending?"

Zhou Linghuai sneered. "I was born unruly. I never knew what reverence was. My father restrained my personality and asked me to learn Confucianism, Buddhism, and Daoism at the same time. But look." He pointed at the chessboard, his expression cold and distant. "Everything I've learned is in black and white. What do you think about this game?"

Chapter 383 Asuras Are Evil

Mr. Xian Yun did not look at the chessboard. Instead, he looked at him deeply. "Back then, Old Madam did not finish her words. You were born with evil spirits. You were born a jinx and would not have a good family. You would not die a good death. It was this jinx that ruined your momentum, forming a fate where a dragon was trapped in a shallow pool and was treated as a shrimp. It was a true dragon who was damaged and destined to die."

Zhou Linghuai raised his eyebrows and said nothing.

Mr. Xian Yun continued, "The Asura contains fire. This fire is called anger, and its anger will defeat all the world. The Asura has hands that can hold the sun and moon. Its hands can cover the light of the sun and moon and reverse Yin and Yang. The Asura has feet that stand on the sea and suppress the four seas, causing them to return to their hearts. The Asura has a body that can cross Mount Sumeru. It's huge and determines the universe."

Zhou Linghuai supported his forehead with one hand and saw the little girl slowly walking over with a food box. When she passed by the wall, she stepped forward happily with a smile and picked out the brightest rose, folding it in her hand.

The little girl always despised the Green House for being a little cold. She liked to pick beautiful flowers and put bottles in his house.

Mr. Xian Yun also noticed his abnormality, but he did not care. He changed the topic. "However, Asuras are evil. They don't believe in justice and have a heart of resentment. They are determined to fight. They are blessed but not virtuous. In the end, they are not truly kind."

"Sir, your words are incorrect." As soon as Mr. Xian Yun finished speaking, a crisp voice entered his ears. A beautiful girl came over slowly with a beautiful rose. "In the Buddhist Sect, there is the saying of the 'Resentment of Three Lifetimes'. Asuras cultivate good fortune in the first life, enjoy good fortune in the second life, and eliminate evil in the third life. From this, it can be seen that Asuras also cultivate five admonitions and ten good deeds. They support the principles of reincarnation." At this point, she smiled slightly. "In the next life of Buddhism, according to you, Asuras are evil only because of their previous lives. The so-called evil is because of their previous lives and manifests in their present lives. The so-called good and evil are just the cause of the heavens."

She had never felt that her cousin was evil.

Even though she knew that her cousin might be just as Mr. Xian Yun had said. His fire would burn the world to death. His hands would cover the sun and moon, his feet would stir the four seas, and his body would cover the mountains and rivers of the nine prefectures.

Mr. Xian Yun was famous and respected by the world. Other than meeting Yin Huaixi back then and making him lose face, wherever he went in his life, he was respected.

He did not expect to be refuted by a young lady today.

He stroked his long beard and suddenly laughed. "Haha, interesting."

It wasn't her words that were interesting, but her.

Yu Youyao knelt on the soft cushion and replaced the orchids in the green vase with roses. The bright red roses were inserted into the vase.

Zhou Linghuai suddenly took out the rose and sniffed it.

Mr. Xian Yun was suddenly stunned. Then, he thought of a sentence: In me the tiger sniffs the rose!

He couldn't help but turn to look at this beautiful and bright eldest daughter of the Yu family.

She picked up a plate of Eight Treasure Cake from the food box and placed it on the small table. She tilted her head to look at her cousin. "The Eight Treasure Cake was just made using white ginseng. Cousin, it's fine to eat more." With that, she picked up the teapot and poured tea for her cousin. When the tea was 80% full, she stopped. "I won't disturb you from chatting. If there's anything, send Chang An to inform me."

A smile appeared on Zhou Linghuai's lips. "Okay."

Mr. Xian Yun was speechless.

He was clearly a guest, but this little girl had only poured a cup of tea. It was too rude.

Zhou Linghuai only retracted his gaze after Yu Youyao had walked far away.

Mr. Xian Yun held the teapot himself and poured himself a cup of tea. "This cousin of yours is quite interesting. I didn't say anything, but she bears a grudge." At this point, he took a piece of Eight Treasure Cake and looked at the person in front of him. He glanced at her indifferently and didn't care at all. He tasted the Eight Treasure Cake and said meaningfully, "Things that are made with effort always taste especially good."

Zhou Linghuai said calmly, "I want 300,000 troops from Youzhou."

He could easily obtain this army, but Mr. Xian Yun was an indispensable part of it.

As Mr. Xian Yun tasted the Eight Treasure Cake, he said, "It's very difficult for you to control Youzhou legitimately."

Seeing that he had taken another piece of Eight Treasures Cake, Zhou Linghuai brought the plate to him. "It's very difficult for others, but it's very simple for you."

Mr. Xian Yun did not understand what he meant. Although the emperor treated him politely, he did not have the ability to make the emperor hand over the 300,000 troops of Youzhou to Yin Huaixi.

Zhou Linghuai said calmly, "When the time is right, I'll invite myself to guard Youzhou. At that time, the emperor will summon you to the palace and ask for your opinion. You only need to know how to answer in the best interests of me."

Mr. Xian Yun was shocked. "I've always ignored court affairs. This concerns the country. Why would the emperor ask me? Did you scheme again?"

Zhou Linghuai did not deny it. "You have no room to refuse. The Marquis of Changxing is a monstrous criminal, and there are no survivors in the ten races. Then, who in Youzhou can guard it? Who can guard it and who dares to guard it? Isn't this also why you specially came to look for me? You care about the country and the world. You're willing to play chess for me. Didn't you want to use this as a condition to protect the stability of Youzhou?"

Mr. Xian Yun was silent for a long time. After a while, he said, "I know that you're the only person in Youzhou who can guard it. Alright, I promise you."

Zhou Linghuai nodded. "Mr. Xian Yun is indeed sensible."

Mr. Xian Yun was silent for a long time before saying, "What I said just now was that your physiognomy three years ago was originally blessed but without virtue. There's a saying that virtue is not worthy of status. As the saying goes, if you're blessed but without virtue, in the end, you won't be able to stop killing and will forever fall to Asura." At this point, he changed the topic. "Do you know how your physiognomy is now?"

Zhou Linghuai was not interested and ate the Eight Treasure Cake.

However, Mr. Xian Yun was interested. "Today, from your physiognomy, the rhinoceros on your forehead has already formed. Although it's still murderous, it's filled with purple qi. It's merit."

Blessings and virtue were indispensable.

Those who were blessed but without virtue would eventually fall to Asura. They were definitely not good people.

As for those who were virtuous and unlucky, just like King You, they did not have a good ending.

On the other hand, those who were blessed with good fortune could often enjoy great wealth and fate. If this person happened to have the fate of a true dragon, he would live forever and the emperor star would descend.

However, he did not say this in the end.

Mr. Xian Yun looked at the rose that had been placed back into the bottle. It was beautiful. Such a delicate flower needed pure soil to grow. Otherwise, its beauty could not be obtained.

Yin Huaixi should have understood this since he had the flower in his hand.

He made a decision.

Otherwise, now that Ye Hanyuan had entered the capital, he would not be shouting that he had been wronged. Instead, he would be shouting that he had the Yuchang sword in his hand. He would be like a thorn that stabbed the Qin Empire, causing flames of war to rise everywhere in the world. The flames of war would reach the sky, and the country would perish. The world would suffer.

Otherwise, why would he say that Yin Huaixi had killed countless people in his life and was an Asura?

Chapter 384 Obsession

After talking, Mr. Xian Yun had no intention of leaving.

Zhou Linghuai couldn't be bothered with him. He turned his wheelchair and returned to the study. He took out the "Bodhisattva" and focused on repairing it.

Mr. Xian Yun sat in the courtyard and drank tea and ate snacks. He studied the chess game that Yin Huaixi had left behind, but he still couldn't figure it out.

After thinking hard, he finally understood. Yin Huaixi had just touched the chessboard and said to him, "Everything I've learned is in black and white. What do you think about this game?"

This chess game contained the essence of the three schools of Confucianism and Daoism: the stars, the art of war, and strategy. It contained the vastness of the universe, and the exquisiteness of the world. Even he could only catch a glimpse of it.

Then, he recalled that back then, he had set up a precious chess game in Youzhou. In the end, Yin Huaixi had used less than the time it took to burn an incense stick to solve his chess game.

Now that Yin Huaixi had set up another Chess Game for him, he felt embarrassed.

Mr. Xian Yun shook his head. "The five elements, Yin and Yang, open up the world. They move freely and stabilize life! When a grand plan is displayed, it will shock the wind and clouds, and its hegemony will shock the world for a thousand years!"

Hence, he disrupted the chessboard and walked into the study with his hands behind his back.

Seeing that Yin Huaixi was painting, he went forward to take a look.

"Good painting, good painting." Mr. Xian Yun slapped his thigh excitedly. "The world is inherently empty. There was originally nothing, so how could it cause dust?"

He wandered around the desk and looked at it horizontally, vertically, left and right. "Bodhisattva represents you. You have nothing to begin with, and you're the only one left. You originally had nothing but yourself, but you have a purpose in your heart. This painting is nothing more than the greed, anger, and obsession in your heart. You should have nothing to live besides the desires of your heart. All living beings have the wisdom and virtue of Tathagata, but they can't prove it with their delusions."

The main subject was the person in the painting.

Zhou Linghuai was a little annoyed. "You're disturbing me."

The meaning of chasing him away was very obvious, but Mr. Xian Yun did not care at all. "Kid, the Buddhist Sect is particular. Your body is like a Bodhi tree, and your heart is like a mirror." At this point, he stared at the little girl who was wearing a small plain dress. "Kid, you just have to do the opposite. You have to hold on to what you want."

Zhou Linghuai frowned. "You should leave."

Mr. Xian Yun stared at the painting and clicked his tongue in wonder. "What's the hurry? I'm already here. Wouldn't it seem like the main family isn't treating the guest well? At the very least, I can only leave after lunch and afternoon tea."

Whether it was eating or drinking, everything was meticulous. Why was he in a hurry to leave?

Even Zhou Linghuai couldn't help but look up at him. "Why don't you stay for dinner too?"

Not only did Mr. Xian Yun not think that this was ironic, but he also slapped his thigh. "This is a good idea. I feel that the Chess Game outside is incomparably exquisite. I was engrossed in studying the chess game and planned to stay in the residence for a few more days. Haha, even the excuse is perfect."

Indeed!

This old man was still the same old man back then. What did his reputation and unfathomability have to do with him?

Zhou Linghuai couldn't be bothered with him anymore. He put away the dried painting and turned his wheelchair to leave.

At this moment, Yu Youyao was leaning against the couch under the Parasol Tree and reading.

Seeing her cousin come over, she quickly put down her book. "Cousin, have you finished talking to Mr. Xian Yun? He's a guest. Why aren't you accompanying him in the Green House?"

Zhou Linghuai frowned. "He's too annoying!"

Yu Youyao was stunned. Could it be an illusion? Why did she seem to hear so much grievance in her cousin's words?

Yu Youyao shook her head and quickly dismissed this thought.

What was wrong?

Did it have anything to do with her cousin?

She must have heard wrongly, so Yu Youyao poured a cup of tea for her cousin. "Cousin, isn't it a little inappropriate to leave Mr. Xianyun alone in The Green House?"

After all, he was a guest. They had to treat him well.

Zhou Linghuai shook his head. "He's thick-skinned and won't care about this."

For a moment, Yu Youyao almost thought that she had heard wrongly. She blinked. "Cousin, did you just say that Mr. Xian Yun is thick-skinned?"

After Zhou Linghuai drank his tea, he put down his teacup. "Yes, shameless."

Yu Youyao blinked. After thinking about it, she decided not to comment on this for the time being. Hence, she changed the topic. "Cousin, Mr. Xian Yun even met me just now."

Zhou Linghuai frowned. "What did he say?"

Yu Youyao placed one hand behind her back and pretended to stroke her beard with the other. She shook her head and said, “Young Miss, you have a natural noble aura between your eyes and a purple qi lingering on your forehead. Your fate is extremely precious. If you can do good deeds, you will definitely be able to have a good start and end.” After saying that, she couldn’t help but laugh. “Do I sound like him?”

“Naughty.” Zhou Linghuai couldn’t help but laugh.

Yu Youyao choked on her laughter. It took her a while to hold back her laughter. “Does Mr. Xian Yun really know how to read people?”

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. “Any person with great virtue and knowledge will know some physiognomy techniques. This is because when a person’s morals and wisdom reach a certain level, they will know everything. Good, evil, poverty, virtue, stupidity, and trickery will all be revealed at a glance.”

Yu Youyao’s eyes widened. “It’s that magical?”

Zhou Linghuai continued, “Confucius said that a gentleman is predictable because there’s no need to be divine. Before you judge a person’s appearance, listen to their voices first. Before you hear their voices, investigate their journey first. Before you investigate their journey, look at their hearts first. Your words and actions determine a person’s physiognomy. As the saying goes, looks come from the heart.”

“The reason why sages from ancient times can become sages is only because they’re good at reading people’s hearts and knowing the world. The hearts of the people and the world can be seen. Who in the world can hide from a sage? It’s not surprising that Mr. Xian Yun is like this.”

Yu Youyao was enlightened. “In that case, Mr. Xian Yun is really not a fraud.”

When Zhou Linghuai heard this, he smiled. “There’s records of an expert in history. A high-ranking official brought three people to see this expert. The expert didn’t say that he wanted to see them, nor did he say that he didn’t want to see them. Every day, he went out for a walk. On the third day, the high-ranking official couldn’t help but ask the expert when he would be willing to see these three people.”

Yu Youyao loved to hear her cousin tell stories the most. She rested her chin on her hand and listened attentively.

“That expert said that he had already seen these three people. Every time he went out for a walk, the first person would always lower his head and not even dare to look at him. This person is a loyal and honest person. He can trust him, but he can’t entrust him with a heavy responsibility.”

“The second person bowed respectfully every time he went out. When he left, he looked left and right. This person looks polite but he is scheming. He’s not useful.”

“As for the third person, the expert said very solemnly that no matter if he went out for a walk or at home, his eyes and brows would always be the same, and

his determination would not change. This person can take on a heavy responsibility.”

Chapter 385 There Are Empathetic Beauties in the World

“This is the process of investigating people. First is to find out their temperament. Later on, this high official listened to the expert’s guidance and placed the first person by his side as a guard. He had never overlooked anything and used the excuse of moving the second person far away. Later on, this person submitted to someone else and finally betrayed his master. In the end, this third person became his right-hand man.”

Towards the end, Zhou Linghuai’s expression paused for a moment. “Appearances come from the heart. A person’s physiognomy isn’t fixed, so you don’t have to care about his words. Just live well.”

As for his extremely expensive fate?

He had 3,000 elite soldiers, and 300,000 soldiers from Youzhou were also at his fingertips. With his protection, Yu Youyao would enjoy fortune and glory for a lifetime.

Yu Youyao nodded obediently. She rested her chin on her hand and looked at her cousin. “Cousin, how do you know everything? Do you also know some physiognomy skills?”

Zhou Linghuai shook his head. “I don’t know how to read faces. I only know how to read people.”

His master, Xuanji Zi, had said that since he had the fate of a true dragon, he couldn’t be the successor of Ghost Valley. In this life, if he learned the technique to recognize people, he would be able to rule the world.

Yu Youyao smiled. “There’s nothing good about learning physiognomy. This person would be like a charlatan. Cousin, this is very good!”

Zhou Linghuai smiled.

Yu Youyao suddenly said, “Without suffering from others, you won’t understand the pain of others. In my heart, my cousin is the best cousin.”

Mr. Xian Yun had said that her cousin was an Asura and not a kind person. However, she only knew that the Marquis of Changxing deserved to die, and so did the Marquis of Weining. The grudge between her parents was irreconcilable. This was justice and retribution.

What was wrong with that?

Zhou Linghuai was slightly stunned before he smiled. “I’ve never cared about his words.” However, he was very happy to hear such words from the little girl.

Ever since his identity as the heir of King You was revealed, the little girl had treated him the same as before, but she had never taken the initiative to ask about him.

Actually, as long as she wanted to know, he wouldn’t hide anything from her.

His worst fear was that she didn’t want to know.

In the eyes of most people in the world, what he wanted to do was treason. Even a virtuous person like Mr. Xian Yun did not agree with his actions.

What about Yu Youyao?

What was she thinking?

If she did not ask, did she not agree with what he had done, like the world?

But!

Now he knew that she did not ask because she was connected to him and resonated with him. She knew that he was suffering and knew that he was in pain. She was also willing to stand by his side and bear these pains with him.

Emperor Ming, in the month of August in the fall. At Taiye pool, several thousand leaved white lotuses were in full bloom. The emperor and his relatives had a feast to admire them.

They sighed and marvelled at their beauty.

The emperor pointed to the noble consort as he said, “Do you know that you’re beautiful and smart?” ”

In this world, there were women who were like flowers. They cleared the muscles and bones, solving all kinds of worries in the world. They were beautiful, heroic, and charming.

Mr. Xian Yun stayed in the Yu Residence for the entire day. At 4pm, Zhou Linghuai threatened him, “If you don’t leave, I’ll get Chang An to throw you out.”

However, this “respectable” Mr. Xian Yun was so angry that he stroked his beard and glared at him. He gave up on the idea of using the excuse of studying the chess game to stay in the Yu Residence for a few more days.

This kid was a man of his word. He couldn’t afford to offend him.

“Little Yu, the Eight Treasures Cake you made is quite delicious. Can I have some?”

She had personally made the Eight Treasures Cake for her cousin. Yu Youyao was not very happy, but since Mr. Xian Yun had asked for it directly, she turned around and instructed Chun Xiao, “Wrap a plate for him.”

Mr. Xian Yun immediately said shamelessly, “How can one plate be enough? It’ll take at least ten plates!”

Yu Youyao shook her head. “Three plates, that’s all!”

Mr. Xian Yun refused to give up. “How about five plates?”

“Two plates!”

“Then let’s have three plates!” However, he muttered in her heart. The eldest daughter of the Yu family looked like a delicate little girl. Why was she as difficult to deal with as the brat?

Zhou Linghuai pursed his lips as he listened to them bargain.

Hence, Mr. Xian Yun shamelessly said, "The tea I drank today seems to be different from usual. Little Yu, remember to pack more for me."

A few of the new little girls in Yu Youyao's courtyard had some talent in making incense. When making medicinal tea and fragrances, they would bring them along to help.

With someone's help, it wasn't difficult to do these things. As there were many requirements, there was also a lot to do. There was no harm in making more and giving away more.

Mr. Xian Yun licked his face again. "By the way, the incense I used today has the wonderful effect of reducing heat, removing troubles, and increasing concentration. I'm old and have too much heat in my body. I have to get more."

She had seen thick-skinned people, but she had never seen anyone who was shameless or asked for something. She had never seen someone who took the initiative to ask for something from their master.

In her eyes, the so-called virtuous people were at least as lofty as Mr. Hu Shan.

But!

This guest was something else. Yu Youyao took a deep breath. "Sure!"

Mr. Xian Yun's eyes darted around and he leaned closer to Yu Youyao. "Little Yu, I see the black incense beads on your cousin's wrist. The beads are strong and fragrant. These are medicinal fragrance beads, right? I've traveled everywhere, but I've never seen such unique medicinal beads. How many are there? Why don't you give me a few too? One or two will do..."

Yu Youyou took a deep breath. Was this old man done...

But!

Before Yu Youyao could flare up, Zhou Linghuai's expression darkened. "Enough is enough!"

The famous Mr. Xian Yun immediately became obedient, but he was still a little indignant. "It's because I think that it's rare for your cousin to be so smart in the world. I think that your food and clothes are all rare goods."

Good things were easy to obtain in this world.

It was rare for her to have a heart of wisdom. She used it everywhere, and ordinary things became extraordinary.

It was no wonder that the surly and arrogant Yin Huaixi or Young Master Yin was willing to be trapped in the back residence of the Yu Residence. Even though his identities were about to be revealed, he was unwilling to leave. He continued to use the identity of "Zhou Linghuai" to live in the Yu Residence and place his "little cousin" at the top of his heart.

The words "intelligent mind" finally pleased Zhou Linghuai.

...

Zhou Linghuai glanced at him indifferently and did not say anything else.

Yu Youyao personally went to prepare a gift in return.

After drafting the gift list, she went to An Shou Hall to show it to Old Madam Yu.

Old Madam Yu nodded and said, “Mr. Xian Yun visited the Yu Residence and brought along the Four Books of Annotations that he had written. This gift has to be more dignified. We can’t neglect him.”

Mr. Xian Yun had entered the residence with sincerity. To the Yu Residence, which had a scholarly reputation and had an official, the significance of this gift was very important.

Yu Youyao already had an idea about this. “Mr. Xian Yun likes stones and I have a Bahrain steatite in my hand. It’s white and transparent. The red clouds seeping out of the stone are endlessly changing, like the rising sun gushing out and the red clouds filling the sky. It’s also rare.”

Chapter 386 Little Yu is a Rich Girl

Medicinal tea and medicinal fragrances were just a side gift.

The Bahrain steatite was the main show of etiquette. She had to ask her grandmother for her opinion before she could add it to the list.

Good jade was easy to obtain, but strange stones were difficult to find. The reason why she wanted to give him the Bahrain steatite was because of the Longevity peach blossom stone seal that her cousin had won from Mr. Xian Yun.

Her cousin had said that the peach blossom stone was Mr. Xian Yun’s favorite item and had been kept for many years.

!!

Mr. Xian Yun would definitely be very happy to see this stone!

A trace of mischief flashed across Yu Youyao’s eyes.

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she pondered and said, “The Bahrain steatite is comparable in value to a oriental jasper. However, it is brilliant and its texture is charming. It’s enough to compete with your longevity peach blossom stone. The precious stones and jade of the Great Zhou Dynasty are rare, and the Bahrain steatite is very popular with scholars. Needless to say, it’s dignified. Mr. Xian Yun likes the stone because it suits him.” After saying that, she smiled. “It’s appropriate.”

Her granddaughter had always been dignified and thorough. She was really beautiful.

After doing it, it was her duty. If she did it well, it would be called dignity. If she did it well, it would be called well executed. There were many people in this world who could do things and knew how to do them, but there were still very few who could do one thing well.

Yu Youyao prepared a gift in return.

Yu Youyao thought about it and gave him five of the cooling beads that Mr. Xian Yun had asked for.

As the combination was too complicated, it was not easy to make the cooling beads once, so she had made a lot last time.

She kept a bunch for herself, and her grandmother and cousin each gave her a bunch. Nanny Xu and Nanny Liu each gave her three pills. Later, when Yu Zongzheng found out, he asked her for five

pills. Second Uncle and Second Aunt of the second branch also gave her five pills each, and her brothers and sisters each gave her three pills to play with.

Yu Youyao had prepared the rest for the Xie family.

Other than her maternal grandfather, her maternal grandfather and grandmother each received a string. Her uncles and aunts each received five pills. Her cousins each received three pills, and there were still a few left.

Finally, at 7pm, she sent Mr. Xian Yun out of the house.

Mr. Xian Yun sat in the car and played with the Bahrain steatite in his hand. He also had a rare expression. "The stone is smooth and bright. The texture is clean and brilliant. The color is charming and gentle, like the skin of a baby. It's incomparably delicate. It's rare." After saying that, he immediately reacted. "It seems that the Longevity peach blossom stone that the brat won from me back then is in the little girl's hands." He couldn't help but scold with a smile, "Bad girl, bullying an old man. She's very evil."

This rare good stone had to be treasured well, or carved into a seal to play with.

However, in that case, wouldn't every time she saw the Bahrain steatite in the future, she would think of the peach blossom stone she had lost to that brat in the past?

Did she think that he, an old man, did not care about his face?

The rare Bahrain steatite was enough to satisfy Mr. Xian Yun's appetite, but it couldn't compare to the cooling beads that Yu Youyao had given him. He couldn't bear to part with them.

After sending Mr. Xian Yun off, Yu Youyao and Zhou Linghuai returned to the Jade Courtyard.

Yu Youyao thought of Mr. Xian Yun's shamelessness. "Mr. Xian Yun seems to be a little different from the rumors outside? Does it mean that when a person's intelligence reaches a certain level, they don't care about some vanity? Is this the legendary return to simplicity?"

According to the book, the more virtuous a person was, the more knowledgeable they would have some strange habits that were difficult to doubt.

Zhou Linghuai scoffed. "Perhaps you can understand it as saying ego is one's greatest enemy?"

Yu Youyao turned to look at her cousin without blinking.

Zhou Linghuai was inexplicably puzzled by her gaze. "What's wrong?"

Yu Youyao's face was wooden. "I didn't expect you to be my cousin."

She actually had friends with such a vicious tongue. It was simply admirable.

Zhou Linghuai couldn't help but clench his fists and cough lightly. "That old man is very bad. It seems that he has to stay in the capital for a while. With his personality, he'll have to make excuses to visit every now and then in the future."

Thinking of the pile of things she had given away today, Yu Youyao's chest immediately hurt. "Are you serious?"

Zhou Linghuai nodded. Seeing the little girl's shocked expression, he came up with an idea. "It's okay. The next time he comes and wants something from you, get him to exchange it with the Heavenly Works, the Four Books and Five Classics, and annotations from various historical books. That old man has traveled the world and is knowledgeable. His character is indeed a little bad, but he's also really talented and knowledgeable. He can broaden his horizons and learn. To you, it can't be better."

Yu Youyao's eyes lit up. "Cousin, I heard that Mr. Xian Yun is proficient in calligraphy and painting. One of his calligraphy paintings is worth a thousand gold coins. The next time you come over, ask him to draw a few more paintings and exchange them for money."

She was scheming in her heart.

In her heart, Mr. Xian Yun's image had immediately changed from a shameless boss to a rich man. It was the kind that could be stroked again.

Zhou Linghuai almost choked on his saliva. "Are you short of money?"

Yu Youyao smiled. "No, but no one will complain about having too much money."

Looking at the little girl with a smile on her lips and a mischievous and eager expression, Zhou Linghuai felt a chill run down his spine. He suddenly pitied Mr. Xian Yun. "I didn't realize before that you were still a little money-grubber."

Yu Youyao smiled and said nothing.

After her cousin's identity was revealed, Yu Youyao felt an inexplicable sense of danger.

After thinking about it, she felt that she shouldn't sit back and do nothing. However, she was a woman, and she was still half-grown. What was there to do?

After thinking about it, it seemed that the only way was to earn more money.

The rich in his hands did not panic. Money could make the world go round.

Therefore, Yu Youyao's passion for earning money erupted in an unprecedented manner. She was obsessed with money and hugged the account book all day long. She flipped through the businesses under her name and studied hard to earn money. She improved the business model of the various shops and asked Dong Mei to count the things under her name.

Yu Youyao's private vault was cleaned over and over again. Anything that she didn't need was sold in the shop.

Nanny Yue and the other stewards were often called into the residence for discussion.

Her commotion was not small, and even Old Madam Yu was alarmed.

When Yu Youyao went to An Shou Hall to learn mind games, Old Madam Yu asked, "What's wrong with you? Why are you making such a fuss?"

She was even selling the things in her own private vault. Wasn't she crazy poor?

But!

As a little rich lady, she had 108 rice shops in the country and ten merchant ships under the Xie family's name. On the two rivers, she owned a merchant street and other small and large businesses!!

How could she be poor? How could she lack money?!

Chapter 387 Vicious People

Yu Youyao thought of an excuse. "There are too many things piled up in my private vault. There are many things that I don't need, and it's not good to pile them in the storeroom. I'll take advantage of the time when I'm free to clean them up and sell them in the shop. True money is more useful."

"In addition, my mother's dowry shop has been in my hands for a period of time. Now that I've completely taken charge of the people under me, it's time to reorganize it and establish my prestige. If I don't manage this good business well, wouldn't I be putting the cart before the horse?"

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she smiled. "Look at how smart you are. You can see better than others. It's good that you think that way. Although women follow their fathers at home and their husbands when they get married, that's all superficial. Only when you have confidence can you stand tall."

"What's confidence? It's your own upbringing, knowledge, ability, and the businesses under your name. The former determines your talent and character and can gain the respect of others, while the latter determines your value, your status, and how much respect you can gain from others."

!!

"So, you have to remember that no matter what, you have to take care of your own descendants first. Only then can you convince the masses and others. Only then can everything go your way."

Even if she was going to get married, she had to manage her dowry first so that no one would dare to underestimate her.

These words rolled on the tip of Old Madam Yu's tongue and were swallowed back into her throat. After all, Yao Yao was still young, so it wasn't appropriate for her to listen to this. There were some things that couldn't be said too quickly. She could just teach her slowly in the future.

Yu Youyao nodded. "I'll remember Grandmother's words."

Old Madam Yu pulled her little body into her arms and was in extreme pain. "I was originally worried that you wouldn't be able to manage all the businesses under your mother's name. Now, it seems that Grandmother has underestimated you. I've bought some businesses for you one after another all these years and now, I will leave them to you to manage."

She had two businesses under her name.

One was the Yu Residence's public and middle-class assets. Previously, she had handed over a portion to Madam Yang to manage, while the other portion was managed by her.

After Yao Yao was in charge, she did not want her granddaughter to be too tired and manage it herself.

The other was a private property under her own name. It had been in operations for many years and was not small.

She had divided this estate into four parts. When they split up, Second Brother had received one part. Eldest Son had another part. She had the remaining two parts, and one was the main area of the estate. She had kept one part for Yao Yao.

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment and was about to refuse.

However, Old Madam Yu said, "There's not much. It's also a token of Grandmother's sincerity. I'm giving it to you early, so that I won't have to worry. In the future, once I hand it to you, it'll be easier for me."

Nanny Liu couldn't help but think!

There weren't many, but all the best businesses were under Old Madam's name. They were all rice shops, gold shops, and manors filled with good farmland. Their annual achievements were not small.

Old Madam was biased.

However, no one in the residence dared to say anything else. Old Madam could give whatever she wanted to anyone. Back then, when they split up, the second branch had already divided it clearly, so they naturally did not have the right to ask about this anymore. Eldest Master did not care about common matters and did not lack money, so he naturally would not fight with his daughter for these things.

In the past, Eldest Madam Yang had wanted to compete without Eldest Master's support, she would not have the face to compete as a second wife.

An elder's gift couldn't be rejected. Yu Youyao threw herself into her grandmother's arms and wheedled, "Thank you, Grandmother."

Old Madam Yu hugged her and was also happy. "You're right. In this world, nothing can compare to real money."

In the afternoon, Nanny Liu sent over the list of assets and accounts.

Yu Youyao's forehead twitched, and she was stunned. "What happened to not having many businesses? Does Grandmother have some misunderstanding about not having many businesses?"

Nanny Liu couldn't help but laugh. "Probably compared to the dowry under Eldest Madam Xie's name?"

In the past, Old Madam was also the legitimate daughter of a wealthy family. When she got married, she had more than a hundred types of dowry. Now, she had given almost everything under her name to Eldest Miss, and every item was the best.

Yu Youyao slapped her forehead and looked like she was about to collapse.

Looking at the large box of ledgers, she felt that her comfortable days of eating, drinking, and playing were about to be gone.

But who could she blame?

She was the one who wanted to earn money. She had done it all to herself.

Thinking that she could earn a lot of money from so many industries, she forced herself to perk up and began to count them.

Nanny Liu helped. "Old Madam said that these businesses have long been under Eldest Miss's name and have been clearly separated from the businesses in the residence. They've all been stored in the government office. Eldest Miss can manage them herself, so there's no need to worry about anything else."

In other words, she did not have to worry about being entangled with the Yu Residence's businesses.

No one in the Yu Residence or the Yu Clan could snatch these things away.

Yu Youyao was very touched. Her grandmother was worried that in the future, if she passed away, someone from the Yu family would use the excuse of plotting to annex the businesses under her name. She was worried that she wouldn't be able to protect them, and she was even more worried that she would suffer. Therefore, she had long started to plan to completely separate these businesses from the Yu Residence, saving all her worries in the future.

She began to understand why she had ended up like this in the nightmare.

She had a grandmother who was too scheming. She had paved the way for her, schemed for her marriage, and plotted for her future so that her granddaughter could live a peaceful life.

She had schemed for her granddaughter and taught her rules, management, and logic.

However, she had missed out on the sinister nature of the human heart.

Even so, such strong love still touched Yu Youyao.

With so much work, it was soon the end of the month. Yu Youyao finally sorted out the businesses under her name.

The stewards handed over the results of their operations during this period of time. Yu Youyao looked at the profits of the various manors. They had all increased to varying degrees. Of course, there were also losses, but overall, the results were not bad.

In addition, it was worth mentioning that during this period of time, Mr. Xian Yun had used the excuse of coming to the Yu Residence to eat and drink three times. He had also contributed calligraphy, a painting, and a set of notes for Heavenly Works.

This was all money!

After everything at the manor was over, Yu Youyao wondered if she should make money since she had a lot of money under her name.

However, she had a lot of industries under her name, and it was not appropriate to expand her business in a short period of time. Therefore, running a business became a tricky problem.

After careful consideration, Yu Youyao called Zhou Yonghe over to discuss.

When Zhou Yonghe heard her words, he was shocked. "You want to start an escort business and not just one?"

Zhou Yonghe felt that she was idealistic. Not only did an escort have to be skilled in martial arts, but he also had to know how to speak the language of the martial world so that he could interact with the people from the Green Forest trade route.

When carrying out the escort business, she had to interact with the good and bad sides.

Chapter 388 Recruitment

In the escort business, there had to be vagabonds with prestige in both the bad and good fields. These people could deal with the officials on both sides. After entering the city, the government could not arrest them. After entering the forest, the bandits did not dare to offend them.

Therefore, in order to establish an escort business, one had to first have powerful strength, thirdly, have a powerful relationship, and fourthly, have a powerful backer.

Otherwise, no one would dare to do it.

Currently, the Great Zhou Dynasty's escort agency was divided into three parts. The largest escort agency was called Blood Blade. It was said that the backer behind it was a great eunuch in the palace. No one dared to provoke him.

!!

Where did Yu Youyao get the confidence to say that she wanted to run an escort business?

Yu Youyao said calmly, "Hanging the emblem of the Xie Residence when you're carrying out the escort is equivalent to clearing most of the trade routes. As for your backer, is Yin Huaixi enough? I have both powerful connections and backers. The only thing we need to resolve now is the manpower problem. I already have some ideas about this."

Zhou Yonghe's heart skipped a beat. "In the martial world, relationships, righteousness, and etiquette are important. As the saying goes, even thieves have morals, and bandits also have righteousness. Some famous bandits have three tribulations. First, they don't rob others of their feelings, second, they don't rob others of their righteousness, and third, they don't rob others of their etiquette. If we can really use Young Master Yin's name to do things, most bandits won't rob us. In addition, with the Xie Residence's connections and channels in the martial world, this escort business can be opened."

He also understood that Eldest Miss Yu had not said it casually. She had really thought it through.

However, he was a little curious.

In the past month, Ye Hanyuan of the You Prefecture had beaten the drum and reported to the Marquis of Changxing that he wanted to seek justice for King You. This month, it caused an uproar. Almost every day, someone would be beheaded in public. Every day, there would be families of offenders who passed by Chang An Street and were sent into exile. Everyone in the capital was in a state of panic.

The heir, Yin Huaixi, had always lived in the palace. Not only had the emperor sent the best imperial physicians from the Imperial Physician Court to treat the heir, but he had also recruited famous doctors from all over the world to treat his illness.

Everyone knew that as long as the Divine Arms Battalion escorted the Marquis of Changxing into the capital, King You's injustice would be completely resolved.

Not to mention that King You's contributions in guarding Youzhou were also famous and respected in the martial world. There were many martial artists who cleared the way for Young Master Yin. Just based on how much the emperor valued Yin Huaixi, no one dared to rob him.

Yu Yao nodded. "I am setting up an escort business to gather wealth from the south, north, east, and west. However, I don't have many people I can use, and there are even fewer people I can trust. If I send you to manage the escort business, can you do it?"

Once the escort business became large-scale and filled the north, south, east, and west trade routes, the world would be in chaos in the future. She would control a group of escorts who were not weak in terms of martial strength and could navigate the good and bad. Her supplies and personal safety would also be guaranteed. This would become her greatest capital to establish herself in troubled times.

Therefore, the escort was just a cover-up.

She was recruiting.

She had enough money and enough assets in her hands. The escort business did not bet on others' supplies. They only used her own supplies. There was also a huge prize pool to beat the north, south, east, and west regions.

Considering Zhou Yonghe, other than the fact that there were really no useful people on hand, there was another reason. Zhou Yonghe was smart enough, and he was also good at the ways of the world. Not to mention that he was quite knowledgeable and was suitable for heavy responsibilities.

"This..." Zhou Yonghe was a little hesitant at first.

First of all, he was just a weak scholar. If he was asked to manage a group of martial arts escorts with unique skills, it would be a question whether he could convince the crowd.

However, immediately after, he thought of his father, who had died tragically to help him study.

He thought about how he had ruined his reputation and future.

He thought of how much his mother had suffered in Zhouzhuang because she had lost her pillar of support at home.

He thought of how much his younger siblings had been bullied...

He had no right to resent anyone because he wasn't strong enough.

Now, there was a chance to change his fate in front of him. Should he refuse?

He also knew that there was only one chance. If he lost this chance, he would forever lose the chance to take on a heavy responsibility in front of Yu Youyao.

Should he give up?

Zhou Yonghe, you're well-read. Are you really willing to only be a small guest in the manor forever?

As his mind raced, Zhou Yonghe made a decision.

He bowed and cupped his hands. "I won't let you down."

As expected of a smart person, Yu Youyao smiled. "You'll be in charge of the escort business first. I'm the daughter of an official, so it's not appropriate for me to interact with these people. In two days, I'll use some money to get registration using a descendant of the Xie family's side branch. In the future, when you're outside, use my identity to do things. The escort business isn't something that can be done in a day or two. Don't be anxious. We'll take it slow."

Zhou Yonghe nodded. "Alright, I'll plan the entire case first. I'll discuss it with you later."

Yu Youyao nodded. "That's good."

Now that she had made a decision about the escort business, it could be considered a huge rock in her heart. She might have to face all kinds of difficulties in the future, but money could make the world go round. What she did not lack the most was money. She had money and connections to open a path for herself. With the heir of King You behind her, perhaps in the future, with King You's support, there was nothing she could not do.

The first step to making big money was to make full use of all the capital she could use.

Her greatest asset was the Xie family.

Also, there was her cousin!

Yu Youyao's eyes darted around as she instructed Chun Xiao, "Bring over the medicinal loquat paste I made yesterday."

When Yu Youyao took the loquat paste to the Green House to look for her cousin, Zhou Linghuai was writing calligraphy in the study. His calligraphy was still something that Chang An had complained about countless times.

Seeing Yu Youyao poking her head out of the door, Zhou Linghuai paused for a moment. The aura on the tip of his brush froze for a moment before completely dissipating.

After writing more than half of the cursive script, he finally finished it in one go. However, he was exhausted and destroyed with a thought.

Zhou Linghuai threw the brush into the brush wash. He looked up and saw Yu Youyao dawdling at the door without coming in. "Why do you have time to look for me? Have you finished reading the account book?"

During this period of time, Yu Youyao had been stimulated by something and was focused on entering the account book.

Other than studying every day, she spent the rest of her time on the account book. Sometimes, she even held a thick account book when she ate.

Even in The Green House where she had only been here a few times.

Every time he saw her, she was either reading the account book or asking him questions about the accounts.

Yu Youyao carried her dress into the house. “Didn’t I say that I was going to make loquat paste for Cousin? I specially took the time to make it and sent it to you.”

Zhou Linghuai did not say anything and just looked at her steadily.

Yu Youyao felt guilty under his gaze, and her eyes flashed with panic. She quickly went to the table, poured some hot water, and opened the porcelain box containing the loquat paste. The honey-yellow loquat paste was like honey cream.

Chapter 389 Bold

Yu Youyao picked up a spoonful of loquat paste and dissolved it into the water. Holding the loquat water, she moved closer to her cousin ingratiatingly, as if presenting a treasure. “The loquat paste is a little sweet, but after mixing into the water, the taste should be light and refreshing. It’s good to nourish the lungs in spring and autumn. Drinking more loquat honey water is good for the body. Cousin, try it. Do you like it?”

The little girl looked at him eagerly, her eyes so bright that they dazzled his eyes. How could Zhou Linghuai bear to refuse? He immediately took the drink from the little girl and lowered his head to taste it. She had promised him for a long time, but she had delayed making the loquat honey water.

The loquat honey water was sweet and refreshing. It indeed tasted good.

Zhou Linghuai put down his teacup and looked at her with a faint smile. “You specially took the time to come over today. You don’t visit unless there’s something important, right?” He changed the topic. “Tell me, what’s the matter?”

When Yu Youyao heard this, she was a little unhappy. “Cousin, what are you saying? Can’t I look for you when I’m fine?”

Although she had indeed come to look for her cousin for something.

Uh, but she felt embarrassed to hear her cousin say that!

Zhou Linghuai picked up the loquat honey and drank it again. “In that case, I’ve wronged you. Did you really come to look for me for nothing else?”

Yu Youyao looked guilty. She leaned closer to her cousin and held his arm. “Uh, I can’t say that there’s nothing. I-I just have a small...” She stretched out two small fingers and gestured. As she narrowed her eyes to observe her cousin’s expression, she giggled. “It’s really a small matter but I have to trouble you.”

Seeing that her cousin was calmly drinking the water without even raising his eyebrows, she did not say anything.

Yu Youyao’s heart skipped a beat. She quickly took the teacup from her cousin’s hand. “The loquat honey water tastes good, right? I specially mixed it according to Cousin’s taste. Whether it’s sweetness or sourness, it’s strictly controlled by me. I guarantee that it is honey water adjusted to your taste.”

“It’s indeed not bad.” Zhou Linghuai nodded. Seeing the little girl’s anticipation, he couldn’t help but laugh but he didn’t show his emotions.

Yu Youyao said solicitously, “I’ll make another cup for you. It’s summer, and your throat is congested. Cousin, drink more loquat honey water to clear your throat.”

With that, she quickly went to the table again. A cup of loquat honey water was quickly brewed and handed back to her cousin.

Zhou Linghuai took the teacup and placed it on the desk. He smiled helplessly. “I’m listening!”

Seeing that her cousin had finally smiled, Yu Youyao moved closer to him and said coquettishly, “Cousin, all the civil and military officials in this dynasty have the tradition of raising guards. There’s a ‘Protection Command Department of the Wang Residence’ in the royal family’s residence. It’s in charge of the guards’ honor guard, the guards of the Wang Residence, and the king’s residence. It’s guarded by five households each.”

“In that case, there are at least 2,000 soldiers in the residence. Some of these soldiers are in charge of the safety of the residence, while others are in charge of the safety of their masters when they go out. When there’s a battle, they will go to the battlefield with their masters and follow them. They won’t prioritize killing the enemy, but will their masters’ safety.”

Even Zhou Linghuai, who had always been meticulous, was stunned when he heard this.

Why had Yu Youyao suddenly mentioned this?

Yu Youyao shook her cousin’s arm gently and blinked. She looked innocent and cute as she looked at her cousin. “Cousin, where did all the soldiers from the You Residence go?”

She did not believe that all the soldiers of the Prince of You’s Residence had died in battle.

The young lady had designs on the soldiers of the Wang Residence. Zhou Linghuai was curious about what she was up to. “Why are you asking this?”

Yu Youyao did not hide it. “I want to set up an escort business in Liangjiang, Huguang, Liangguang and Minzhe from all directions and form business relationships.”

When Zhou Linghuai heard this, he smiled and flicked her forehead. “You’re still young, but you have a big ambition. If you really manage this business, at least 40% of the Great Zhou Dynasty’s trade lifeline will be in your hands. Do you like to earn money so much?”

He had originally thought that since the little girl had too many businesses under her name, she should spend some effort to reorganize and manage them.

Unexpectedly, he had underestimated the little girl’s ambition to earn money.

Liangjiang: Jiangsu, Anhui, Jiangxi, and Huhai (Shanghai). This was the most prosperous area in Jiangnan. Commerce was very developed, and it was a place where the Imperial Court paid taxes.

Huguang: Hubei and Hunan. These two places have been important food producers since ancient times. Half of the Great Zhou Dynasty’s food was produced in Huguang.

Liangguang: Guangdong and Guangxi. These two places were vast and abundant in resources, and were rich in ores and beautiful jade.

Minzhe: Fujian and Zhejiang, needless to say, are prosperous places for maritime trade.

These four places were the hinterland of the Central Plains.

Not only was she ambitious, but she was also smart and bold.

Even back then, he did not dare to get involved in the business path of the four lands. His elite troops had become bandits.

However, things were different now.

What he couldn't do, Yu Youyao was the most suitable to do.

Yu Youyao nodded heavily. "Who would complain about having too much money? Of course, the more the better. I have the ability to earn more money, so why shouldn't I? Moreover, it's not just these four lands. When the time is right, I want to use the escort business to open up trade routes in the east, west, south, and north. The pearl coral in the east, the precious medicinal herbs and wood in the south, the ores and jade in the west, and the coal and charcoal in the north are all precious items of the Great Zhou Dynasty. However, as I'm more involved with the vassal lords guarding them, they haven't reached a large scale. There's a lot of business opportunities inside."

This was her real goal.

Since ancient times, only by mastering the business path could one earn a huge profit. Others did not dare to do it because their backers were not strong enough. However, she had her cousin. In terms of backing, no one in the Great Zhou Dynasty could compare to her.

Since she had a strong capital, of course she had to do something big.

Zhou Linghuai rubbed the top of her head. "Not only do you have a big appetite, but you're also bold. The so-called escort business is just a tool for you to transport supplies from the four lands. Your true goal is to do business with the vassal states and earn money, food, and things from them. How can you dare to think so much?"

Yu Youyao's lips curled up. "Who asked Cousin to have such a strong backing? The Imperial Court owes money to the army every year, and Youzhou lacks resources. Naturally, the other vassal states also lack resources. They also work with merchants. I have money, people, connections, and channels. There's no reason for the four vassal states not to do business with me."

If the world was in chaos, who had the most resources would be able to establish their foundation in this chaotic world.

Whoever obtained the trade path would be able to control the flow of resources. Only then would they be invincible.

Who had the most money...

Yu Youyao narrowed her eyes slightly to hide the many emotions in them. "Cousin, we have connections now, but we still need to use your name to intimidate those bandits, so..."

Chapter 390 Okay, It's Up to You

She dragged out the last word, her voice trembling. She said softly, "Cousin, can you..."

Zhou Linghuai's heart itched. Before she could finish, he said, "Okay!"

"Thank you, Cousin." Yu Youyao was overjoyed. Her eyes darted around.

"However, can you lend me your family's soldiers?" She smiled ingratiatingly and blinked. "There are at least 800 soldiers in the residence now. Cousin doesn't need so many people for the time being. It's a pity to raise them for nothing!"

Zhou Linghuai looked at the little girl, who looked delicate and coquettish. He couldn't help but pinch the tip of her nose. "You've planned it well."

Yu Youyao pouted slightly. "I didn't use Cousin's name for nothing. Also, the Xie family will get 20% of the profits from the escort business. We'll get 40% of the remaining 80%. As long as Cousin makes a name for himself, he can get 40% of the profits for nothing. How can you find such a good thing!"

It was not easy to be an escort. Using her cousin's name would block most of the risks.

The soldiers of the Prince of You's Residence had all been on the battlefield. They were definitely not bad and their strength crushed most people. No one dared to provoke them outside. Her cousin should receive so many dividends.

Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "Alright, we'll do as you say. You can use the name and the person. As for the profits, keep them for yourself!"

Yu Youyao pouted. "That won't do. Even biological brothers have to settle accounts clearly. I know that Cousin dotes on me, but I can't let him suffer a loss."

Zhou Linghuai stopped smiling. "You also said that only biological brothers can settle accounts clearly. We're not biological brothers. You don't have to be so clear with me."

Yu Youyao wrinkled her nose. "In any case, I don't care. The most important thing in doing business is sincerity and trust. Cousin, you can't lose a single cent. This is the most honest thing. It has nothing to do with whether we're biological brothers or not. Cousin, you're not allowed to reject me."

As soon as she wheedled, Zhou Linghuai couldn't do anything to her, so he could only agree. "Okay, I'll do as you say."

Yu Youyao smiled when she heard this. She tilted her head and looked at her cousin. "Cousin, I'll manage the escort business well. There's no need to be afraid of the 300,000 You army. I'll earn a lot of money and raise them for you. I'll let the soldiers under you eat their fill and wear the best armor. I'll also let them use the best swords and ride the best warhorses. I won't let the soldiers in your hands fall into a bad situation of lacking supplies again, nor will I let countless loyal souls die in vain because of a lack of supplies..."

Zhou Linghuai's gaze froze. The little girl's smile was bright and warm, and there was a burning feeling in his body and mind.

Just because she didn't mention, ask, or say anything didn't mean she didn't know anything.

As she was close to him, she knew him well. Even if she did not mention or ask, she knew everything and was willing to bear it with him.

Yu Youyao panicked under her cousin's deep gaze. "Cousin, why are you looking at me?"

There were 300,000 You soldiers. Every year, there were hundreds of thousands of them and maintaining them would require up to a million taels of silver. This was not a small number. Every year, the Ministry of Revenue would fight with the Ministry of War for it.

When the money reached the Ministry of War, there would be internal wrangling over how much to distribute out. The military salary distributed by the Ministry of War every year was far from enough to meet the military needs. Half of it still depended on the vassal lords to think of a way themselves.

There were all kinds of resources in the east. There was a trade route in the south and a mine in the west.

Only the north was the most bitterly cold. Not only were farmers and merchants in a place that was not developed, but the Di Clan was also a large tribe. They were good at riding horses and archery. They could only rely on the Imperial Court's army to receive a large number of supplies.

The other three vassal lords were passed down from generations. They had guarded the vassal lands for generations and had a strong foundation. Most of the resources in the vassal lands were in the hands of the vassal lords.

Although there was also coal in the north, most of it was in the hands of the local nobles.

His father had only been guarding Youzhou for more than ten years and had always been restrained by the local officials and nobles. It was said that a strong dragon could not suppress a local snake. These nobles seemed to be incompetent, but they had taken root in the north for generations and colluded with the local officials. The local officials also protected the court officials, forming a very stable relationship unified by similar interests.

Therefore, the situation in the north had never been good.

Three years ago, the Di people had invaded wantonly. He had sent people to raid the homes of the local nobles and gather supplies. On the surface, they had only touched the interests of the nobles and local officials, but there were actually court officials who had colluded with the north.

Among them was the Marquis of Weining's faction.

It was also because of this that the court officials reported sparsely and asked the emperor to summon his father into the capital, allowing the Marquis of Weining's family to take advantage of the situation.

How could he not know this? However, he had no choice in the situation at that time.

Once the Di people broke through the defense line in the north, the destruction of King You's Residence was inevitable.

If he mobilized the local nobles and officials, at least he could still mediate and protect King You's Residence.

However, he had never expected that the Marquis of Weining's faction would be so crazy as to ambush him on the battlefield in order to steal the military power of Youzhou.

It was also at this moment that he truly understood what it meant to be a king.

The Marquis of Weining had dared to do such a thing because he had hurt his ego.

If he wanted him to die, he would have no choice!

Due to the schemes, the emperor did not even think about the consequences if King You died.

Zhou Linghuai's lips curled up slightly. "It's very difficult to raise an army of 300,000."

Yu Youyao had thought about this long ago. "With the current profits of the businesses under my name, I can basically maintain the basic needs of the 300,000 You Army. I still have more than three million taels of silver and more than a thousand taels of gold in the bank. It won't be a problem to withdraw 200,000 taels of silver every year. In addition, I still have many antiques, jade artifacts, calligraphy, and paintings in my private vault. They're all expensive. If I exchange them for money, I can gather at least a million taels of silver. Even if I can't afford it for the time being, it can resolve urgent needs. In the future, when the escort business is done and the trade route is opened, I'll have an endless supply of supplies, money, silver, and rations."

She looked at her cousin with a faint smug expression.

Not to mention the capital, even in the entire Great Zhou Dynasty, no young miss was as rich as her.

Zhou Linghuai smiled. "Silly girl."

He was not surprised that Yu Youyao was a little rich woman.

Not to mention that Madam Xie had married into the Xie family and gained almost 30% of their assets back then, in addition to countless gold, silver, and artifacts. After Yu Youyao was born, the Xie family was still rich and generous, sending ten merchant ships to her. The maritime trade route was the foundation of the Xie family, so there was naturally no need to mention the efforts of ten merchant ships. Not to mention that Old Madam Yu doted on Yu Youyao, and good things were endlessly sent to her.

Previously, Yu Youyao had also told him about the businesses that Old Madam Yu had given her. These businesses were also very profitable.

However, she was not on guard at all. She had completely forgotten the principle of not revealing wealth to others.