

All Hail 421

Chapter 421: A Good Daughter at Home

Yu Shuangbai and the others understood and went to school obediently the next day.

Ms. Ye said meaningfully, "It's actually not worth being proud of your talent. What's terrifying is that not only are some people talented, but they're also more hardworking than you."

These casual words made Yu Shuangbai and the others blush.

If Ms. Ye had just said that casually, they wouldn't have taken it to heart.

However, there was someone else in the Yu Residence who said this. Not only was she talented, but she was also more hardworking than them.

Their big sister, Yu Youyao!

As sisters, although they were not comparing themselves with her, they still felt ashamed.

When Old Madam Yu found out about this, she couldn't help but look gratified. "Yao Yao is becoming more and more capable of being filial to her elders and teaching her younger siblings."

A good daughter leads to a prosperous family.

The Old Madam of the Yu Residence did not count on the older generation of the Yu Residence anymore. She only counted on the younger generation.

When Madam Yao found out, she had a complicated expression.

She felt that her upbringing towards Shuangbai was not bad. Shuangbai was better than ordinary people at learning the rules, the principles, and the ways of the world.

However, Yu Youyao was not an ordinary person.

Madam Yao sighed slightly. "In the past, I didn't think much of the sisters from the first branch. Yu Youyao is a little smart, but she wasn't raised by her mother and was pampered by Old Madam. She's lazy and insensible, and she's not as sensible as Shuangbai. Yu Jianjia is sensible and obedient. She's considered the smartest person in the family, but her body is very weak and she's not as smart as Shuangbai. Yu Qingning is the daughter of a concubine, but she's spoiled. It's obvious that she's not obedient..."

At the thought of everything that had happened in the first branch recently, her heart turned cold for no reason.

Yu Qingning was locked up in the courtyard and couldn't come out easily.

Madam Yang moved into the Tranquil Heart Residence and became an abandoned woman.

Yu Jianjia went to the manor to recuperate.

Yu Shansi had moved to the front courtyard and was personally raised by his uncle. It was said that he had suffered a lot recently.

Anyone with discerning eyes could tell at a glance that all of this was related to Yu Youyao. However, Yu Youyao had done her best, and no one in the residence had said anything bad about her.

Her uncle, who had always hated her, trusted Yu Youyao in every way, and the servants were also controlled by her.

Even though Eldest Uncle had participated in the three divisions' trial, his family had arranged it well.

She was so scheming at such a young age. No ordinary person could compare to her.

Three days later, Yu Youyao received the second letter from Yin San and four large boxes.

Yu Youyao couldn't wait to open the letter. "The fragrance of roses is the strongest. It's clear but not turbid, and it's not overpowering. It will ease the liver, awaken the stomach, regulate the qi, and nourish the blood. It's suitable for brewing wine, making tea, mixing incense, adding into medicine, and cooking. The overall situation has been decided. Don't worry!"

These words made Yu Youyao overjoyed.

Opening the box that Yin San had brought, the strong fragrance of roses assailed her nose. Yu Youyao's eyes were immediately attracted by the box full of red and charming flat Yin roses.

Yin San said, "The roses produced in Pingyin County in Shandong are tributes from the royal family in every dynasty. At this time, the roses were blooming.

Young Master chose the most beautiful roses and ordered me to use the Mystic Ice box to preserve them and the Ferghana Horse to travel 600 kilometers to ensure that the roses would be sent into the capital as fresh as possible."

He wrapped the ice in a blanket and then wrapped it around the box containing the roses. Fortunately, Shandong was only 600 kilometers away from the capital, so the best ferghana horse could arrive in a day.

"It's really beautiful!" Yu Youyao was pleasantly surprised. She picked one and held it in her hand.

The rose was as big as a peony, beautiful and fragrant. The spikes on the stem and leaves had already been removed. The green leaves on the flowers were vibrant. They were dazzlingly beautiful.

Yu Youyao leaned closer and took a whiff. The strong fragrance was refreshing. "In ancient times, there was a concubine who smiled as she brought over a box of red. No one knew that it contained lychees. Today, Cousin smiled and asked someone to ride over. No one knew that there were roses."

She had applied lipstick made of Chinese roses today. The bright red color was not inferior to roses. The beautiful rose color made her lips look beautiful and thick.

If her cousin was in Guangdong now, he would probably send them to the capital at full speed.

Yu Youyao asked, "How's the situation in Shandong?"

It had been almost a month since the anti-rebel army had settled in Shandong, but there had been no movement.

Yin San thought of what Young Master had “specially” instructed him and said, “It’s all thanks to Young Miss’s incense that Young Master has saved a lot of trouble. The clans have already caused a commotion.”

Yu Youyao wrote a reply to her cousin and rambled on for more than ten pages, all of which were trivial matters. Then, she prepared a lot of food, incense pills, and so on and handed them to Yin San.

Four boxes of roses seemed like a lot, but they weren't that many. She planned to use the roses to brew a small jar of rose wine and make a small jar of rose sauce. When her cousin returned and the rose wine was ready, she would use the rose sauce to make various snacks. She would drink the rose wine and share the snacks with her cousin.

The color of the flat Yin rose was a little darker and more beautiful than the Chinese roses. The lipstick made would also be more beautiful and pure.

Although roses were not rare, roses of good breeds were very precious. There were not many to begin with, so it was not good to give one away. To prevent comparisons, it was better to not give away any roses.

It turned out that on the seventh of August, Song Wanhui had invited Yu Youyao to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence for a small gathering on her eleventh birthday.

She suddenly received the invitation and was at a loss.

Old Madam Yu still thought that she was worried about the family, so she said, "It's also because the capital hasn't been peaceful recently. The families are living close to each other. Otherwise, we should go to the families we are familiar with. It's rare for the Third Miss of the Song family to celebrate her birthday, so let's have fun. It's very boring to stay at home all day.."

Chapter 422: Birthday

If she went out for a walk more, she would feel more relaxed. She wouldn't be like a young woman who hid in her room to copy Buddhist scriptures.

She did not want her granddaughter to be so deeply involved in Buddhism at such a young age.

No matter how complicated Yu Youyao's heart was, what had to come would eventually come. She had to face it.

Since she couldn't escape or hide, she should be more calm.

A nightmare was ultimately just a nightmare.

In reality, as long as she did not accept her grandmother's order and marry into the Zhenguo Marquis Residence like in her nightmare, she would not have ended up like in her nightmare.

As for her grandmother's plan, didn't she still have her cousin?!

At the thought of her cousin, Yu Youyao felt much more at ease.

On the seventh of August, Yu Youyao brought the prepared gifts and went to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence with Nanny Xu, Chun Xiao, and Xia Tao.

The carriage drove all the way into the Flower Gate.

Xia Tao helped Nanny Xu out of the carriage first. Immediately, a nanny came forward and took the birthday gift from Nanny Xu, politely greeting her. Yu Youyao followed closely behind and alighted from the carriage.

Song Wanhui's eyes lit up. "You're finally here." As she spoke, she sized up Yu Youyao. "It's been a long time since we last met. Why do I feel that you've changed a lot?"

Yu Youyao asked, "How have I changed?"

Song Wanhui laughed. "You've become a big girl. You're getting more and more beautiful. At first glance, I thought you were a fairy daughter who had fallen from the sky."

Yu Youyao was wearing a dress that had an open chest today.

The light apricot-colored gauze top was thin and impenetrable, like a cloud. It was paired with a pearl brocade dress that reached her chest. The pearl brocade was as thin as water and as light and bright as pearls. It was close to her body and did not touch her flesh. It was even cooling to wear.

Her outfit was exquisite and generous. Although it was not grand, it was just

It made the young lady look like a fairy.

The last time she had seen Yu Youyao, it had been at the Flower Festival of the

Marquis of Changxings Residence. The Empress Dowager had rewarded Yu Youyao. At that time, she still looked like a child.

This time, when she looked at her again, there was already a hint of calmness in her eyes, and she had the delicate look of a young lady.

Yu Youyao smiled. "It's not any better than your high spirits today. You're radiant."

On today's birthday celebration, although Song Wanhui was not dressed grandly, she was still dressed carefully. She was wearing a small crown with beads on her head and a green veil dress. Even the tips of her exposed shoes were inlaid with an exquisite eastern bead.

As the two of them spoke, another carriage entered the Flower Gate.

Qi Sinian did not let the maidservant help him. He quickly jumped out of the carriage. "I've been waiting for this day. I'm really happy to see you today." Ever since the new year, the events in the capital had never stopped.

First, it was the academy examination, then the palace examination. Then, King Ping entered the capital. A few days later, Ye Hanyuan knocked on the drum, followed by the rebellion in Shandong, and then the trial of King You...

They did not know when it would end.

The three of them felt sad.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but ask, "Who else isn't here?"

Song Wanhui smiled and said, "It's Fifth Miss Tang."

Qi Sinian was shocked. "Fifth Miss Tang is back from the nunnery?"

Yu Youyao looked up. "Speak of the devil."

As soon as she finished speaking, she saw a petite girl alight from the carriage with her dress.

The little girl was not tall, but her figure was slender, and she looked delicate and pleasant.

Song Wanhui and Qi Sinian were stunned. "This, this, she's Fifth Miss Tang?"

They turned to look at the emblem on the carriage. It was a Tang Residence carriage.

Yu Youyao was also shocked. Although she knew the real reason why Tang

Yunxi had gone to the nunnery, she did not expect that in just a few months, Tang Yunxi would have changed completely. She was like a completely different person.

Yu Youyao blinked and called out tentatively, "Fifth Sister Tang?"

"If it isn't me, then who else can it be?" When Tang Yunxi saw their reactions, she couldn't help but burst out laughing. "I originally planned to return to the residence after a while, but the capital hasn't been peaceful recently. My mother asked me to return to the residence early and it happened to be on Third Sister Songs birthday, so I didn't make a fuss. I planned to give you a surprise."

After returning to the residence, her family looked at her as if they had seen a ghost.

She took a box and copied Buddhist scriptures for her grandmother. Her grandmother happily held her hand and called her “good granddaughter.” Her attitude towards her seemed to have changed.

At that time, the expressions of Concubine Zhao and her daughter were really interesting.

Song Wanhui finally confirmed that this wasn’t an illusion. She pulled Tang Yunxi’s hand. “This isn’t a surprise. It’s more like a shock. I haven’t seen you in a few months, and you’ve become a different person. I don’t even recognize you.”

She had lost weight, and even her vitality was different. There was nothing like when she had seen her at Yu Youyao’s birthday banquet. It wasn’t just her figure, but her appearance and aura.

It was really a rebirth from the inside out.

Qi Sinian also sighed. “Nanny Xu is really amazing. I remember that Yao Yao also grew fat back then. It’s only been a while since I last saw her, but she suddenly seemed to have become a different person.”

When Tang Yunxi entered the nunnery, they usually exchanged letters and mentioned that she had gone to the nunnery to pray for her grandmother. The real reason was that Nanny Xu had recommended a powerful nanny who could help Tang Yunxi nourish her body and physique, causing her to lose weight. Yu Youyao was happy for Tang Yunxi from the bottom of her heart. “Fifth Sister has a good foundation, which is why she looks so good after losing weight.”

After losing weight, the exquisiteness of Tang Yunxi’s facial features was revealed. She had a small round face, almond eyes, and small lips. She was cute and exquisite, like a jade porcelain doll that her grandmother had given her. Tang Yunxi held Yu Youyao’s hand gratefully. “I don’t know how to thank you.”

Yu Youyao smiled. “Don’t say thank you anymore. You’ve said too much, and your words are too cheap.”

The few of them laughed.

Since everyone was present, Song Wanhui brought them to Old Madam Songs Glorious Fortune Residence to greet her.

Although the few of them were a little older, they were at the age when their appearances were starting to develop. They already looked quite beautiful. Old Madam Songs eyes lit up when she saw this.

Especially...

After not seeing her for half a year, Yu Youyao’s figure had grown again, and her appearance had also grown a little. She was really charming and elegant. Yu Youyao was extremely good-looking, not inferior to her biological mother.

What was rare was that she was beautiful, bright, and clean.

It was said that appearances came from the heart. Only a woman who had cultivated talent in the family could exude beauty from the inside out.

People would judge first from appearance, then from actions and finally from her character.

This was how people took a deeper look at one’s personality..

Chapter 423: Beautiful Women

Old Madam Song's smile deepened. "You've all grown up. All of you are like flowers. Just looking at you makes me happy."

When one was old, they liked to be surrounded by beautiful women laughing and chatting.

Although there were also many young misses in the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, it was usually lively when they gathered.

But!

It was annoying to have too many people gathered together.

For example, Wan Hui was gentle and generous, Yu Youyao was beautiful and elegant, Qi Sinian was handsome and straightforward, and Tang Yunxi was delicate and pleasant. It was only because her family had raised her well that she was cherished and liked.

Qi Sinian's eyes darted around. "My mother often says that Grandmother Song is the kindest person. Third Miss Song has been taught a lot by her. Look at Third Miss Song's good personality. There aren't many people in the capital who can compare to her."

These words were very appropriate. First, she praised Old Madam Song, then she praised Song Wanhui.

Old Madam Song laughed. "I didn't know that your mother, a woman with an iron mouth, would give birth to someone like you. I think your grandmother dotes on you a lot at home."

Even Yu Youyao couldn't help but laugh.

Qi Sinian's mother, Eldest Madam Qi, was known as the "Iron Mouth Lady" in the capital. She was also a very famous and talented person among the married women.

Previously, at the Flower Festival in the Marquis of Chanzxinz's Residence, Eldest Madam Qi had often spoken up for her, causing the Marquis of Changxing's wife to lose all face.

Song Wanhui rolled her eyes at Qi Sinian. "How is she just sweet talking? She's clearly coveting our family's lychees and trying to ask Grandmother for food."

The green lychees matured in July and August and were produced in Zengcheng, Guangdong. Every dynasty used them as a royal tribute. The flesh of the fruit was thick, sweet, and juicy. It was fragrant and almost nonexistent on the market.

This time, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence had received a small basket of green lychees as a tribute from Guangdong. She had said this previously.

Qi Sinian was so embarrassed that he closed his mouth.

The room roared with laughter.

Tang Yunxi pursed her lips and chuckled. "It's so rare to have green lychees. I also want to ask Grandmother Song for a bite."

Since Third Sister Song had mentioned the green lychees, it was obvious that the green lychees had been prepared long ago for them to eat. There was no need to stand on ceremony.

They were all familiar families and young ladies. Even if they were a little greedy, no one would look down on them. Besides, it wouldn't be rude for a junior to ask an elder for food.

Old Madam Song laughed uncontrollably. "It's your good fortune to have this. The green lychees that were rewarded this morning were divided among the various rooms in the residence. I still have a lot left. I originally planned to send it to Wanhui's house later so that you could have a taste of it. I didn't expect all of you to be so greedy and couldn't wait..."

As she spoke, she instructed Yao Huang to get the lychees.

Yu Youyao smiled and said, "It's all thanks to Grandmother Song and Third Sister!"

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she smiled. "You came to my house today.

Otherwise, you would have already eaten them."

This year, the production of green lychees was higher, and Guangdong had paid a lot of tributes. It was said that the emperor had sent most of it to the heir of the Yin family in Shandong. Most of the rest were obtained by the Xia Residence, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, and the Yu Residence.

Yu Youyao's eyes lit up. "That's great. After eating the lychees from the

Zhenguo Marquis Residence, we can still eat them at home. No wonder Grandmother Song said that we're lucky."

There was another round of laughter in the room.

Not long after, Yao Huang brought over two plates of hanging green lychees. There was ice under the silver cup. There were lychees, red with green, of the same size. There were about twenty of them in each plate.

One was green, and the other was gold. It was obvious that they were costly.

Song Wanhui was the first to take one. She peeled off the thin shell, revealing fair and sparkling tender flesh. She placed it on a small plate and handed it to Old Madam Song.

Old Madam Song took it and finished one. She waved her hand. "Lychees are heaty. I'm old, so I can't eat this. You can eat it yourself."

As soon as she spoke, Yu Youyao and the others did not stand on ceremony and peeled lychees to eat.

The green meat was tender, sweet, and fragrant.

As the few of them ate, they couldn't help but praise the green lychees repeatedly. As the Zhenguo Marquis Residence shared the green lychees, it also displayed their hospitality.

Seeing that they were eating happily, Old Madam Song also smiled.

Although it was rare to have a plate of green lychees, the few of them were all well-mannered people and were used to eating good food. After finishing the plate of green lychees, they seemed to have a tacit understanding and stopped eating.

Old Madam Song asked them to eat more.

Yu Youyao smiled. "I'm saving my stomach for when I get home."

Qi Sinian and Tang Yunxi joined in.

Old Madam Song smiled until her eyes narrowed. Although lychees were rare, there were too many to finish. If she ate too much in the Zhenguo Marquis

Residence, wouldn't she dare not eat them again when she returned home?

These simple words showed her etiquette and wisdom, so she couldn't persuade her anymore.

If the lychees were fresh, they wouldn't taste good if they were left outside for too long. Old Madam Song ordered someone to remove the green lychees, and a maidservant came over to clean up.

At this moment, the Marquis of Zhen's wife and a few other madams of the residence had arrived at the Glorious Fortune Residence. Today was Song Wanhui's birthday. Although there was no big event in the residence, as an aunt, she naturally had to come over to take a look.

Yu Youyao and the others quickly stood up and greeted their elders.

When the Marquis's wife saw Yu Youyao, her eyes lit up. She held her hand and said kindly, "Girl, when did you grow up? Your mother is already a top-notch beauty. As her daughter, you've even inherited your mother's traits and look stunning."

Yu Youyao resisted the urge to retract her hand and looked shy.

The Marquis of Zhen's wife smiled. "During this period of time, our family has been using the medicinal tea you made a lot. Not only has your Grandmother Song's health improved a lot, but even some of my small illnesses have been relieved. Good child, it's been hard on you."

At first, Old Madam felt that the effect was not bad after eating the medicinal pear paste that Yu Youyao had given her.

Later on, Old Madam Yu gave her medicinal tea and fragrance away. Old Madam and Mingzhao liked it very much, so they tried it and felt that they were good too.

Due to the relationship between the two families, they had asked the Yu Residence for more.

Yu Youyao was a generous person. As the four branches of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence were living together, there were also many people, so she gave them more every time.

Yu Youyao smiled obediently. "Auntie, you're too polite. It's my honor that you're using it well."

The medicinal tea that she had given to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence had a medicinal fragrance and did not have any spiritual dew. However, Nanny Xu's prescription was a good recipe that had been refined by generations of dynasties and had been constantly improved. The effect was indeed better than ordinary tea. If they drank it often, it could also achieve the effect of nourishing their bodies.

It had been almost half a year since the Zhenguo Marquis Residence had eaten the food she had made. Naturally, she could see the effect.

The Marquis of Zhen's wife was concerned about the occasion, so she did not hold Yu Youyao back. "It's also this year that the capital isn't peaceful. All the families are living their lives discreetly. Otherwise, they would have sent an invitation early in the morning to invite you to my house to play. It's rare that it's Wan Hui's birthday today. The few of you have to have fun.."

Chapter 424: Aunt Yu Mengxiang

Yu Youyao replied gently, “Yes!”

The Marquis of Zhen’s wife was even more satisfied. Although Eldest Miss Yu had become shrewd, when facing her elders, she lowered her eyes, was obedient, and did not say much. She was well-mannered and had a good personality.

When wealthy families praised people, those who had shallow relationships with them would have to praise them too. Those who were closer would have to praise their personalities. Those who were even closer would have to ask about the elders in the family. If they were any closer, they would have to be as close as the Marquis’s wife.

Third Madam Song and Fourth Madam Song praised Yu Youyao for her good looks.

After praising her, they had to mention. “No wonder even the Empress Dowager praised you for being clean and honest. Yao Yao is kind-hearted. She’s really a good girl.”

After seeing her elders, Yu Mengxiang, the third wife of the Marquis of Zhen’s third wife, pulled Yu Youyao along with a smile. “The capital hasn’t been peaceful recently, so I won’t have the chance to return to my maiden home. I haven’t seen you for more than half a year, but Yao Yao has actually become a big girl. She’s already so beautiful before she even grew up. In two years, I’m afraid even Eldest Sister-in-law won’t be able to compare to her.”

A married daughter rarely had the chance to return to her maiden home unless it was a festival.

It was better for her in-laws to be open-minded. They could make a few more trips every year.

However, the fourth branch of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence lived together and did not split up. Furthermore, the third branch was the daughter of a concubine, so she naturally had to be more cautious. Unless it was necessary, she rarely returned to her maiden home.

But!

A married daughter had to rely on her maiden family to stand tall in her husband’s family.

As the daughter of a concubine, even if she married into the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, she had to win over her maiden family and not distance herself from them.

She was also the only daughter in the Yu Residence, and her mother was Old Madam Yu’s capable maidservant, so Old Madam Yu had always treated her well in the past.

Although she did not return to the Yu Residence often, she would still embroider some small things and send someone to the Yu Residence to be filial to Old Madam Yu.

Old Madam Yu had a clear personality and never took advantage of others for nothing. After receiving something from her, she would also order someone to send her some small things.

After all this, Yu Mengxiang also had a close relationship with her maiden family. She was only the daughter of a concubine and had some dignity in the Zhenguo Marquis Residence. She also had some face in front of Old Madam Song.

Yu Youyao could tell at a glance that this “aunt” of hers was not a simple person. She smiled and said, “The capital isn’t peaceful. Every family lives discreetly. I don’t have the chance to return to

my maiden home, but I care about the residence and have sent many things over.” As she spoke, she took out a silk handkerchief from her waist and gently pressed the corner of her mouth. She chuckled. “The family also cares about me.”

When Yu Mengxiang mentioned her mother, she called her “Sister-in-law”. Her tone was intimate and her attitude was very natural, indicating two questions.

Firstly, Yu Mengxiang had a good relationship with her mother in the past.

Yu Youyao did not doubt this.

Yu Mengxiang was good at socializing. As the daughter of a concubine, she naturally had to treat her eldest sister-in-law respectfully.

Secondly, Yu Mengxiang wanted to express her goodwill.

She was in charge of the Yu Residence now, and her grandmother doted on her. Her attitude also represented the Yu Residence.

Only by expressing goodwill to her could Yu Mengxiang obtain more support from her maiden family.

Yu Youyao was just trying to show her respect for her mother by saying the words “Eldest Sister-in-law”.

Yu Mengxiang looked at the handkerchief in Yu Youyao’s hand and her smile deepened. “This handkerchief is from a few days ago. After I embroidered it myself, I got someone to send it to you. I didn’t expect you to wear it today.”

They were both smart people. As soon as the handkerchief appeared, she knew that her goal had been achieved.

Yu Youyao also smiled. “I can’t let you down.”

The marriage between the great aristocratic families was for the good of the two families.

Therefore, be it character or talent, the children of the two families connected through marriage were the most important. Otherwise, if the children did not get along and their lives were not good, the two families would definitely have a feud.

It wouldn’t be the strengthening of relations, but a grudge.

This was a huge taboo for marriage between aristocratic families.

As the daughter of a concubine, Yu Mengxiang was not careless at all.

After marrying into the Zhenguo Marquis Residence for more than ten years, it was considered appropriate for her to be in the Zhenguo Marquis Residence. She did not embarrass the Yu Residence and even knew how to maintain her relationship with her maiden family, so her grandmother was willing to promote her.

Since Yu Mengxiang was valued by her maiden family, no one in the Zhenguo Marquis Residence dared to bully her openly.

Old Madam Song would also treat her differently.

The aunt and niece chatted and laughed. Anyone with discerning eyes could tell that they were on good terms. The eyes of the other two madams of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence flickered.

The room was bustling with activity.

At this moment, Song Mingzhao strode into the house. He was dressed in a crane-patterned white robe that emitted a faint glow. As he strolled around, he looked like a thunderstorm.

Song Mingzhao had arrived. With his bright light, the entire Glorious Fortune Residence became spacious and bright.

The room immediately fell silent.

Old Madam Song said happily, "Mingzhao is back."

Song Mingzhao stepped forward to greet Old Madam Song, the Marquis of Zhen's wife, and the elders of the other three branches.

After being polite, he said to Old Madam Song, "In my spare time, I copied the Lotus Sutra for Grandmother. It's Third Sister's birthday, so I am personally handing them to you."

His calm words not only expressed her filial piety to his elders, but he also did not forget his biological sister's birthday.

Yao Huang immediately took the wooden box from Song Mingzhao and handed it to Old Madam Song.

Old Madam Song smiled so widely that her wrinkles appeared. "It's already very tiring for you to study normally, but you still have to take time out to copy Buddhist scriptures for me. Don't tire yourself out."

As she spoke, she quickly took the wooden box. Without caring about the occasion, she opened the box and saw a stack of scriptures inside.

Liu Shu's small handwriting was revealing, but it was sharp and reserved, making it look neat and strict. Anyone who saw it would be happy.

Yu Youyao lowered her eyes and picked up her tea to drink.

If he wanted to show filial piety to his elders in the family, there was no better scripture than the Sutra of Longevity. Song Mingzhao had lived in the temple since he was young. With his talent and wisdom, it was impossible for him not to know this.

No matter if Song Mingzhao had deliberately copied the Lotus Sutra or if it was a coincidence, her heart did not waver at all.

Song Mingzhao glanced at Yu Youyao imperceptibly before saying, "Although Grandmother doesn't pay respects to Buddha, the Lotus Sutra is a scripture of virtue. With the scripture by your side, I will pray for Grandmother's safety." Old Madam Song said happily, "Good, good, good. You're too kind."

The Marquis of Zhen's wife immediately added, "Mingzhao often studies in the temple. He can't be like his siblings at home, who often come to Old Madam to show their filial piety and copy a few Buddhist scriptures for her. Isn't it only right for him to show his filial piety as a descendant?"

The madams also knew that Old Madam valued Song Mingzhao the most, so they also put in a lot of good words for him.

Old Madam Song smiled until her eyes narrowed.

There was a room full of women, so Song Mingzhao couldn't stay any longer.

Before he left, from the corner of her eye, he saw Eldest Miss Yu wearing a light gauze top and pearl brocade. She looked bright and beautiful..

Chapter 425: A Gentleman Has to Think

After seeing her elders, Old Madam Song waved her hand and said to Song Wanhui, "It's your birthday today. Since the guests have come in, it's your turn to entertain them. Go and play!"

Song Wanhui quickly agreed and immediately brought Yu Youyao and the others out of the Glorious Fortune Residence.

Yu Youyao finally heaved a sigh of relief.

The four branches of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence lived together. There were many people, and they were polite. Naturally, there were more rules. After this ordeal, it had actually been almost two hours.

It was not as comfortable as the Yu Residence.

The Zhenguo Marquis Residence was a five-way courtyard. It occupied a large area and was comparable to a prince's residence. It was obvious that the ancestor of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence was glorious.

The residence was a headache to navigate, and it was also beautifully decorated. Scenes really changed with every step. It was unique. Compared to the quietness of the Yu Residence, it was a little more lively.

When they reached the side of the lake, Song Wanhui pointed at a strange stone in front of her. "That Mount Tai stone is in the shape of a book. It was transported back from the Wuda Mountain by our ancestor. It is engraved with the family rules of the Song family. Every descendant of the Zhenguo Marquis

Residence has to face the wall and read the family rules every morning after they turn seven."

The ancestor of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence could only be the loyal and brave Marquis of Zhenguo who had contributed to helping the great ancestors conquer the world.

Yu Youyao looked up.

The Mount Tai stone that was as tall as a person was indeed huge. Its shape was like an open book. It was gray and hard. Even after hundreds of years of wind, rain, and snow, it still stood still.

Mount Tai stone was stable, heavy, and thick. It could ward off evil and protect the residence. It was also as stable as Wuda Mountain. It was a famous for being a fengshui stone.

Qi Sinian leaned closer to take a look and exclaimed, "There's even a landscape on the mountain rock. The patterns naturally seep through. It's simple, magnificent, bold, and strange. It's actually beautiful."

The value of the Mount Tai stone lay in its limited quality. This Mount Tai stone was majestic and very rare.

Tang Yunxi was also full of praise. "No wonder there's an ancient poem that says that Dai Yue's beauty is famous in the five continents. The thousand-year-old god said that he's connected to the Great Wilderness. There are countless strange stones in China, and only the stone of Mount Tai can last after so long. I've learned something today."

Yu Youyao was not interested in Mount Tai. Instead, she praised the words on it repeatedly. "The stone foundation of Mount Tai is very hard and is not easy to carve on. I've read the family motto above. It's created by iron and silver hooks that penetrate the stone. Hard and soft together has a powerful aura. It's even better than bronze. It must be personally carved by your ancestor!"

Song Wanhui nodded. "My ancestor is a Confucian general, so he's proficient in calligraphy."

It was also because of this that the Zhenguo Marquis Residence valued the younger generation's studies and focused on literature and martial arts. Most of their descendants joined the army, and many of them became officials.

For example, if his eldest brother did not show extraordinary talent in studying since he was young, he would be sent to the military camp at the age of twelve.

After walking for a while, they arrived at an arched bridge. Song Wanhui pointed at the courtyard in front of her. "That's the Jiuzhao Pavilion where my eldest brother lives. My grandfather gave it the name. Confucius said, 'A gentleman has nine thoughts. He sees wisdom, listens to wisdom, looks gentle, looks respectful, speaks with sincerity, thinks respectfully, questions things, thinks deeply and pursues righteousness!'"

A smile appeared on Yu Youyao's lips, but it did not reach her eyes.

Song Mingzhao's talent had long been famous in the world. Just now, in the "Glory and Fortune Residence", he looked like a beautiful Kunlun jade, blooming with splendor and elegance.

Qi Sinian and Tang Yunxi said something about Song Mingzhao.

"Quick, look at that small bag." Song Wanhui turned to look at Yu Youyao and smiled. "There were many flowers and trees planted there in the past. It was also during the Dragon Boat Festival that Yao Yao sent over bamboo juice. Eldest Brother and I made tea together. Eldest Brother felt that the bamboo juice tea tasted delicious, so he ordered someone to move all the flowers and trees on it and planted light bamboo. During the Dragon Boat Festival next year, if it rains, we can also get bamboo juice to make tea."

Yu Youyao took a casual look. The bamboo had probably been transplanted from elsewhere. They were thick and strong, but they were not fully grown yet. It would take a few years for them to naturally be beautiful.

The few of them walked and stopped. Suddenly, Yu Youyao saw an inconspicuous small courtyard not far away.

There was an osmanthus tree planted at the door. Just as the osmanthus fragrance was wafting in the air, there were strings of small golden flowers between the green leaves. It looked like a shy young girl with her face half-exposed but had an indescribable delicate charm.

Yu Youyao's breathing stopped, as if her blood had been sucked dry. The blood on her face instantly faded, and she couldn't help but feel a chill run down her spine. Her delicate figure couldn't help but tremble slightly.

Coincidence. This had to be a coincidence!

Yu Youyao shook her head hard until she felt a little dizzy. Then, her eyes widened and she continued to look at the small courtyard. The similar scene made her dizzy and she broke out in a cold sweat.

Song Wanhui, who was standing at the side, noticed her abnormality and was immediately shocked. She quickly supported her swaying body. "Yao Yao, what's wrong? You look so pale. Are you feeling unwell?"

Yu Youyao took a deep breath and calmed down a little.

She stabilized herself and shook her head. "I just suddenly felt a tightness in my chest and couldn't recover for a moment. It's probably because my blood flow isn't smooth, so it's fine.

With that, she raised her wrist and sniffed the cooling beads on it. The slightly bitter fragrance of the beads refreshed her mind and her expression improved a lot.

Qi Sinian was still a little worried. "If you're not feeling well, just say it. Don't hold it in."

Tang Yunxi was also a little worried. "The weather is stuffy in August. It's probably because of the heat. The sun is hot outside now. Hurry back to the house and sit down."

Yu Youyao shook her head. "I'm fine. Don't worry." She pointed at the osmanthus tree not far away and changed the topic. She asked Song Wanhui, "What is that? The osmanthus flowers at the door are blooming really beautifully. I can smell their fragrance from afar."

Seeing that her expression had returned to normal and she did not seem to feel any discomfort, Song Wanhui was finally relieved. She said, "That's the Frost Residence. Before the Jiuzhao Pavilion was built, my eldest brother lived there. The osmanthus tree at the door was personally planted by my eldest brother when he was young. My eldest brother likes osmanthus cake. Every year, when the osmanthus flowers bloom, the family will pick the flowers to make osmanthus cake."

Frost Residence...

Upon hearing this name, Yu Youyao felt as if she had been struck by lightning. In her nightmare, three months after her marriage, the older Yao Yao had been sent to the Frost Residence by Song Mingzhao because she was "worried about her grandmother's illness."

She was locked up in a simple and dilapidated courtyard. Day after day, she was fed all kinds of medicinal herbs and poisons by a medicine man. She was stabbed in the heart to extract blood and suffered all kinds of torture. Every year, when the fragrance of the cinnabar tree wafted into the room, the refreshing fragrance would already drift into the room to comfort her broken body.

So, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence really had a Frost Residence?

Yu Youyao felt that it was absurd and panicked.

When she first saw this small courtyard and the osmanthus tree, she thought that she had seen it wrongly.

She only had a nightmare!

To her, no matter how real it was, it did not really happen..

Chapter 426: Nightmare or Reality

It was normal for the huge residence of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence to have two quiet and simple courtyards. Didn't the Yu Residence also have a Tranquil Heart Residence?

Even if it was a little similar to the dream, it was not enough to explain anything.

How could there be such a coincidence in the world?!

However, when Song Wanhui said that place was called the "Frost Residence", the scene of her nightmare where she was stabbed with a needle to draw blood and her heart was gouged out, played out in her mind as if it was real.

She had no choice but to treat this as a pure nightmare!

Yu Youyao's heart ached terribly. She had to use all her strength to tighten her handkerchief, tense her body, and straighten her back to resist the trembling of her body and the pain from the bottom of her heart— She did not lose her composure on the spot!

In fact, she had come to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence with her grandmother in the past.

As she was young, she always followed her grandmother around. Even when she played, she would be with Song Wanhui and not run around.

The Zhenguo Marquis Residence was very big. If it weren't for the fact that Song Wanhui had deliberately brought them over today, how would she have known that there was a "Frost Residence" here?

She had never known that the Zhenguo Marquis Residence had a Frost Residence.

However, in an extremely ridiculous nightmare, she dreamed of a "Frost Residence" that was identical to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence. It was really ridiculous and strange.

Was this really just a coincidence?!

"Yao Yao, Yao Yao..."

Hearing Song Wanhui's worried voice, Yu Youyao seemed to have woken up from a dream. She smiled and said, "I just saw that the osmanthus flowers were blooming beautifully, so I couldn't help but look at them for a while longer."

Song Wanhui did not believe it and felt that Yu Youyao was in a bad mood. "Are you really fine? If you're not feeling well..."

Yu Youyao shook her head and laughed. "Then why don't we find a place to rest?"

Qi Sinian pointed at the osmanthus tree at the door of the Frost Residence. "Let's not go anywhere else. There's a stone table and chair under the osmanthus tree. Let's sit there!"

She tilted her head to look at Yu Youyao. She did not look too good.

She did not know if it was because of the heatstroke, but it was not appropriate for her to walk a few more steps. She had to rest nearby.

Tang Yunxi agreed. "The sun is hot today. After shopping for a while, I'm a little dizzy. The fragrance of osmanthus is clear and elegant."

The group arrived under the osmanthus tree.

Upon closer look, the words "Frost Residence" on the plaque were probably written by Song Mingzhao himself. The small courtyard was locked, but from the outside, although it looked a little simple, it was far from the dilapidated scene from the nightmare.

Yu Youyao was deep in thought.

According to Song Wanhui, this was originally Song Mingzhao's residence when he was young. The Zhenguo Marquis Residence valued Song Mingzhao so much that even if Song Mingzhao moved into the Jiuzhao Pavilion, he would have to take good care of it.

However, in the nightmare, the older Yao Yao had moved in here. She was a test subject who would die sooner or later. How could the Zhenguo Marquis

Residence take her seriously? Naturally, they abandoned this quiet courtyard.

After Song Mingzhao greeted Old Madam Song, he heard that his father was also in the residence and had to pay him a visit.

At this moment, just as he was about to return to the Jiuzhao Pavilion, Song Mingzhao saw a petite figure standing silently at the door of the Frost Residence when he passed by the arched bridge.

It was Eldest Miss Yu, whom he had seen in her grandmother's house just now.

At this moment, Eldest Miss Yu was elegant and beautiful. Her pearl brocade dress was piled up at her feet, making her figure look weak and beautiful.

Song Mingzhao suddenly felt a sharp pain in his heart. He clutched his chest and bent over, panting.

He did not know if it was because the pain was too intense that he was hallucinating. In a daze, the beautiful and bright young girl in front of him was actually replaced by another young girl who was covered in blood and in a sorry state.

He tried his best to widen his eyes to see her face clearly.

However, the girl's figure seemed to be separated by a layer of fog and was blurry.

In a daze, the young girl's cries sounded in his ears. "Song Mingzhao, you won't die a good death. I curse you to be tortured for 3,000 years and enjoy 100 years of loneliness alone. You won't find love for generations. You can't ask for more.

You'll rather die...'

This voice also seemed to be covered by a layer of fog. He could clearly hear every word the girl said, but he couldn't hear her hazy voice clearly.

"Who, who are you?" Song Mingzhao's heart ached like a knife. He stubbornly raised his head and looked at the Frost Residence in a daze.

However, there was no one at the entrance of the Frost Residence.

It was as if everything he had seen just now was just a dream.

Song Mingzhao felt as if a piece of his heart had been dug out. He couldn't help but feel a heart-wrenching pain. He spat out a large mouthful of blood and fainted on the ground.

Yu Youyao and the others only sat under the osmanthus tree for a while before returning to the Glazed Jade Courtyard where Song Huiwan lived.

Therefore, she did not know that when Song Mingzhao vomited blood and fainted, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence was already in chaos.

Old Madam Song quickly got someone to bring over a token and invite Imperial Physician Shi Hu from the Imperial Hospital. Worried that something would go wrong, she also hired another old imperial physician who was at home on leave today.

The Marquis of Zhen's wife immediately sent a nanny to lock up all the servants who had come into contact with Song Mingzhao today, planning to interrogate them one by one.

It was no wonder that the Zhenguo Marquis Residence had such a huge reaction.

It was really because Song Mingzhao had suddenly vomited blood and fainted without any warning or reason. No matter how she looked at it, it did not look like an ordinary illness. It looked extremely unusual.

Everyone in the Zhenguo Marquis Residence knew that when Song Mingzhao was 11 years old, he was seriously injured by a criminal who had escaped from prison and almost lost his life.

After that, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence searched for the real culprit and realized that it was not as simple as an evil bandit escaping from prison. It was not a coincidence that they had escaped to the Precious Peace Temple and severely injured Mingzhao. It was also because he knew that Mingzhao was the heir of the Marquis of Zhenguo and lived in the Precious Peace Temple all year round. The bandit was chasing after him as they wanted to take him hostage and escape from the capital.

Later, Mingzhao resisted halfway and he was about to kill him. He did not expect to alarm the guests in the temple. He could only escape in panic, and Mingzhao was saved.

As there were many doubts behind this matter, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence did not make a fuss. They had been secretly investigating for many years, but they had found nothing.

As time passed, it also became a problem for the Zhenguo Marquis Residence.

This time, Song Mingzhao vomited blood and fainted, alarming the entire Zhenguo Marquis Residence.

The Marquis of Zhenguo's wife was the first to interrogate Song Mingzhao's personal servant, Kong Qing. "Has the heir been feeling unwell recently? Tell me the truth. If you dare to hide anything, I'll beat you to death."

The imperial physician had yet to enter the residence, so he did not know the exact situation. Some things were not easy to determine.

Kong Qing's family had been servants of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence for generations, so it was impossible for them to harm Mingzhao. Therefore, before the imperial physician visited, she had to try her best to investigate why Mingzhao had suddenly vomited blood and fainted.

Kong Qing knelt on the ground and trembled. "First Madam, the Heir has always been in good health and hasn't felt any discomfort recently. I wouldn't dare to lie to you. Please investigate.."

Chapter 427: Unconscious

The Marquis of Zhenguo's wife did not believe it and said sternly, "Since he's not feeling unwell, why did he suddenly vomit blood and faint? It must be you, dog slave, who didn't serve him well and was careless."

Kong Qing was so frightened that she kowtowed. "First Madam, the Heir left the Precious Peace Temple early this morning. As you can see, he went to Old Madam's residence previously to greet her. He was still fine then. After that, he even went to the Marquis's study to pay his respects. He was fine when he came out of the Marquis's study. On the way back to the Jiuzhao Pavilion, the Heir suddenly vomited blood and fainted. I don't know what happened...'

The Marquis of Zhenguo's wife recalled that when Mingzhao went to the Glorious Fortune Residence, he was indeed fine. "Has there been anything abnormal around the heir recently?"

Excluding the reason for Mingzhao's health, the greatest possibility was that someone had secretly harmed him.

Kong Qing suddenly thought of the Eldest Miss of the Yu Residence— Yu Youyao!

The Heir had a pure heart and few desires. Ten years was like a day. The most abnormal thing about the Heir was probably his unusual treatment of Eldest Miss Yu.

Kong Qing lowered her head tightly, wondering if he should tell Madam about this.

But!

At the thought of that day on Chang An Street, after the Heir sent Eldest Miss

Yu off, he stared at him coldly. "If anyone asks, just say that you met Eldest

Miss Yu by chance!"

The Heir did not want anyone to know that he was too involved with Eldest Miss Yu.

But!

Under First Madam's murderous gaze, Kong Qing was shocked and afraid. "First Madam, the heir, he, he..."

Just as he was about to tell the truth, he suddenly thought of the cat that the heir had saved when he was seven years old.

The reason why the Marquis knew about the existence of that cat was actually because he had leaked the information.

After the cat died, the heir did not question him.

However, not long after, his grandfather, Head Steward Yan, was slapped 20 times for offending the Heir.

The reason was that for a period of time, the Heir often went to the private library to borrow books and hid in the study to read secretly. He felt that something was amiss. The study of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence was huge. What kind of books did it not have?

Why did the Heir still go to the private library to borrow books?

What serious books could there be in a private library?

What kind of shameful book was it that he had to read secretly?

Kong Qing was worried that some messy books in the private library would mess up his temperament, so he secretly told his grandfather, Head Steward Yan, about this.

Her grandfather also knew the seriousness of this matter and immediately reported it to the Marquis.

The Marquis was furious and wanted to teach the heir a lesson.

The Heir took out the book he had borrowed from the private library. It was actually a short biography of King You. "Although it's just a short biography, it records a lot of local customs and customs in Youzhou. It's also quite relevant to King You's merits. The tactical arrangements for every battle are also very exquisite. It's a good book."

After the Marquis read this short story, he actually agreed with the Heir.

After that, the Heir found his grandfather and denounced him. "I wonder how

Head Steward Yan found out that I was in a private library and slacking off?"

Naturally, it was impossible for his grandfather to expose him. He insisted that he had accidentally seen the heir enter and leave the private library time and time again.

After hearing this, the heir did not probe further. He only said calmly, "As the head steward of the Marquis Residence, you spied on your master privately and slandered him without knowing the reason. It's disrespectful. You'll be punished with 20 strokes of the paddle!"

It could be said that he had seen it by accident.

He had deliberately spied on him time and time again.

His grandfather had nothing to say.

The Marquis had also reported this matter because his grandfather had not discovered the truth. It had almost caused a conflict between father and son. He was extremely dissatisfied with his grandfather and did not stop the heir from punishing him.

At that time, he heard the dull sound of the board landing on his grandfather and was horrified.

However, the Heir's expression was indifferent and cold. "How should you be punished for revealing my master's private matters?!"

Kong Qing suddenly understood that this matter was clearly a trap set by the Heir to lure him in.

The Heir had come for him to begin with, and his grandfather had only been implicated by him and his punishment was meant to scare him.

Later on, he understood a principle: a slave can't have two masters!

Seeing that Kong Qing was stuttering and did not answer for a long time, the Marquis of Zhen's wife thought that he was thinking about her question. Even though she was a little anxious, she did not rush him.

Kong Qing suddenly clenched her fists and said with a trembling voice, "Madam, the Heir has been reading quietly in the Precious Peace Temple recently. The people he interacts with are all monks he's familiar with in the

Precious Peace Temple. There's no one unusual around him."

The Marquis of Zhen's wife was still worried and asked a few more questions. Seeing that Kong Qing indeed did not know anything, she knew that no matter how anxious she was, she could not get anything out of him, so she ordered someone to lock him up.

After interrogating a few more people, the Marquis's wife returned to the inner room.

At this moment, Song Mingzhao had been unconscious for almost an hour.

There were many adults in the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, so there was no lack of small illnesses. The residence also had a residence doctor. Although his medical skills were not bad and could treat minor ailments, when he encountered a strong illness, he was useless.

At this moment, Song Mingzhao was lying on the bed half-dead. His breath seemed to be in his throat. Perhaps after he finished exhaling, he would explode...

Old Madam Song guarded Song Mingzhao's bed and wiped her tears with a handkerchief. "Have you interrogated everyone?"

When the Marquis of Zhenguo's wife saw her son lying silently on the bed, tears immediately rushed out of her eyes. She choked and said, "After the interrogation, Kong Qing said that Mingzhao has always been in good health and there was no one unusual around him. As soon as Mingzhao returned to the residence today, he went straight to greet you. The servants who were locked up only saw Mingzhao and did not come into contact with him at all. They did not have the chance to harm him..."

His wife was smart and capable, and this concerned his son's safety. How could he be careless?

Old Madam Song had an idea.

At the thought that it was Wan Hui's birthday today, the Marquis of Zhen's wife hesitated. "Eldest Miss Yu, Sixth Miss Qi, and Fifth Miss Tang are still in Third Miss's Glazed Jade Courtyard. Should we ask..."

Old Madam Song's expression darkened slightly as she reprimanded, "Are you so anxious that you're muddle-headed? Not to mention that these three families are family friends with our family.

They were born from our ancestors. They're bound together for good or ill. They're also half-grown children. Just now, they didn't come into contact with Mingzhao in the Glorious Fortune Residence."

Now that something had happened to her son, the Marquis's wife was shocked and panicked. For a moment, she lost her composure. "Mingzhao is unconscious. I'm afraid Third Miss's birthday..."

Old Madam Song sighed slightly. "Get someone to prepare lunch first. After lunch, send the guests back!"

In the Glazed Jade Courtyard, Song Wanhui was overjoyed when she found out that the birthday gift Yu Youyao had given her was made of lotus flowers that bloomed in the lotus lake. There were flower oil, flower essence, flower balm and a small box of lipstick..

Chapter 428: Panic

Old Madam Song sighed slightly. "Get someone to prepare lunch first. After lunch, send the guests back!"

In the Glazed Jade Courtyard, Song Wanhui was overjoyed when she found out that the birthday gift Yu Youyao had given her was made of lotus flowers that bloomed in the lotus lake. There was flower oil, flower essence, flower balm and a small box of lipstick.

Song Wanhui couldn't help but open the gifts and try them on the spot. "The flower oil is refreshing and soft. After using the flower oil, it was easily absorbed and not greasy. By just applying a thin layer, there's a hint of coolness when applied on the face. It's not heavy and is very suitable for summer."

Qi Sinian's eyes lit up as he stared at Yu Youyao. "Tell me quickly, is there more?"

Tang Yunxi also looked at Yu Youyao expectantly. She had been staying in the nunnery previously, but no matter what Yu Youyao did, she would specially send someone to send her a portion.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but laugh. "I'll get someone to send it to you tomorrow!"

Qi Sinian and Tang Yunxi were satisfied.

However, Song Wanhui was dissatisfied. "This is my birthday gift. Tomorrow, you can't favor one over the other."

Yu Youyao couldn't help but roll her eyes at her. "I'll give you another bottle of flower essence. That's all."

Among these things, flower essence was the most difficult to make.

There were more than a hundred lotus flowers, but she could only take out a small bottle of essence. It was difficult. Fortunately, the lotus lake was very big and there were many lotus flowers. She had a few maidservants in her courtyard who could help make it.

At this moment, Song Wanhui's nanny came over. "Third Miss, lunch is already prepared in the reception pavilion."

Song Wanhui was slightly stunned. It was not long after noon. Wasn't it a little too early to eat now?

Moreover, the servants did not seem to have asked her for permission to prepare lunch?

It was impossible for the servants to make decisions on their own. That could only be arranged by the elders in the family.

Yu Youyao's expression changed slightly. She stood up from her chair and smiled. "I didn't eat much breakfast today. I'm feeling hungry now."

Qi Sinian and Tang Yunxi also vaguely sensed something and expressed that they were a little hungry.

Song Wanhui was a little distracted as she brought them to the reception pavilion for lunch.

The small banquet was very sumptuous.

However, something had clearly happened to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, so they had arranged lunch in advance. Song Wanhui was thinking about family matters, and Yu Youyao and the others were not in the mood to eat.

As expected, less than ten minutes after lunch, the Marquis of Zhen's wife arrived.

Her daughter's birthday was supposed to be a good day, but there was no joy on her face. Instead, she looked worried.

When she saw them, the Marquis of Zhen's wife forced a smile and said, "It was originally Third Miss's birthday today, so the family was very happy and welcomed the few of you into the residence to play. Who knew..." At this point, she choked. "My son, Mingzhao, suddenly fell unconscious and hasn't woken up yet."

The few of them also knew the severity of the matter. Now that something had happened to the heir of the Marquis of Zhen, it was not good for them to stay any longer. They comforted the Marquis's wife and even took the initiative to leave.

Although the Marquis of Zhen's wife was worried about her son, she still had to be polite. "It's my fault for not entertaining you well today."

Yu Youyao quickly said, "The heir's health is more important."

Qi Sinian and Tang Yunxi also said, "Don't neglect the heir's health because of us."

The Marquis's wife sent her nanny, who was in charge of the residence, to accompany the few young misses back.

A few children from prominent families were guests at the Zhenguo Marquis Residence. After a hasty lunch, they were "chased" back to the residence to prevent unnecessary misunderstandings. The Zhenguo Marquis Residence had to answer to the elders of the families.

Seeing that Yu Youyao had returned early, Old Madam Yu was a little surprised.

Then, when she saw the Marquis's wife nanny from the Zhenguo Marquis Residence beside her, she guessed that something had happened in the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, so it wasn't good to entertain guests.

The Marquis's wife nanny was eloquent. As she wiped her tears, she said, "I don't know what happened to the Heir, but he suddenly fainted. The family

hired a few imperial physicians in a row, but they all said that the Heir was so anxious that he fainted. He was given acupuncture and medicine, but he didn't wake up. Old Madam and First Madam were so anxious that they didn't know what to do..."

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she was also shocked. She quickly asked, "Imperial Physician Hu from the Imperial Academy of Medicine is very skilled. Did you invite him to take a look at the heir?"

The nanny's eyes flashed. "Yes, Imperial Physician Hu is still at home."

Imperial Physician Hu said that the heir was so anxious that his heart palpitations acted up, causing him to be unconscious. He was afraid that he would have a heart disease in the future. However, with such a bad illness, every family had to hide it and not let outsiders know.

Old Madam Yu immediately asked Nanny Liu to prepare expensive medicinal herbs. The most precious item was a 500-year-old ginseng. This was a good thing that could save lives. It was very rare.

The old people of wealthy families had to prepare a few life-saving items in case of emergencies. How could her mother dare to accept it? She quickly declined.

Old Madam Yu insisted on giving it to her, so the nanny couldn't refuse and could only accept it.

After Nanny Liu sent the nanny out, Old Madam Yu did not mention Song Mingzhao. She turned to her granddaughter and said, "You're tired too. Go back and rest. Today, the palace rewarded us with a small basket of green lychees. We've also distributed some of the things that should be distributed in the residence. Your second aunt has been filial and left half a basket. I've already ordered someone to send it to the Jade Courtyard. Keep it for yourself." At this point, she couldn't help but remind her, "Although green lychees are delicious, you can't eat too much at once."

This time, the first and second branches received rewards from the palace.

When Yu Youyao heard this, she knew that most of the green lychees rewarded by the palace had been left to her by her grandmother. "Thank you, Grandmother."

After Yu Youyao left, Old Madam Yu couldn't help but worry. "The nanny of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence didn't say it explicitly, but I saw that her expression was a little strange. I'm afraid Mingzhao's illness isn't as simple as she says."

Nanny Liu agreed wholeheartedly.

As Song Mingzhao's situation was unknown, it wasn't appropriate for her to say anything else. Old Madam Yu sighed slightly. "Help me to the temple hall." Nanny Liu helped Old Madam into the temple hall.

Old Madam Yu knelt in front of the Buddha and closed her eyes. As she twirled her prayer beads, she recited the Buddhist Scripture. She only hoped that her

6,000 merit points could eliminate calamities, hidden dangers, and calamities.

Yu Youyao had received a lot of green lychees, and the residence had given her some more.

The next day, Yu Youyao got someone to send over the essence that she had promised Qi Sinian.

Yu Youyao also received gifts from Song Wanhui and the others.

Song Wanhui had given her a calligraphy piece by Wang Xizhi, and it was even a famous calligraphy piece.

A wealthy family's calligraphy was far more expensive than fine items. A masterpiece like this was basically kept as a family heirloom. It was top-notch.

When Yu Youyao received the calligraphy piece, she felt very emotional.

However, the maidservant from the Zhenguo Marquis Residence also said, "Eldest Miss has also been practicing calligraphy for a while, so Old Madam gave her this calligraphy piece. Eldest Miss's wrist couldn't take it, so she didn't continue. This calligraphy piece would be more useful to Eldest Miss Yu than her. Eldest Miss Yu, don't refuse..

Chapter 429: Bewitched

At this point, Yu Youyao couldn't refuse anymore.

Qi Sinian had given her a painting. It was a beautiful scene of the lotus lake in the Jade Courtyard blooming. The entire painting was six feet long. It was a rare large painting.

Qi Sinian was not old, but his painting skills were really good. Not only was the painting gentle, but it also had the artistic conception of a lotus leaf field shining on the water and shrouded by leaves.

It would take at least two to three months to complete such a large painting.

It was obvious that she had spent a lot of effort.

The maidservant sent by Qi Sinian also said, "My young miss has been painting this painting since April. It was only completed a few days ago. It's just a random painting. Eldest Miss Yu, you can just enjoy it!"

Tang Yunxi gave her a screen she had embroidered herself. It was a Parasol Tree in May. The leaves were green, and the flowers were bright.

Tang Yunxi's embroidery skills were exquisite. The entire screen was elegant and pleasing to the eye. Even Nanny Xu couldn't help but praise, "Fifth Miss Tang is a person with an inner beauty."

It wasn't easy to embroider a screen. She probably started embroidering in April.

Yu Youyao found it strange. "I only gave her some small gifts. Why does it seem like there's an agenda? The gifts are each more grand than the last?"

Nanny Xu smiled. "Eldest Miss often gives them things, and she makes them herself. Since they've benefited from you, they have to put in more effort to show gratitude of your friendship."

Most aristocratic families interacted on the surface. If they wanted to befriend someone sincerely, they would carefully prepare gifts to interact with them.

Yu Youyao suddenly understood and accepted the gifts calmly.

At this moment, the people sent by the residence to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence returned.

It was said that Young Master Song had been in a coma for a day and a night and had yet to wake up. Yesterday, in the latter half of the night, he suddenly had a high fever. Imperial Physician Hu gave him acupuncture and medicine.

For some reason, his fever subsided and came back again. It did not seem to be getting better.

The Zhenguo Marquis Residence was also anxious. They had almost invited all the imperial physicians in the Imperial Hospital who were free. The diagnosis of the imperial physicians was that Heir Song was over excited.

If there was really no other way, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence had to hire many physicians from far away.

However, Heir Song still did not wake up.

At this moment, the news that Song Mingzhao had an emergency had already spread.

There was no lack of discussion in the capital.

Old Madam Yu was really worried, so she asked Nanny Liu to personally go to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence to take a look at Song Mingzhao's situation and send some expensive medicinal herbs and supplements.

Nanny Liu left for two hours. When she returned, her expression was solemn. "Heir Song's condition isn't too good. He said that he was over excited, but I think..."

Just as she was about to say something, she suddenly realized that something was amiss. She shut her mouth tightly and hesitated.

Old Madam Yu tightened her grip on her handkerchief. "Hurry up and tell me what's going on. There's no one else in the house. If you have anything to say, just say it."

Upon hearing this, Nanny Liu quickly leaned closer to Old Madam and lowered her voice. "I think Young Master Song seems to be possessed. He's still unconscious, but he's clutching his chest and asking 'who are you' non-stop. As he speaks, he vomits large mouthfuls of blood. It's terrifying..."

Old Madam Yu was shocked. "He even vomited blood? Are you serious?"

Nanny Liu nodded repeatedly. "I saw it with my own eyes. The Zhenguo

Marquis Residence probably didn't expect Heir Song to suddenly vomit blood. They were also shocked. Old Madam Song was even more shocked and fainted on the spot."

Old Madam Yu hurriedly closed her eyes. She twirled the prayer beads in her hand and muttered, "Amitabha, Amitabha..."

After muttering, she opened her eyes and quickly asked, "What did Imperial Physician Hu say?"

Nanny Liu replied, "Imperial Physician Hu gave Young Master Song ten pills

and said that his life is not in danger for the time being. However, if he doesn't

wake up, it's hard to say. From the looks of it, Young Master Song's situation isn't optimistic."

Old Madam Yu also felt terrible. "He even used an emergency medicine to save his life!"

There was nothing else to say.

Nanny Liu continued, "I took the liberty to tell the Marquis of Zhenguo's wife that there's a Master Hui Tong in the Precious Peace Temple. He's a pharmacist and Buddhist. His medical skills are very impressive."

The situation at that time was too terrifying.

As an old woman who had lived for most of her life, she was also panicking from the bottom of her heart. Seeing that the Zhenguo Marquis Residence was in chaos, she thought that she had to help after making a trip to the temple.

Old Madam had been paying respects to Buddha all year round, so she knew more about the Precious Peace Temple than others. Although Master Hui Tong was not famous, she knew that he was proficient in medicine.

Old Madam Yu hurriedly said, "It doesn't matter even if we say his name. If Heir

Song is really... we should indeed let the eminent monks of the Precious Peace Temple take a look. Even if he's not possessed, Master Hui Tong is proficient in medicine and can help treat him."

Nanny Liu heaved a sigh of relief. "I think so too."

Old Madam Yu closed her eyes and kept twirling her prayer beads. "Amitabha..."

In the afternoon, the Yu Residence received news that the Marquis of Zhen's wife had personally gone to the Precious Peace Temple and invited Master Hui Tong into the residence.

Master Hui Tong applied medicine for Song Mingzhao.

Song Mingzhao no longer vomited blood, but the nightmares continued. His fever came and went.

Master Hui Neng closed his eyes and sat cross-legged in Song Mingzhao's room, chanting.

News of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence spread to the Yu Residence, and even the Yu Residence was solemn.

However, all of this had nothing to do with Yu Youyao.

In August, the lotus flowers in the lotus lake bloomed and fell. There were already many lotus pods in the lake. At noon, when the weather was the hottest, Yu Youyao took a book and rowed to the lake to rest in the depths of the lotus flowers. At the same time, she picked the lotus pods and asked the maidservants to peel the lotus pods and pick out the lotus seeds.

Although the lotus seeds were bitter, it was good to make it into lotus seed tea.

Autumn was hot and dry. Lotus Seed Tea was most suitable for old people like her grandmother.

Her cousin drank some every day to nourish his mind.

At this moment, Yin Huaixi, who Yu Youyao was worried about, was sitting leisurely in the tent, holding a red silk stone that was larger than the palm of an adult man and carving it.

Eunuch Zhu sighed when he saw this. This red silk stone was completely blood-red, like chicken blood. It was bright and ancient.

It came from the red silk stone cave of the Black Mountain in Qingzhou, Shandong.

In the past, even the red silk stones that were offered to the emperor were not of such good quality.

As he thought about it, he couldn't help but praise, "The Red Silk Inkstone of Qingzhou is famous for being the top of all inkstones. It's even better than Duan Yan's inkstone. This red silk stone has been exquisitely made by the heir. It's really complicated and beautiful."

Liu Gongquan of the Tang Dynasty said in the Inkstone Theory, "Qingzhou is the first place for inkstones, followed by Jiangzhou, Haiduan and Shexian!"

In later generations, there were also many literary critics that said that the red silk instone is the best of inkstones..

Chapter 430: Are You Teaching Me How to Do It?

Yin Huaixi put down the Kunwu Knife and asked calmly, "What is it?"

Eunuch Zhu was the godson of Eunuch He. He had been arranged by the emperor to come with the army to serve him.

His godfather, Eunuch He, was the number one eunuch in the inner palace. As his godson, he also gained the emperor's deep trust.

Eunuch Zhu quickly poured a cup of tea and handed it over respectfully. Then, he said, "Chang Ningbo and a few old generals in the army are outside requesting an audience with the general."

Ever since he arrived in Shandong, Prince Yin had become more and more unpredictable. Every time he served him, he felt like he was walking on thin ice.

It was as if he was not facing a weak heir, but the current emperor.

It was inevitable that he would be careful with his words and actions. Yin Huaixi took a sip of tea and put down his teacup. "How many times has it been?"

Eunuch Zhu was stunned for a moment before he immediately reacted. "It's already the third time!"

Yin Huaixi took a piece of sandpaper and gently polished the inkstone. "Things can happen again and again, but not again. Each of them will be punished 30 times. Let them receive their own punishment."

Eunuch Zhu couldn't help but be shocked. "General, don't you think 30 hits of the military rod is a little too heavy?"

The emperor had sent him to the army partly to take care of Yin Huaixi's daily life, and partly to supervise the army.

After Yin Huaixi led the troops to Shandong, he ordered them to station themselves at Langya Mountain for more than a month, but they did not move or do anything.

Chang Ningbo and the other old generals had also been on the battlefield for a long time in the past. They were already indignant to be led by a weak young master like Yin Huaixi.

In the past month, using the excuse of discussing military matters, they had already come over repeatedly to ask Yin Huaixi for a countermeasure. Their intention to pressure him was very obvious.

However, they did not take Yin Huaixi's reputation seriously.

Yin Huaixi, on the other hand, was relaxed and unaffected by the tense atmosphere in the army.

Every day, he read, practiced his calligraphy, painted, carved inkstones, ate, took a nap, took a bath, and so on.

Not only were Chang Ningbo and the other old generals anxious, but they also had a deep understanding of the saying, “The person involved is calm and collected but observers are very worried.”

Yin Huaixi said calmly, “Tell me, what crimes did they commit?”

Eunuch Zhu held his breath and quickly said, “They were indeed disrespectful to the general. It’s indeed punishable by 30 strokes of the paddle. The general’s orders are not disputable and his punishment is clear. Naturally, I don’t have the intention to question you and be disrespectful.”

How could a small servant in the palace not be smart?

He immediately understood that Yin Huaixi had been waiting for a long time.

The old men were causing trouble and he was waiting for them to cross the line. After being hit by the military stick, they became obedient, and Yin Huaixi’s military might rose.

He didn’t even bother to be calculative.

Yin Huaixi supported his forehead with one hand. Even though he was wearing a black iron mask, he still looked graceful and noble.

Eunuch Zhu carefully considered his words and continued, “It’s just that the few old generals aren’t young. I’m afraid they won’t be able to take it anymore. The situation in Shandong is unknown. I don’t know when the war will start. At that time, the old generals will be injured and it won’t be convenient for them to go to the battlefield.”

In other words, it didn’t matter if they were beaten up.

However, not everyone could bear the consequences of hitting someone. Once the military was delayed, even the commander would be blamed.

Yin Huaixi smiled. “Are you teaching me how to do things?”

Eunuch Zhu’s expression changed drastically. He knelt on the ground with a thud and said in a trembling voice, “I, I wouldn’t dare. Since the emperor has sent me to serve you, I naturally have to listen to your orders and be loyal to you.”

Yin Huaixi’s red lips curled up slightly. “Get up!”

There were different levels of a servant. There were many smart people in this world, but often, smart people were either very arrogant and ignorant. Only smart and sensible people who recognized their identities could be used.

Eunuch Zhu heaved a sigh of relief and stood up obediently.

Yin Huaixi said calmly, “30 strokes of the paddle. They’ll be fine in a month!” These casual words shocked Eunuch Zhu.

Just now, he was worried that if Yin Huaixi beat up the old generals and the war in Shandong suddenly erupted, the old generals would be seriously injured and couldn't lead the troops. He had spoken to persuade him.

But now, Yin Huaixi had said that they could recuperate in a month!

Could he understand that Yin Huaixi had already predicted that the war in Shandong would not erupt in the next month?

Furthermore, could it be inferred that in a month, the army would start fighting?

Could it be that the situation in Shandong was already completely under Yin Huaixi's control?

As Eunuch Zhu was thinking, he heard a commotion outside—

“General Chang, this is the main general's tent. You can't barge in!”

“Move aside. I have military matters to discuss with Chief Yin. If the military intelligence is delayed, can a dog slave like you bear the responsibility? Move aside!”

“You can't enter without Master's permission...”

“Get lost. I'm the deputy general of the east expedition personally conferred by the emperor. How can a dog slave like you stop me at will...”

As soon as Uncle Chang Ning shouted, there was a bang outside, followed by the young eunuch's sharp wail.

Eunuch Zhu's face darkened. Just as he was about to reprimand him, he saw a thick black hand suddenly lift the tent curtain and stride in.

“Head...” Before he could say the word “general”!

Uncle Chang Ning suddenly froze and his eyes widened. In his turbid eyes, there was an arrow of gold and iron shooting towards him at lightning speed.

“Swish—” The sharp arrow aura was wrapped in a strong wind, and even the air in the tent could not help but howl!

Chang Ningbo, who had been through hundreds of battles, felt his mind blank. He had actually forgotten to dodge.

It wasn't that he didn't want to hide!

It was impossible!

In his eyes, Yin Huaixi, who was “like trash”, shot an arrow with a thunderous and powerful aura. What shocked him even more was that this arrow carried a murderous aura.

It was something that only generals who had been in the field for a long time and killed countless enemies could have.

Yin Huaixi, a fifteen-year-old young master, actually had a murderous aura that was even more terrifying than him, an old general who fought all year round!

He could not avoid such a killing intent at all!

Oh no!

Eunuch Zhu exclaimed, “Chief Yin, no...

Before he could say the word “but”, he heard a whoosh and Uncle Chang Ning suddenly closed his eyes— Waiting for death!

With a clang, the arrow pierced Chang Ningbo’s forehead.

The tent was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop!

The three old generals following behind Uncle Chang Ning looked at Yin Huaixi in shock.

He was wearing a black python robe, and the golden embroidery on his shoulders made him look like a ferocious tiger. He swooped down, bared his fangs, and brandished his claws. There was a golden jade belt around his waist, exuding a monstrous noble aura. He held a longbow in his hand and casually lifted the bowstring..