

All Hail 451

Chapter 451: Things Look Different

Yu Shansi did not understand.

His mother was a good person, but she had done something wrong, so his grandmother had locked her up. He had to be filial to his mother, but he couldn't learn from her.

At the thought of this, Yu Shansi comforted her. "Third Sister, although Mother is seriously ill and can't take care of us like before, we still have Grandmother, Father, and Eldest Sister at home. I've improved a lot in my studies recently, and Third Sister's health has improved a lot. Everything in the family is fine.

Don't worry too much."

Yu Shansi's words made Yu Jianjia's heart sink bit by bit. She had never felt like she had lost so completely.

She also wanted to tell Yu Shansi that Yu Youyao was scheming and had ill intentions.

However, Yu Shansi did not believe it.

In the few months that she had lived in the manor, Yu Youyao had been in charge of Yu Shansi's food, shelter, and transportation in the residence. Yu

Youyao was meticulous, so it was impossible for her to treat Yu Shansi harshly.

It was also Yu Youyao who took care of her food, shelter, and transportation in the manor. It was also a fact that Imperial Physician Hu had personally come to take her pulse and her health had improved.

Yu Youyao had blocked all her paths in the Yu Residence.

She was told clearly that it was already difficult for her to support herself alone in the residence now. Being an obedient and sensible daughter was the best choice.

Yu Jianjia left the Songtao Courtyard in a daze. Unknowingly, she had arrived at the Tranquil Heart Residence, thinking about how her mother lived in the high courtyard wall.

She immediately felt desolate!

When the old maid guarding the door saw Third Miss standing at the door, she quickly opened it. "Third Miss is here to see First Madam, right? Old Madam has long instructed me to open the door for Third Miss. Third Miss, please come in."

Yu Jianjia stood rooted to the ground. Was it a good idea to enter?

She did not specially come to visit her mother. It was just that as she walked out of the Songtao Courtyard, she saw that the residence was decorated with lanterns and decorations, and the servants were happily busy with the Mid-Autumn Festival.

This lively scene had nothing to do with her.

She had a feeling that things were different.

Unknowingly, she had arrived at the Tranquil Heart Residence. However, looking at the open door of the Tranquil Heart Residence, Yu Jianjia could only brace herself and walk in.

With a bang, Yu Jianjia was shocked and suddenly turned around—

The open door was closed. At that moment, she looked around in a daze. She saw that the tall courtyard wall of the Tranquil Heart Residence was like a cage, and she felt suffocated and desperate.

She couldn't help but tremble and have the urge to escape.

She turned and ran for the door.

When she ran to the door and her fingertips touched the door, Yu Jianjia suddenly realized that the person locked up in the Tranquil Heart Courtyard was not her, but her mother.

She was only here to see her mother!

Just as Yu Jianjia was about to enter the house, she heard a bang, clang, and crash, as well as Yang Shuwan's screams—

"She doesn't even let me out during the Mid-Autumn Festival. Why not? I'm Master's legitimate wife. As long as Master doesn't divorce me, I'll be the madam of the Yu Residence's main branch and Yu Youyao's mother. Why shouldn't she let me out? Someone, I want to see Master. I want to go out..." "Madam, Old Madam is in charge of the matters in the Tranquil Heart Residence. It's Old Madam who personally said that you should recuperate well in the courtyard. You... shouldn't make a fuss."

"That's impossible. It's impossible for Old Madam to do that. Old Madam values her reputation the most. The Mid-Autumn Festival is a good day for people to reunite. If I, the mistress of the household, am locked up in the courtyard, wouldn't I be exposed and become a joke? It must be that b*tch, Yu Youyao. It's her..."

It was unreasonable for her to not even let her out during Mid-Autumn Festival no matter how serious her illness was.

Nanny Li did not know how to persuade her.

First Madam's emotions were unstable. Perhaps she would go crazy when she was unhappy with something.

How could Old Madam dare to let her out?

Yang Shuwan cried again. "My father is in jail. The Yang family is gone, and I've become the daughter of a criminal. Everyone in the Yu Residence doesn't treat me as a human. Master can't divorce me, so they want to force me to death so that Master can remarry..." As she spoke, she laughed crazily. "Hahaha, if you want me to die, I won't. Yu Zongzheng, don't even think about getting rid of me for the rest of your life. Hahaha..."

The Tranquil Heart Residence's courtyard was small, so the commotion in the house could be heard outside.

Yu Jianjia listened to the screams, screams, cries, and laughter inside. These were definitely not emotions that a normal person would have.

Her heart completely turned cold, and she retracted her feet bit by bit.

No wonder Yu Shansi also had a difficult expression when he mentioned his mother.

She did not want to face such a crazy mother.

Yu Jianjia felt a sense of sorrow and silently left the Tranquil Heart Residence.

Seeing that she had come out so quickly, the old woman guarding the door was a little surprised. Seeing that Third Miss did not look too good, she guessed that First Madam must have gone crazy again.

In the blink of an eye, it was the 15th of August, the Mid-Autumn Festival. The suffocating weather became refreshing.

After breakfast, Yu Youyao and Nanny Liu counted the Mid -Autumn Festival gifts that had been prepared at home. After checking the gift list, she sent someone to send them over one by one.

Every year, there was a tradition during the Mid -Autumn Festival to eat mooncakes, chrysanthemum wine, and some snacks.

In her own name, Yu Youyao gave Qi Sinian, Song Wanhui, and Tang Yunxi a gift.

After everything was arranged, Yu Youyao went to An Shou Hall.

Yu Jianjia and Yu Shansi had already arrived and were talking to their grandmother. Today was the Mid-Autumn Festival, and it was rare for their grandmother to wear gold and silver. She also looked happy.

Yu Youyao turned around and saw Yu Qingning sitting in the hall.

Yu Qingning had lost a little more weight and looked very outstanding, but her expression was a little stiff and wooden. She was wearing a green gauze top and a pomegranate-red dress, looking flamboyant and beautiful.

After not seeing her for half a year, Yu Qingning had changed a lot, but it seemed that she had not changed at all.

Yu Qingning stood up and greeted Yu Youyao. "Hello, Eldest Sister."

Her eyes were lowered, so no one could see the expression on her face. She had learned etiquette from Nanny Jin for more than half a year, and her every move was indeed polite.

Yu Youyao returned the greeting.

Only then did Yu Qingning raise her head. "Previously, I was the one who let Eldest Sister down. I shouldn't have caused a commotion at Eldest Sister's birthday banquet. I never had the chance to apologize to you. I hope you can forgive me."

Yu Youyao raised her eyebrows slightly and smiled. "Fourth Sister, you're being too serious."

Yu Qingning had indeed improved a little. It was really rare for her to apologize to her.

But!

If Yu Qingning had really learned to be smart, she shouldn't have mentioned the unhappy past in front of her grandmother on such a good day.

This apology was not meant for her.

However, her actions were for her grandmother to see..

Chapter 452: Stupid and Pretentious

Her words were neither light nor heavy. She did not say that she would forgive her.

Yu Qingning was dissatisfied, but her eyes turned slightly red. She said weakly, "Eldest Sister, I was also foolish that day, so I did such a ridiculous thing.

During this period of time, Nanny Jin has taught me many rules and principles. Eldest Sister is the eldest sister in the family, so it's only right for her to respect the elders and take care of the young."

Yu Youyao suddenly found it funny.

After being locked up in the courtyard for half a year and being strictly disciplined by the nanny from the Education Department, Yu Qingning had suffered a lot recently. Even her figure had become thin.

Her pretense of looking weak, pitiful, and aggrieved was really—

Yu Youyao glanced at Yu Jianjia calmly and said calmly, "In that case, let Nanny Jin stay in the residence and teach Fourth Sister for a while. It'll be good if you can learn more rules."

Yu Qingning's eyes widened in shock, and she subconsciously looked at Old

Madam Yu.

Shouldn't Yu Youyao apologize sincerely and take the initiative to say that she didn't care enough for her? This way, the two of them could bury the hatchet in front of her grandmother and reconcile.

If Yu Youyao had forgiven her, her grandmother naturally wouldn't be angry with her. Perhaps if she was happy, her grandmother would send Nanny Jin back to the Education Department and no longer detain her in the courtyard.

But what was going on now?

Why was it different from what she had imagined?!

Old Madam Yu's expression darkened a lot. She glanced at Yu Qingning. "Your big sister is only doing this for you. What are you waiting for? Aren't you going to thank her?"

Yu Qingning had indeed improved a lot. At the very least, she was not as rude as before.

She was really like Yang Shuwan.

Yu Jianjia was sickly and weak. Although she looked weak, she was well-behaved and well-mannered, showing the upbringing of a young lady.

Yu Qingning's was really stupid and pretentious. She had inherited everything from Yang Shuwan.

Old Madam's sharp gaze shot over. Yu Qingning shuddered and quickly said, "Thank you, Eldest Sister. I'll definitely learn the rules from Nanny Jin in the future.'

Yu Youyao smiled but did not speak.

Yu Qingning thought that as long as she apologized sincerely, her grandmother would change her opinion of her.

Unfortunately, Yu Qingning still did not understand. Her biggest mistake was not causing a commotion at her eldest sister's birthday banquet, but because she was unruly and did not recognize her identity, causing chaos between the first and second wives.

If she had really changed, she should not have mentioned it.

Behaving yourself was the best performance.

Yu Qingning slowly lowered her eyes and secretly tightened her grip on her handkerchief.

Although her grandmother doted on Yu Youyao, she was also very tolerant of the other daughters in the family. In the past, she had caused a lot of trouble with Yu Youyao.

When her mother found out, she wouldn't be too harsh on her. She would only reprimand her a little. "You sisters are making a fuss. As your mother, I can't interfere too much. However, I can't ignore you. As the eldest sister, Yao Yao should give in to her younger sisters. However, as a younger sister, you should respect her."

Although her grandmother was a little dissatisfied, at most, she would only give her a few words of warning. "You're all sisters in the family. Why are you causing trouble all day? I'll punish you with three months' worth of monthly allowance."

She was indignant and wanted to argue with her father.

As long as she showed that as the eldest sister, she was not modest and even bullied her younger sister, her father would definitely teach Yu Youyao a lesson in the end.

As time passed, Yu Qingning's arrogance grew.

Facing Yu Youyao, she became even more arrogant.

After causing a commotion at Yu Youyao's birthday banquet, her concubine mother was locked up in a small courtyard and completely lost any favor. She was detained by her grandmother in the Hanlu Courtyard and was not allowed to go out.

She knew that it was inappropriate, but she did not feel that she was in the wrong.

She just hated Yu Youyao.

It was Yu Youyao who had caused her to be in such a sorry state.

Yu Qingning was resentful, but she still remembered her goal. She quickly smiled. "Grandmother, you're old, but you still have to worry about me often. I embroidered an embroidery screen for you to pray for your health."

With that, she took the sandalwood box from the maidservant's hand and walked up to Old Madam Yu, handing it over respectfully.

Nanny Liu quickly took it.

Old Madam Yu's expression softened a little. "You're too kind."

Just because of this, if it weren't for the scene of her apologizing just now, she would really have thought highly of Yu Qingning.

She had started embroidering this embroidery screen in May. It had taken her half a year to finish it. It required a lot of effort, but she only received this sentence in exchange.

Yu Qingning was not angry, but she lowered her head and said, "Grandmother, I'm grateful and respectful. It's my duty to show filial piety to you."

Old Madam Yu was a little dazed.

In the past, Yu Qingning was a little smart. However, as she grew older, she became more scheming. Furthermore, she was manipulated by Yang Shuwan, so she gradually forgot her place.

If Yu Qingning hadn't been nurtured by Yang Shuwan, she would have been a smart person based on her performance just now.

Old Madam Yu turned to look at Nanny Liu. "Open it."

Nanny Liu quickly smiled and opened the box.

Old Madam Yu picked up the neatly folded embroidery screen and slowly unfolded it. On the wide screen were half the height of a person, green Bodhi branches and leaves embroidered. There were small words embroidered with hairpin flowers.

Yu Qingning's embroidery skills were exquisite, and her handwriting was beautiful and smooth. At a glance, her golden words seemed to emit a Buddhist light. It was obvious that she had spent a lot of effort.

After all, it was a gift that her granddaughter had meticulously prepared. Although her intentions were impure, Old Madam Yu was still very happy. "It's the Sutra of Longevity. It's such a big embroidered screen. It must have been embroidered for a long time!"

After being praised, Yu Qingning finally felt a little better. "It's been embroidered for about half a year. It's good as long as Grandmother likes it." Old Madam Yu's expression darkened even more.

As soon as Yao Yao stepped into the house, she rushed forward to greet her and apologize. Her words were beautiful and appropriate, but there was no sincerity.

She spent half a year embroidering such a big embroidery screen to make her happy.

She really felt sorry for Yao Yao. Why didn't she even see a handkerchief?

Yu Jianjia put down her teacup and said gently, "Fourth Sister's embroidery skills have improved a lot. I see a leaf and a Bodhi on this embroidery screen. Every word and sentence is filled with piety."

Yu Youyao smiled slightly.

She suddenly felt that it wasn't unreasonable for Yu Qingning to not vent her anger on them even though she had been tricked by Yu Jianjia and her daughter countless times.

For a proud daughter of a concubine like Yu Qingning, what she cared about the most was the respect and praise of others.

Indeed!

Yu Qingning smiled. "Thank you for your praise, Third Sister."

After Old Madam Yu finished looking at the screen, she asked Nanny Liu to put it away.

Seeing that Old Madam had no other intention, Yu Qingning was a little disappointed..

Chapter 453: Pregnant

She had originally thought that as long as she lowered herself, sincerely apologized to Yu Youyao, and gave the embroidery screen to Old Madam when she was happy, Old Madam would forgive her.

Not to mention that the restriction on the Hanlu Courtyard would be immediately lifted.

At the very least, she should express some intention.

But!

It was true that Old Madam was happy, but why hadn't everything gone as she had expected?

Nanny Liu couldn't help but sigh inwardly—

How could Old Madam bear to lock her granddaughter in the courtyard and let the nanny in the Education Department torture her?

It was also because Yu Qingning was too outrageous. She had no respect at all.

As her grandmother, how could Old Madam watch her take the wrong path? She definitely had to try her best to teach her a lesson while she was still young!

Fourth Miss had been locked up for half a year. This time, she had indeed improved and her words and actions were a little smart.

However, her thoughts were too shallow.

As soon as Eldest Miss entered, she revealed her thoughts.

No matter how well she embroidered the screen or how pious the scriptures were, she was not sincerely filial to Old Madam. Instead, she wanted to remove the restriction of the Hanlu Residence through filial piety. Even though she was very filial, she was also 70% scheming.

How could Old Madam be really happy?

Fourth Miss was a little smart, but Eldest Madam Yang had raised her too narrow-mindedly.

What a pity.

There was silence in the room. Yu Youyao changed the topic. "Grandmother, do you know why I was a little late just now?"

If she hadn't said it, Old Madam Yu really hadn't expected that no matter how busy the family was, Yao Yao would always be the first to come over. She only arrived late today after everyone was present.

Seeing the joy in her eyes, Old Madam Yu quickly asked, "Is there any happy news at home?"

This time, even Yu Jianjia couldn't help but put down her teacup and look at Yu Youyao.

Yu Qingning did not look too good. She felt that Yu Youyao was deliberately stealing her limelight.

Yu Youyao smiled. "Grandmother, you're wise. You guessed it right."

Old Madam Yu glared at her. "Don't keep us in suspense. Tell us what it is."

Yu Youyao handed a cup of tea to her grandmother and said, "This morning, Concubine Qiu from the Rain Autumn Courtyard vomited non-stop. Her maidservant came over to report that as it was the Mid -Autumn Festival today, it wasn't appropriate to invite a doctor over, so I sent Nanny Xu over to take a look. She was indeed pregnant. Two months pregnant. As soon as I received the news, I came over immediately."

As soon as these words were spoken, Yu Jianjia's throat itched, but she resisted the urge to cough.

Concubine Qiu was pregnant?

How could that be?

Ever since her mother gave birth to her fourth brother, her father had not had any other children.

However, on careful thought, it made sense for Concubine Qiu to be pregnant.

Concubine He was locked up in the small courtyard, and her mother was also locked up in the Tranquil Heart Residence. Concubine Qiu was the only concubine serving him.

It was impossible for her father to always fool around with concubines, so Concubine Qiu took up most of her father's time.

As soon as she heard this news, Old Madam Yu was pleasantly surprised. "This is really good news. Ever since Brother Si was born, Father hasn't had any children for a long time. Our family is a little small after all." Her tone was a little agitated. As she spoke, she looked at Yu Youyao. "Good child, you're the one who thought it through and got someone to prepare medicinal cuisine to nourish Lady Qiu's body. This is all your credit."

After Yang Shuwan entered the Tranquil Heart Residence, she stopped using the child prevention medicine.

It had been a few months, but there had been no progress. She couldn't help but feel a little uncomfortable.

She did not expect that such a good thing would always come on a good day.

Yu Youyao smiled and said, "You flatter me. Such a big matter like having children is a blessing that can only be accumulated by virtue. It's obvious that it's Grandmother's contribution by eating vegetarian food and chanting Buddhist scriptures all year round."

Yang Bowan was someone who did not take things lightly. When she was in charge, although she did not give her father's concubine some child prevention soup openly, she did give her a lot of cold things.

As time passed and the concubine's bodies turned cold, and it was not easy for them to get pregnant.

She could also recuperate a little with some medicinal cuisine.

Old Madam Yu did not argue about this. She had seen what Yao Yao had done after managing the household. "How's Concubine Qiu's health? Is this pregnancy stable?"

If it weren't for her status, she would have gone straight to the Rain Autumn Courtyard to take a look.

Yu Youyao said, "Grandmother, don't worry. Nanny Xu said that Concubine Qiu is in good health. She's almost three months pregnant, but she's been silent. It's obvious that she's stable. It's also because it's the Mid-Autumn Festival today that she's making a fuss about reuniting with the family. However, for the sake of caution, I asked Concubine Qiu to rest in the house and not let her walk around. We'll talk about it tomorrow when the doctor enters the residence."

Now that Concubine Qiu was pregnant, she could be considered to have a child. On a day like the Mid -Autumn Festival, she had the right to come out and liven up the residence.

However, considering that Concubine Qiu had just discovered that she was pregnant and had yet to be seen by the doctor, she did not let her come out.

However, she had just given Concubine Qiu a lot of food and clothes to show how much she valued her.

Old Madam Yu became excited again. "Good, good, good. That's how it should be done. It's a great thing for Concubine Qiu to help Eldest Master spread his roots." She turned around and instructed Nanny Liu, "Pick six pieces of good cloth, two boxes of tea leaves, two kilograms of bird's nest, six-colored pastries, and so on. Also, send some gold and silver jewelry to Concubine Qiu. Tell her to recuperate carefully. If she can give birth to a child for Master, the family will definitely not let her down."

Nanny Liu quickly went down to settle it.

Old Madam Yu instructed, "She's not even three months pregnant, so the news can't leave the house. It's fine if the few of you hear it, but don't say anything.

You can't tell anyone until three months later."

Only her family knew that she was not even three months pregnant.

Yu Youyao was the first to smile. "Grandmother, don't worry. I've already warned everyone in the Rain Autumn Courtyard. We're all family. It'll be safe."

Yu Jianjia felt terrible, but she smiled happily. "It's really a great thing that Concubine Qiu can help Father."

If her mother had not entered the Tranquil Heart Residence, she would definitely not have allowed Concubine Qiu to have more children for her father. After all, if it was a boy, Fourth Brother would no longer be the only man in the residence. Her father would also have to give away a lot of his attention.

Her father had not had any children for many years, and Concubine Qiu was doted on by her father. Even if she was a girl, she was very doted on by her father.

Yu Qingning did not feel anything in her heart, but she still wanted to please Old Madam.

"Grandmother's health has been getting stronger recently. If this child is a boy and Grandmother

raises him, perhaps more than ten years later, our family will have another important minister like Second Uncle.”

Her granddaughter said such flattering words.

Old Madam Yu was also amused.

At this moment, Madam Yao led the family into the house, and there was immediate silence..

Chapter 454: Mid-Autumn Festival

Madam Yao felt that it was strange, so she smiled and asked, “Look at Old Madam’s happy expression. If there’s anything good at home, quickly say it so that I can share this joy.”

Old Madam Yu smiled and waved her hand. “No, no. You’ll naturally know after a while.”

Madam Yao’s heart skipped a beat when she realized what was going on. Her smile deepened. “It’s obvious that this is a joyous occasion. Since Old Madam doesn’t want to tell me, I won’t ask.”

She was a smart and tactful person. Old Madam Yu smiled until her eyes narrowed.

Yu Shanyan and the others hurriedly stepped forward to greet Old Madam Yu.

Old Madam Yu looked at her grandchildren. They were all polite and sensible. At the thought that the first branch was about to have a child soon, she couldn’t help but smile.

Old Madam Yu first asked Yu Shanyan about his studies.

Yu Shanyan was the eldest son of the first wife of the second branch, and he was responsible for bringing glory to the family. Old Madam Yu was very concerned about his studies.

Yu Shanyan said, “Eldest Sister is also learning the Five Books and Four

Classics in school. Cousin Zhou wrote annotations for Eldest Sister, so he borrowed it and copied it to learn. Master said that she has improved greatly.”

As soon as he finished speaking, Yu Shanxin couldn’t wait to say, “Not only Big Brother, but even Third Brother and I have improved a lot. During this period of time, Teacher hasn’t been scolding me like before...”

Old Madam Yu immediately recalled that in the past, Yu Shanxin had a lively personality and did not like to learn. He was often taught a lesson by Mr. Hu Shan, so she couldn’t help but laugh.

“Your Cousin Zhou is a capable person. It’s not bad to learn more from him.”

However, she thought to herself that Zhou Linghuai was a genius. He had received Mr. Hu Shan’s praise and was on par with Mr. Xian Yun.

Old Madam Yu had also read the notes he had written.

He was indeed very insightful. Even the other grandchildren in the residence benefited.

At the mention of Zhou Linghuai, Madam Yao asked, “By the way, Linghuai has been in Youzhou for almost two months. Did he say anything about coming back?”

Old Madam Yu shook her head. "At the beginning of the month, our family received a letter from him. He only said that everything was fine in Youzhou and that he had to stay in Youzhou for a while. He didn't say anything about returning. I think we have to wait at least until the three divisions' trial is over."

Madam Yao felt a little regretful. "What a pity. This is the first Mid-Autumn Festival since Linghuai entered the Yu Residence, but he's not at home on such a good day."

Old Madam Yu also felt regretful. "There's nothing I can do, but there's still a long way to go. If he can't join us this year, there's still next year."

Madam Yao thought about it and agreed!

Zhou Linghuai had returned to Youzhou this time to completely end things there. From now on, he would stay in the main house. They were all family, and there would be many opportunities for reunification in the future. It was just not today.

Old Madam Yu and Madam Yao chatted.

Yu Shuangbai moved closer to Yu Youyao and looked at her eldest sister eagerly. "Eldest Sister, the fruits you sent to the second house the other day were really delicious!"

The Xie family had given a cart of fruits to Eldest Sister. Eldest Sister was also generous. She picked up a large basket and sent it to the second house. The quality was much better than those on the market, and there was no need to mention the taste.

This year, fruits were rare and expensive. Her mother had kept half a basket for the family to eat, and the other half had been given away.

Seeing how greedy she was, Yu Youyao couldn't help but laugh. "If you like it,

I'll send another basket over later. There's no more."

Her cousin had given her a large cart, so there was definitely a lot. However, fruits were expensive in Shandong, so it was not good to have too much in case it aroused suspicion.

Yu Shuang's eyes lit up. "Thank you, Eldest Sister. It's the Mid-Autumn Festival today. We'll go and make the lanterns later. At night, we'll go to the lake to light the river lanterns." Worried that Yu Youyao wouldn't agree, she quickly tugged at Yu Lianyu, who was beside her. "Fifth Sister and Sixth Sister have both agreed. Eldest Sister can't refuse."

Yu Youyao nodded. "Okay!"

After chatting for a while, Madam Yao helped Old Madam Yu and brought the family to the second house.

Yu Youyao had already made arrangements for the main house. With Nanny Liu and Nanny Xu around, it was very appropriate.

After the imperial examination at the end of April, the rankings had yet to be released. There was still no news of Yin Huaixi leading the army to quell the rebellion. The three divisions' trial had also reached the critical moment.

The court was complicated. After the Mid -Autumn Festival, all of this would be decided.

Even after a day of rest in the court, Yu Zongzheng and Yu Zongshen, one of whom was a Cabinet Assistant and the other had a case file, had gone to the government office early in the morning and would only return in the afternoon.

Therefore, the small banquet at noon was also a lively meal for the women and juniors in the family.

In the afternoon, Madam Yao chatted with Old Madam Yu for a while before going to arrange the banquet. Yu Youyao did not help. Instead, she hung up the lanterns in the courtyard with Yu Shuangbai and the others.

The few of them laughed and played until it was afternoon.

Yu Zongzheng left the government office and changed into his usual clothes. Then, he came to the second branch to greet Old Madam Yu.

Old Madam Yu was in no hurry to tell him about Concubine Qiu's pregnancy. She planned to mention it to him tomorrow after she visited the doctor.

Yu Jianjia stayed in the manor for three to four months. She had been back for a few days. Yu Zongzheng had been busy these past few days and did not talk to her properly.

Now that she was free, he had to ask more about her life at the manor.

Yu Jianjia answered them one by one.

Seeing that she looked good and was in better spirits than before, Yu Zongzheng also looked relieved. "It's all thanks to your Eldest Sister. She's the one who helped you recover."

Yu Jianjia couldn't help but tighten her grip on her handkerchief. "After Mother fell seriously ill, it was Eldest Sister who took care of my daily life. I don't know how to thank her."

Her words were very sincere. If anyone heard them, they would think that her gratitude and respect for Yu Youyao had risen to the same level as her mother's.

How could Yu Zongzheng not be satisfied? "Your big sister has treated you well.

In the future, you have to respect her in every way and get closer to her. Learn how to deal with others."

Yu Jianjia slowly lowered her head and agreed.

Only her trembling eyelashes revealed the uneasiness in her heart.

The sky gradually darkened. The servants lit lanterns, and the courtyard was brightly lit.

Madam Yao had an incense table in the courtyard. There was an incense burner on it, as well as some fruits and pastries for the moon.

When the moon was full and the branches were slanted, the family moved to the courtyard. The tables were all set. Old Madam Yu and Yu Zongzheng sat alone, while the others sat together as husbands, wives, brothers, and sisters.

Chrysanthemum wine and autumn crabs had a special taste.

The chrysanthemum wine that the juniors drank was all brewed with rice wine. One or two glasses were appropriate for the scene and would not make them drunk.

Yu Jianjia picked up the small wine glass with both hands and said to Yu Youyao, “Eldest Sister, my health isn’t good, and it’s also Eldest Sister who has been taking care of me. This is a toast to you to express my gratitude. This glass of wine is for you.”

With that, she finished the wine in her cup..

Chapter 455: Heartbroken

“Third Sister, you’re too polite.” Yu Youyao also picked up her wine glass and finished the chrysanthemum wine in one gulp.

Unexpectedly, as soon as she put down the wine glass in her hand, Yu Shansi also picked up his wine glass and walked up to Yu Youyao. He cupped his hands and bowed. “Third Sister is right. Grandmother is old, Mother is seriously ill, and Third Sister’s health isn’t good. I’m still young. The people in the family are all under Eldest Sister’s meticulous care. You’ve worked hard to manage the household, respect your elders, treat my mother’s illness, and take care of your younger siblings. I toast this glass of wine to Eldest Sister.”

Yu Shuangbai and the others joined in the fun and toasted her.

Not to mention that as the eldest sister, Yu Youyao usually took care of them a lot. In school, she was also an example and helped her sisters study hard.

Yu Youyao drank the wine with a clear conscience.

Yu Youyao was respected by her younger siblings. This also proved that she had the demeanor of a legitimate elder, reflecting the family style and upbringing of the Yu Residence.

The elders watched from the side and were also happy!

However, Yu Jianjia was not so happy.

She had toasted Yu Youyao so that her father would know that not only was Yu Youyao thorough, but his third daughter was also polite and sensible.

However, she did not expect Yu Shansi to interfere.

Even Yu Shuangbai and the others joined in the fun.

She and Yu Youyao sat at the same table. They were all sisters of the same family. Yu Youyao was respected by her siblings in the family, making it seem like she was unappreciated.

Although the rice wine was not strong, after drinking a few more glasses, Yu Youyao’s fair face turned red.

Seeing that Yu Shanxin was holding his wine glass and looking a little restless, Old Madam Yu quickly said, “Although rice wine isn’t strong, you’ll still get drunk after drinking too much. Don’t go too far!”

Who in the residence didn’t know about Yao Yao’s alcohol tolerance?

One glass caused joy, two glasses caused foolishness, and three glasses of wine... That was exactly what she meant.

Yu Shanxin felt a little regretful. Although he was her brother, he had often benefited from Yu Youyao.

On the day of the reunion, the family had to recite poems to match the Mid-Autumn Festival scene.

Yu Youyao was not good at this, but when she saw the full moon in the sky, she thought of her cousin and recited, "The moon is round from a thousand miles away. The moonlight shines brightly on my heart. I want to hold the moon and give it to you from afar. Meeting you can only happen in my dream."

She had borrowed lines from ancient poems and pieced together a poem, but it was also beautiful.

Yu Zongzheng smiled and praised, "Although this poem is smart, it's also vivid and sincere."

After the family banquet was over.

Yu Shuangbai was about to go and light the river lamps when Old Madam Yu waved her hand. "Bring a few more people with you. It's late at night, so you have to be careful."

The second branch had also built a lake, but it was not as big as the first branch's lotus lake.

The few young misses laughed and went to the Jade Courtyard together.

When they arrived at the lake, Yu Shuangbai took the lanterns and placed them into the water one by one.

Yu Youyao held the lotus lamp she had folded and closed her eyes, making a wish in her heart. "I hope Cousin comes back safely soon."

After making her wish, she carefully placed the lantern into the lake and watched it drift down the lake. She hoped that it wouldn't sink until the candle burned out.

She had heard that this way, wishes would come true.

Dozens of lanterns were placed into the lake. The surface of the lake was filled with candlelight that complemented the lanterns on the trees. It was very beautiful.

After putting out the lanterns, the group returned to the second house.

Yu Shuangbai called Yu Shanyan and the others over to play drums and pass flowers.

The group ate and played until nine o'clock.

The family banquet finally ended.

Yu Youyao followed the limestone path. Along the way, there were houses and trees everywhere. The dense light and shadow made the night look beautiful.

Yu Youyao pushed open the door and entered the study, but her gaze suddenly paused.

An exquisite octagonal tassel palace lantern was placed on the desk.

The candlelight was yellow and dense.

This scene surprised Yu Youyao. She picked up her skirt and rushed to the desk. She picked up the palace lantern and looked at it carefully.

There were pearl and jade tassels on the octagonal lantern eaves, making it look elegant.

On the palace lantern was a painting of a boat on the lotus lake. Yu Youyao was already very familiar with her cousin's painting. At a glance, she could tell that this was her cousin's brush and ink.

"Yin San, is this a gift from Cousin for the Mid -Autumn Festival?" The dim yellow light of the palace lamp shone on Yu Youyao's beautiful face, bright and beautiful.

Yin San walked out from the dark. "Young Master made it himself."

Yu Youyao was pleasantly surprised. "Cousin, you actually know how to make lamps. However, it's great to be able to receive a lantern personally made by you during the Mid -Autumn Festival!"

Yin San said nothing.

Yu Youyao carried the lantern and returned to her room. She changed the small lamp beside her bed to the palace lamp that her cousin had given her. In the future, she would sleep every night with the lamp that her cousin had personally made.

At this moment, in the distant camp in Shandong, there were also bonfires lit. The soldiers gathered to drink, eat, and play chess. It was also lively.

From afar, there was Chang Ningbo's loud voice. "I wonder how our Master Yin's brain works. I only mastered the craftsmanship after learning for a year and a half, but he did it in two hours. What's even more heartbreaking is that the lamp he learned for two hours looks even better than the ones I've been making for most of my life. He's simply not human..." Immediately, there were soldiers who cheered— "If Master Yin isn't human, what is he?!"

"Why do I feel that you're scolding Master Yin at the end?"

"Could it be that you have a grudge after being taught a lesson by Master Yin previously..."

Chang Ningbo slapped him. "Sh*t, do I look like that kind of narrow-minded person? Isn't there a saying that goes, 'Intelligence means being closer to the demon'? Our Master Yin isn't an ordinary person. He's a true demon..."

Yin Huaixi had also racked his brains for that palace lamp until it couldn't get any better.

Even so, he still said that it wasn't for his favorite girl.

Tsk, tsk, tsk. He finally understood that women weren't the only ones who did not mean what they said.

If a man did not mean what he said, he was definitely not human.

The corners of Yin Huaixi's mouth twitched slightly. It wasn't difficult to make palace lamps, but it was difficult because time was too tight.

As he had just started learning, he spent some time practicing. It wasn't until he had completely mastered the lamp-making technique that he really started. Just the Lotus Plucking Painting on the paper on the palace lamp took a lot of time.

The little girl should like it very much.

After the commotion, the soldiers looked up and couldn't help but think of their families. "I miss my mother..."

"I want to too..."

"Me too..."

The young soldiers, who were only in their teens and had just participated, looked at the jade plate in the sky and thought about how it was the Mid-Autumn Festival today. Then, they recalled that in the past, no matter how poor their family was, they had to prepare mooncakes every time it was the Mid-Autumn Festival. At night, the family would gather and have a lively reunion meal.

The old soldiers patted the shoulders of the young soldiers beside them.. "Who doesn't want to go home? When the war in Shandong is settled, when we return home, won't it be Mid -Autumn Festival?"

Chapter 456: Great Grace

These old soldiers had also endured it like this.

However, they did not tell these young soldiers that many of them would be buried in other places and would never have a chance to reunite with their families.

A young soldier choked and asked, "Can I live until the day the war is settled?"

The camp suddenly fell silent—

In the silent night, there was only the sound of bonfires.

No one answered the question.

Because no one knew how to answer.

Even they did not know if they could live to that day. Perhaps this farewell would forever separate them from their families.

There were soft whimpers from the camp.

"Yes, I'll bring you back alive to reunite with your families." In the silent and sad atmosphere, a clear and indifferent voice suddenly sounded. It echoed with the silver light of the moon, as cold as the moon.

The soldiers looked up at the source of the sound—

Head General Yin was sitting in a wheelchair. The moonlight melted, illuminating his snow-white body. The moon was really in his arms. Under the light of the bonfire, he was like a demon lord descending from the sky. He was really a god in the mortal world.

Yin Huaixi!

At this moment, a weak young man with a crippled leg who was only 15 years old was saying to them in a firm tone, "I'll bring you back alive to reunite with your families!"

An old soldier cried on the spot.

They had fought for decades and followed countless generals. They only knew that knives and arrows were blind on the battlefield and they were in danger. Everyone only cared about whether they could win this battle. No one cared about their lives.

The old soldier suddenly shouted, "Head General Yin, we believe you."

"We believe you—I'

"I trust you..."

They did not believe in the general but the person who had told them on the night of their reunion that he would bring them back to reunite with their families.

Yu Youyao slept soundly.

When she woke up the next day, the first thing she saw was the palace lamp by the bed. The light was already out, and the Lotus Plucking Painting on it was vivid and unique. It was very beautiful.

The palace lamp that her cousin had personally made were really beautiful!

Chun Xiao followed her gaze and asked curiously, "Young Miss, this palace lamp looks very unique. Why haven't I seen it before?"

Yu Youyao did not hide it. Her tone inevitably showed off. "I just received a Mid-Autumn Festival gift from Cousin yesterday. I heard that Cousin made it himself."

"Young Master is really considerate. Even though he's far away in Youzhou, he still remembers to give Young Miss a Mid -Autumn Festival gift." Chun Xiao did not suspect anything. Although Young Master had gone to Youzhou, it was normal for him to ask the courier to send something to Young Miss.

These words touched Yu Youyao's heart.

As soon as Yu Youyao finished her breakfast, Xia Tao came over to report that the doctor whom Old Madam had invited to take Concubine Qiu's pulse had already entered the residence.

This was the top priority of the family. Yu Youyao quickly brought Xia Tao to the Rain Autumn Courtyard.

Concubine Qiu leaned against the bed. Her thin and fair wrist reached out from the sky-green curtain. A maidservant took a silk handkerchief that was as thin as a cicada's wing and gently covered her wrist.

The doctor was also used to it in the residence. He took Concubine Qiu's pulse unhurriedly.

Old Madam Yu sat in her room, twirling her prayer beads in her hand. Even though she knew that Nanny Xu's judgment would not be wrong, she couldn't help but feel nervous.

After a while, the doctor retracted his hand.

Old Madam Yu couldn't take it anymore and asked, "Doctor, how is it?"

The doctor said, "Old Madam, it's great news. Concubine Qiu is indeed more than two months pregnant, and her pregnancy is very stable. If she recuperates well, she will definitely be able to

give birth to more children in the residence.” Old Madam Yu looked delighted. “Is there anything I should pay attention to?”

The doctor shook his head. “Concubine Qiu’s health isn’t bad, so there’s no need to deliberately nourish her. Just eat more nourishing food usually. You have to be especially careful not to eat anything that is too cooling.”

Old Madam Yu felt relieved. She quickly took the money and asked Nanny Liu to send the doctor out.

The maidservant closed the curtains. Concubine Qiu was about to get up and greet Old Madam Yu.

Old Madam Yu quickly stopped her. “Lie down quickly and properly. You’re not even three months pregnant. This baby is very fragile. You have to be more careful.”

Concubine Qiu did not insist. “I thank Old Madam for her understanding.”

A smile appeared on Old Madam Yu’s face. “It’s been a long time since such a joyous occasion has happened in our family. You’re a hero. Rest in peace and take care of your pregnancy.”

Yu Youyao also smiled and said, “Grandmother, don’t just be happy. Concubine Qiu’s body is important. Do you want to add a few more people to serve her? To be appropriate, do you want to choose a sensible nanny to take care of Concubine Qiu’s daily life? Also, check carefully in the Rain Autumn Courtyard to prevent anything bad from hurting the fetus...”

However, Old Madam Yu was stunned.

Old Madam Yu had also been through this before, so how could she not understand this? To her surprise, these words came from her granddaughter’s mouth.

It seemed that as soon as she found out yesterday that Concubine Qiu was pregnant, she had asked the nanny in the residence how to do this.

Concubine Qiu suddenly got up from the bed and knelt in front of Yu Youyao without any explanation.

Yu Youyao quickly reached out to pull her back, but she was worried that she wouldn’t be careful, so she retracted her hand. “What are you doing? You’re already with child. You can’t kneel so easily. Get up quickly.”

After saying that, seeing that Concubine Qiu had yet to get up, Yu Youyao looked at her grandmother.

Old Madam Yu, who cared about her children the most, sat there without saying anything.

Concubine Qiu knew that she had made the right choice. “When I was young, I worked hard to take care of my body and my constitution. I received Old Madam’s great kindness and Eldest Master’s love. For many years, I haven’t been able to help Eldest Master. I feel deeply ashamed.” At this point, she took a deep breath and kowtowed to Yu Youyao. “Eldest Miss hired a doctor to take my pulse and nourish my body with medicinal cuisine every day. I will remember Eldest Miss’s kindness to me.”

Exhausting her body were all words on the surface, but it was Yang Shuwan who was in charge of their health and not letting them give birth.

In the past, when they served Master at night, Nanny Li would bring over a bowl of nourishing soup the next morning to nourish their bodies. She would watch them finish the nourishing soup before leaving.

The nourishing soup was indeed good, but it would be cooling for her body.

As time passed, her physique became cold.

Yu Youyao's expression was indifferent. "Mother is seriously ill and has been recuperating in the Tranquil Heart Residence. In the future, remember your duty and serve Father well. The best repayment to our family is to add more children to the family. Get up!"

Concubine Qiu was undoubtedly a smart person.

When she was a concubine, she remembered her master-servant relationship with her grandmother and kept to herself. Even Madam Yang was wary of her serving Old Madam in the past and did not dare to do anything to her, lest she embarrass herself..

Chapter 457: Harming Three Generations

After becoming a concubine, she went over immediately to show her loyalty to her grandmother. Seeing that she was so sensible, her grandmother had to show some respect.

This way, Madam Yang would not dare to do anything to her, and the entire residence would think highly of her.

After she was pregnant, she couldn't wait to show her kindness, indicating that even if she was pregnant, she would behave herself.

This was because whether this child could be successfully born was up to Old Madam or Yu Zongzheng.

It was on her!

Concubine Qiu heaved a sigh of relief and asked the maidservant to help her up from the ground. "I'll remember Eldest Miss's advice."

Old Madam Yu's expression softened a little. "I'll get Nanny Liu to personally arrange the matters in the Rain Autumn Courtyard later. Take good care of yourself!"

Concubine Qiu agreed gently.

Yu Youyao helped her grandmother out of the Rain Autumn Courtyard.

Old Madam Yu tilted her head to look at Yu Youyao. "What do you think of Concubine Qiu?"

After Concubine Qiu was pregnant, Yu Youyao had guessed that her grandmother would ask this question.

She did not answer directly and only said, "Mother is seriously ill. I don't think she can manage the household anymore in the future. Although I can help with the family matters, I can't get involved in official matters. I have to rely on my elders."

Old Madam Yu sighed slightly. "When Madam Yang moved into the Tranquil Heart Residence, I discussed it with your father and planned to take in another noble concubine with a good family background and upbringing. However, your father..." At this point, she shook her head and looked helpless. "Although his character is flawed, he's also very responsible to Madam Yang. He loves and trusts her a lot. It's also because of Madam Yang that he's suffered a big blow and isn't willing to take in new people for the time being."

Be it Madam Yang's schemes and deception back then, Madam Xie's death, or her indulgence of Yu Shansi, they were all hurdles that Eldest Son could not cross.

Eldest Son had completely fallen for Madam Yang, but he was disappointed.

In addition, after Yao Yao was in charge, the house was also in order. Eldest Son was worried that if he married another person who would disrupt the family, it would cause chaos in the house again.

Yu Youyao was a little surprised. "Grandmother didn't persuade Father?"

Old Madam Yu nodded. "I did. Your father hasn't relented. I think we have to give him more time to think it through."

Yu Youyao couldn't say much about her elders.

Old Madam Yu said, "You're in charge of the family's matters, so you can't get involved in the matters outside. I originally felt that it was difficult too. I didn't expect Concubine Qiu to be pregnant and be able to give birth to more children for the Yu Residence. It's great news."

During this period of time, her granddaughter was in charge of the entire family. Old Madam's heart ached for her. If Concubine Qiu could help, there would be no need for her granddaughter to step in for many things. It would definitely save her a lot of trouble.

During this period of time, her granddaughter was in charge of the entire family. Old Madam's heart ached for her. If Concubine Qiu could help, there would be no need for her granddaughter to step in for many things. It would definitely save her a lot of trouble.

Old Madam Yu frowned. "I've thought about it carefully. Concubine Qiu's status is a little low, but her family background is clean. Her ancestors also had a scholar, so it's not a disgrace to our family. Madam is seriously ill, so someone has to step in for the family. As long as she is not rude, the outside world won't underestimate us."

Noble concubines and concubines were both concubines. The former looked better on the surface, but there was actually not much difference.

There were many families in the capital. For various reasons, the first wife could not be abandoned, but it was not appropriate for her to go out. She could only take in a more dignified concubine to take on the responsibility of the mistress.

If the master doted on his concubine and killed his wife, he would be looked down on.

However, it was a special situation for the Yu Residence.

Madam Yang was sick and was the daughter of a sinner. He could divorce his wife and marry another.

However, Eldest Son cared about their relationship as husband and wife, so he could be considered loyal. Outsiders would not underestimate the Yu Residence because of such a matter. Instead, they would praise the Yu Residence.

When they were outside, Madam Yao would take care of everything, so there was nothing to worry about.

Yu Youyao would not get involved in the matters between the elders.

“Grandmother, make the arrangements.”

It was ultimately not proper to let a concubine walk around outside, and it made people unhappy.

Just thinking about it made Old Madam Yu feel vexed. “At the very least, we have to wait until Brother Si is old and has a proper wife to marry into the family. Only then can this family’s famous saying go along with it. It’s said that marrying into a bad family will harm three generations. Look at what’s going on...”

She had harmed Eldest Son, made him lose his morals, and even raised Yu Qingning badly. Her good granddaughter had become a narrow-minded and arrogant fool.

Even her own son had been harmed. Fortunately, Yu Shansi was young and had been strictly disciplined for a few months. His personality had changed.

However, his previous studies had been in vain. He had to start from the beginning and was already far behind his peers.

Unless Yu Shansi was as talented as Yao Yao and was diligent and motivated. The results of his studies in half a year would be able to catch up to others by three to five years.

However, she saw that although Yu Shansi had some potential, he was not considered top-notch.

He probably took after Eldest Son.

If he did not take advantage of these two years to quickly build up his foundation, he would not be able to support the first branch in the future.

At the thought of this, Old Madam Yu hated Madam Yang even more.

The lotus pods in the lotus lake were ripe, and the servants had collected a lot of them. They planned to dry the lotus pods and collect lotus seeds. Yu Youyao planned to get some more lotus seeds to make tea.

Although the lotus seed tea was bitter, her grandmother liked it very much.

At this moment, Qing Xiu came over. “Eldest Miss, Heir Song is here. Old Madam wants you to go over.”

The Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill had saved Song Mingzhao’s life. Old Madam Song and the Marquis of Zhenguo’s wife had come to thank them and even given them a gift. This represented the position of the Zhen’s Marquis Residence.

After Song Mingzhao recovered, it was only right for him to personally thank them.

Yu Youyao was only wearing her usual clothes, so it was naturally not convenient for her to receive guests. She returned to her room to change before going to An Shou Hall with Qing Xiu.

Seeing Yu Youyao come over, Old Madam Yu quickly said, “Yao Yao, come and see Young Master Song.”

After falling sick, Song Mingzhao had lost a lot of weight. His brow bones stood out, giving off a sharp feeling for no reason. He had probably just recovered from a serious illness. His face was still a little pale, and he was wearing a green robe with bamboo leaf patterns embroidered on it. They were bright and dark, making him look extremely handsome and noble.

Yu Youyao lowered her eyes and stepped forward to greet him. “I’ve made

Young Master Song wait for a long time?’

Eldest Miss Yu was wearing a yellow-green dress as she walked towards him, causing Song Mingzhao to be in a daze for a moment. Only then did he put down his teacup and stand up to return the greeting. “It’s rude of me to come knocking on your door. Miss Yao, please forgive me.”

Old Madam Yu watched quietly. Song Mingzhao was handsome and noble, while Yao Yao was fresh and delicate. When the two of them stood together, they really looked like childhood sweethearts.

She composed herself and smiled. “Mingzhao has just recovered from a serious illness. Are you feeling better?”

Song Mingzhao replied respectfully, “Thank you for your concern,

Grandmother Song. I used the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill that Eldest Miss Yu made and was carefully treated by Lord Shi. I’m fine now. I took the liberty to come over today to thank you and Eldest Miss Yu personally..”

Chapter 458: Talk in Private

With that, he couldn’t help but glance at Eldest Miss Yu.

Eldest Miss Yu sat beside Old Madam Yu, and a faint smile appeared on her lips. He looked at it carefully. That smile was light and beautiful, making him happy. It was faint and clear, and the smile did not reach her eyes.

Old Madam Yu shook her head and smiled. “Since you’re fine, let’s stop talking about these bad things. Don’t say thank you. You called me Grandmother Yu, and I’ve been watching you grow up since you were young. Naturally, I hope that you’ll be well. Now that you’re fine, I feel relieved.”

These words were not completely polite, and they were sincere.

Even though Song Mingzhao was indifferent, he couldn’t help but feel his heart skip a beat.

“Grandmother Song, you’re right. However, Mingzhao has accepted Eldest Miss’s life-saving grace. We have to thank her.”

Old Madam Yu waved her hand.

However, Yu Youyao said, “Heir Song, you don’t have to be so polite. Although

I was the one who made the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill, since I gave it to Grandmother, it belongs to her. It’s also Grandmother’s own wish to give it away. I naturally don’t dare to take credit. As for the favor of saving your life, it’s too much. Heir Song, please don’t mention it again in the future.”

The Zhenguo Marquis Residence's favor could be acknowledged, but there was no need to raise it to the level of saving his life. In case it was unclear with Song Mingzhao, it was better to make it clear early on.

Her casual words would cut the connection with Song Mingzhao.

Song Mingzhao felt suffocated for no reason. "Although I'm not talented, I can still distinguish between gratitude and grudges. However, Eldest Miss is unwilling to take credit. I naturally accept your kindness."

In other words, it was her business whether she admitted it or not.

At this point, Yu Youyao also felt sick of it.

Old Madam Yu tilted her head to look at her granddaughter and changed the topic. She asked Song Mingzhao, "How's your grandmother's health recently?"

Song Mingzhao nodded. "It was also Eldest Miss Yu who recommended a very capable female doctor nanny to Third Sister. She recuperated carefully for a few days and her health improved every day."

The female doctor nanny used to work in the Imperial Pharmacy with Nanny Xu, who was by Eldest Miss Yu's side.

If it weren't for Nanny Xu's recommendation, it wouldn't have been easy to hire such a powerful and reliable female doctor nanny. Since he was here today, he naturally had to mention it.

As soon as she spoke, Yao Yao was implicated. Old Madam Yu couldn't help but take a few more glances at Song Mingzhao. "That's great. When you're old, you have to recuperate carefully."

After that, Song Mingzhao chatted with Old Madam Yu for a while.

Yu Youyao did not interrupt and only sat and listened.

About an hour later, Song Mingzhao excused himself, saying that he had just recovered from a serious illness.

Old Madam Yu turned to her granddaughter and said, "Send Mingzhao off for me."

Yu Youyao replied in a low voice, "Yes." Then, she stood up and walked up to Song Mingzhao. She said politely, "Heir Song, please."

The two of them left An Shou Hall one after another without saying a word.

Song Mingzhao deliberately slowed down, but Yu Youyao was still a step behind him.

Song Mingzhao felt frustrated and suddenly stopped walking.

Yu Youyao stopped a step behind him and called out politely, "Heir Song?"

Song Mingzhao took a deep breath and turned around. "I think the scenery of the Yu Residence along the way is not bad, so I'll have to trouble Eldest Miss Yu to bring me around."

Ever since he was young, his father had sent him to the Precious Peace Temple to study in peace. There were many people from the Yu Residence, but every time, they would come over to visit their elders. He had really never walked around in the Yu Residence.

Yu Youyao was unwilling, but she couldn't refuse.

Just as she was about to agree, she saw Yu Jianjia walking over in small steps

Dressed in a soft and glossy pearl brocade, she was so fair that she looked noble and elegant. Under the sunlight, she looked delicate and beautiful.

Yu Youyao swallowed the words she was about to say.

Seeing her strange expression, Song Mingzhao turned to take a look.

Yu Jianjia had already approached. She bent down slightly, making her figure look even more slender and delicate. "Jia Jia greets Eldest Sister." She looked up at Song Mingzhao and greeted him gently, "Hello, Heir Song!"

Her voice was gentle and mellow, but Song Mingzhao looked at Yu Youyao. "This is?"

He knew that other than Yu Youyao, there were two other young misses of the same age in the main branch of the Yu Residence. He did not know which one of them here.

Yu Jianjia's body stiffened, and she immediately did not know how to react.

The Song and Yu families were close friends. Although Song Mingzhao did not come to the Yu Residence often, with the close relationship between the two families, it was impossible for him not to recognize her!

Even Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. Her deepest impression of Song Mingzhao was still in her nightmare. Song Mingzhao had gone crazy for Yu Jianjia.

However, in reality, Yu Jianjia was standing in front of him, and he actually did not recognize her!

Yu Youyao was a little stunned. "This is my third sister. As her body is a little weak, she's raised in the house and rarely comes out to see anyone. Therefore, Heir Song doesn't recognize her."

Everyone knew that Yu Jianjia's body was weak. It was obvious after asking around. Moreover, she did not care about it and often dressed up as sickly. Initially, she had only said those words out of goodwill to help Yu Jianjia out. However, when Yu Jianjia heard them, she felt that Yu Youyao had ill intentions and had deliberately said that her health was not good in front of Heir Song.

Yu Jianjia lowered her eyes.

Song Mingzhao's expression was indifferent. "Third Miss, greetings."

Just as Yu Jianjia was about to open her mouth to chat with Song Mingzhao, he had already turned to look at Yu Youyao. He was about to mention walking around the Yu Residence again.

Yu Youyao was the first to smile and say, "There are still many things to do at home, so I will ask my third sister to bring you around the residence. Please don't blame me for not entertaining you well."

Song Mingzhao's expression darkened.

He knew that Yu Youyao's stepmother was seriously ill. Now that she was in charge of the Yu Residence, it was understandable for her to use the excuse of being busy. However, was Yu Youyao really busy and did not have time to bring him around the Yu Residence, or she was unwilling at all...

Although she did not understand what Yu Youyao was up to, she was still very willing to bring Song Mingzhao around the residence.

At the thought of this, Yu Jianjia added, "Grandmother is old, and Mother is seriously ill. Eldest Sister has to manage all the big and small matters, so she's very busy. If Heir Song doesn't mind, I'll..."

Halfway through his sentence, Song Mingzhao suddenly felt frustrated. He did not even look at Yu Jianjia, who was looking at him sincerely and beautifully, as he stared at Yu Youyao without blinking.

'Eldest Miss Yu, can we talk in private?'

Yu Jianjia's face turned pale, and her lips couldn't help but tremble slightly.

The Derson who had looked delicate iust now immediatelv swaved and looked sickly and pitiful.

She was standing in front of Song Mingzhao.

However, Song Mingzhao acted as if he couldn't see her.

It was fine if he hadn't recognized her just now. After all, although she had seen Song Mingzhao a few times, she had never known him personally..

Chapter 459: Stormy Waves

However, after the greeting just now, they could be considered to have gotten to know each other. Song Mingzhao did not even say anything extra to her. He did not even look at her directly before talking to Yu Youyao again.

It was as if she didn't exist at all.

Song Mingzhao was a young master of an aristocratic family after all. He had learned poetry, books, and etiquette since he was young. How could he be so rude?

How was that possible?!

Yu Youyao must be behind this. Otherwise, why would Yu Youyao, who had always been distant from her, suddenly ask her to bring Song Mingzhao around the residence?

Yu Youyao clearly knew that only Song Mingzhao had just met her. It seemed reasonable for Song Mingzhao to reject this suggestion.

Yu Youyao had deliberately set her up to embarrass her in front of Song Mingzhao.

No one cared about Yu Jianjia's awkwardness, unwillingness, and disappointment.

To Song Mingzhao, the Third Miss of the Yu Residence was just a title.

He did not even see her face clearly. In the depths of his heart, he vaguely disliked Yu Jianjia's sudden appearance, giving Yu Youyao a chance to use the excuse of being busy to push him to Yu Jianjia.

Song Mingzhao stared at Yu Youyao with a dark gaze.

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment before she reacted. She hesitated for a moment. "Heir Song, if you have anything to say, say it here." She glanced at

Yu Jianjia and added, "My third sister is not an outsider."

She wasn't familiar with Song Mingzhao, so there was nothing she couldn't say to him.

At this point, Song Mingzhao couldn't force her. He stared at Yu Youyao and said, "I have something to say to your sister. Third Miss, please leave for a moment."

He did not have any other impression of Yu Jianjia. He only felt that this Third Miss of the Yu Residence did not know her limits. When he opened his mouth to speak, as a smart person, she should avoid him.

Yu Jianjia looked at Song Mingzhao in disbelief.

Even when talking to her, Song Mingzhao only looked at Yu Youyao and never looked at her directly. What was even more outrageous was that this was the Yu Residence. Song Mingzhao was a guest, but he actually asked her to leave.

It was as if she was the one who had no sense of propriety.

Yu Jianjia had never been treated so coldly since she was young. For a moment, she couldn't take it anymore, and her thin figure couldn't help but tremble slightly.

However, since Song Mingzhao had already spoken, even though she felt uncomfortable and dissatisfied, she could only force a smile. "Heir Song, have a good chat. I..." She pursed her lips. When she let go, her pink and white lips trembled slightly. "I'm about to go to Grandmother's house to greet her, so I won't disturb you and Sister."

After barely saying this, she fled towards the north courtyard.

Yu Youyao was a little displeased. Song Mingzhao spoke if he had something to say. He was clearly a guest, but he wanted to overshadow her and make Yu Jianjia feel awkward.

Of course, she did not care about Yu Jianjia.

Yu Youyao was simply dissatisfied with Song Mingzhao's attitude. "Heir Song, just say what you have to say. There's no need to be mysterious, lest others misunderstand."

Although with her and Song Mingzhao's age, even if they said a few words alone in the open area of the residence under the eyes of the elders, no bad words would spread.

However, men and women sat at different seats at seven years old. On one hand, she could get close to her cousin because he was in her family. On the other hand, she wanted to get close to him. She had never cared about many taboos between men and women. She just had to be careful not to let her elders know.

However, she wanted to hide as far as she could when she saw Song Mingzhao.

No matter what, Yu Youyao should not be too conflicted about the nightmare.

Since she had that nightmare, it was fate. Since it was bad karma, why should she get involved? Did she think that her life was too good?

Her attitude was still considered polite, but the words she said were indeed not polite. Song Mingzhao did not mind and only asked, “Miss Yao, may I ask if your courtesy name is Zhi Yao? It means that your beauty is second to none!”

Yu Youyao’s heart was in turmoil. Even her grip on her handkerchief tightened slightly, but she tried her best to maintain her expression. She frowned and said

“Heir Song, what nonsense are you talking about? The true name of a girl is bestowed by her elders. She can’t tell anyone except her family. Heir Song is from a famous family and has been familiar with poetry and books since he was young. Isn’t it too rude to ask?”

A young lady’s courtesy name had to be written on the invitation along with her birth characters and exchanged with her in-laws.

Her mother had obtained her courtesy name for her when she was on her deathbed. Only her grandmother, cousin, and herself knew about it. No one else did.

It was impossible for her grandmother to tell anyone about such a private matter, and she had never told anyone except her cousin, let alone him.

Therefore!

How did Song Mingzhao know her courtesy name?

Could it be that Yu Youyao suddenly remembered many strange things about Song Mingzhao vomiting blood and fainting? Could it be that he had the same nightmare as her?

Yu Youyao was suddenly horrified. She kept feeling that this nightmare was a little unusual.

She did not say yes or no. There was nothing wrong with her emotions. Her angry attitude seemed to be a normal reaction, but Song Mingzhao had an intuition.

“Zhi Yao” was Yu Youyao’s courtesy name.

The voice in his nightmare could not be heard clearly. The girl with a blurry appearance was very likely Yu Youyao.

During the few days when he was unconscious, he repeatedly heard the young girl’s voice in his dream. “Song Mingzhao, my courtesy name, Zhi Yao, was given to me by my mother before she died. It means that my beauty is second to none”

The young girl’s voice was like a delicate oriole’s, and her voice entered his ears.

It was clearly so unforgettable, but he couldn’t hear it clearly. He clearly wanted to hear it more clearly and see her clearly.

However, what appeared in front of her was always the girl's bloodstained and thin voice cursing, "Song Mingzhao, you won't die a good death. I curse you to live in prosperity and enjoy a hundred years of loneliness alone. You can't love, and you can't ask for it. You'll rather die. Song Mingzhao, I hate you..."

Such a beautiful girl had cursed him with the most vicious curse in the world. He couldn't help but feel heartache and despair, hoping that he would never wake up.

Later on, he vaguely seemed to hear Yu Youyao's voice.

A voice in his heart kept reminding him, "Song Mingzhao, wake up. You have to wake up..."

He was awake!

After opening his eyes, the first thing he did was look at the entire room. Other than the maidservants, there was only his mother guarding him.

He suspected that he had heard wrongly when he was unconscious.

However, her mother was extremely excited. "Mingzhao, Mingzhao, you're awake. Thank goodness you're finally awake. To think that I went to the Yu Residence to ask for the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill..."

He had only woken up after forcing himself as he was weak. After a moment, he couldn't hold on anymore and was about to faint again.. However, when he heard his mother mention the Yu Residence...

Chapter 460: Rude

Song Mingzhao barely managed to hold on to his weakness. "Y-Yu Residence? What happened?"

Her mother hurriedly got someone to bring over the ginseng soup. As she fed it to him, she said, "You were unconscious for three days and three nights. You had a high fever and vomited blood. Lord Shi mentioned that the Fourth Young Master of the Yu Residence had drowned previously and was also unconscious. It was Eldest Miss Yu who took out the Musk Medicinal

Fragrance Pill that she made and kept him alive. I was anxious and afraid, but I had no choice That is why I bravely went to the Yu Residence to ask for the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill. Old Madam and Eldest Miss Yu were also benevolent. Without a word, they gave up the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill and even followed me to help treat you..."

His mother said many words of gratitude and relief, but Song Mingzhao did not listen.

His mind was filled with thoughts of how Yu Youyao had treated a child with asthma on Chang'an Street a while ago. When he was in critical condition, it was also Yu Youyao who had entered the residence to help treat him.

When he was unconscious, he had heard Yu Youyao's voice and hadn't heard wrongly.

She had really been there.

Song Mingzhao only took a few sips of the ginseng soup and fainted again.

In the nightmare, the girl whose voice couldn't be heard clearly and whose face was blurry was very likely Yu Youyao.

Song Mingzhao didn't say anything and kept looking at her.

His deep gaze made Yu Youyao feel a little suffocated. "On account of the fact that the Song and Yu families are long-time friends, I won't hold it against you for being rude today, but please respect yourself, Young Master Song."

A girl's courtesy name was a very private matter. It was already rude for Song Mingzhao to ask on the spot.

Indecent!

A well-mannered and polite woman did not answer yes or no. Instead, she had to consider if this question was appropriate before deciding if she could answer.

It was obvious!

Song Mingzhao's words were too rude, so there was no need for her to answer.

Not only that, she couldn't pretend that nothing had happened after he had been rude.

Song Mingzhao knew that he had angered Yu Youyao, and his face turned slightly pale. "Miss Yao, I was rude just now. Please forgive me if I've offended you."

He had not wanted to be rude to Yu Youyao, but Yu Youyao's attitude towards him was too distant and cold. He was even a little anxious.

For some reason, ever since Yu Youyao's third sister appeared, he felt even more frustrated.

On impulse, he asked the question that had been buried in his heart.

Song Mingzhao regretted it very much. After this incident, Yu Youyao would probably distance herself from him even more. She would probably think that he was rude and had an undeserved reputation.

Yu Youyao stopped in her tracks and said calmly, "I still have something to do, so I won't send you out. Please help yourself."

With that, she quickened her pace and left Song Mingzhao behind.

It wasn't until she entered the north courtyard that Yu Youyao took a deep breath and calmed down. After Song Mingzhao found out about her courtesy name, the shock in her heart suddenly rose.

Yu Youyao calmed down a little. It was just a courtesy name. If he knew, it did not mean anything.

The Song and Yu families were family friends. Song Mingzhao probably wouldn't make things difficult for her because of her name.

Besides, she did not admit that her courtesy name was Zhi Yao!

It was impossible for Song Mingzhao to confirm it with her grandmother, so nothing would change.

Most importantly, she had yet to reach the age of adulthood. Although she had a courtesy name, it had yet to be officially decided. If Song Mingzhao wanted to use her name to cause trouble, she would slap him in the face.

When she reached adulthood, she would change it to something else.

With a countermeasure in mind, Yu Youyao calmed down and returned to An Shou Hall.

Old Madam Yu pointed at the gifts piled up on the table. "These are all gifts from Heir Song. As an elder, it's not good for me to accept his things. Keep them yourself!"

She could tell that Yao Yao was very distant from Song Mingzhao.

With the relationship between the Song and Yu families, although Yu Yaoyao and Song Mingzhao did not have a strong friendship, they were still close. It did not matter if they were closer.

However!

Thinking about how Song Mingzhao had asked his father to send him to the Precious Peace Temple to study since he was young, the two children had never interacted with each other before. Although they had met a few times in the past, they had only interacted this time when Song Mingzhao was unconscious.

It seemed to make sense that they were unfamiliar with each other.

There was no hurry. Some things still had to progress slowly.

After returning to the Jade Courtyard, Yu Youyao handed the thank-you gift from Song Mingzhao to Nanny Xu and did not care much about it.

After Nanny Xu registered it, she showed it to her. "It's all expensive medicinal herbs and spices. In addition, there's a purple-gold cloud-patterned inkstone from Langya Mountain in Shandong."

Yu Youyao was a little surprised.

In addition to the unprecedentedly rare red silk inkstone in Shandong, there was also a strange stone called the purple gold stone. The great scholar, Su

Shi, happened to obtain a purple gold inkstone and instructed his son to wait for his death to be buried with it.

The main source of purple gold stone was in Anhui, and there was only a small amount in Shandong. As for which of the two sources was of better quality, there were many opinions, but there was no conclusion.

It was fine for ordinary items to be stored after they were registered, but expensive items had to be reviewed by their masters before entering the residence.

Nanny Xu handed over the sandalwood box with the purple-gold cloud-patterned inkstone.

The lid of the box was open. Yu Youyao immediately saw the purple-gold inkstone. It was reddish-purple and smooth. It was carved in the shape of a jade Ruyi and had cloud patterns. Its design was simple and elegant. Compared to the freshness of the red silk inkstone, the purple-gold inkstone was plump and natural, and it was a little heavier.

Yu Youyao only admired it for a while and did not even touch it. She said,

"Keep it!"

Nanny Xu looked at the red silk inkstone on the desk.

The red silk inkstone and the purple and gold inkstone each had their own styles.

Yu Youyao's treatment of them was worlds apart.

Yu Youyao did not mention anything about the origins of the red silk inkstone. The people around her were also familiar with the strange things in her hands, so they did not suspect anything.

However, Yu Youyao's love for the red silk inkstone made it not difficult for

Nanny Xu to guess that Zhou Linghuai had given it to her.

After Song Mingzhao's episode, the Yu Residence regained its peace.

Nanny Liu was in charge of the matters in the Rain Autumn Courtyard, so Yu Youyao did not interfere anymore.

Concubine Qiu was a smart person and did not use the pregnancy to cause trouble in the residence.

Unknowingly, Concubine Qiu had been pregnant for three months. This pregnancy was finally stable. As long as Concubine Qiu recuperated obediently, there would most likely be no problem with this pregnancy.

Madam Yao received the news immediately and brought a lot of supplements to visit Concubine Qiu.

Old Madam Yu heaved a sigh of relief. "Ancestors, please bless us. I hope this pregnancy will go smoothly."

Seeing that Concubine Qiu was still quite honest, she picked another talented aunt from the clan to teach her some manners and literature.

Concubine Qiu was indeed a smart person.

She had long known that back then that Master had taken a fancy to her mainly because she was proficient in literature and calligraphy. After becoming a concubine, she read and wrote a lot. She was really talented..