

All Hail 461

Chapter 461: Release of the Rankings

In that case, Concubine Qiu was really a useful person.

However, Old Madam Yu frowned and said to Nanny Liu in private, “I originally thought that Concubine Qiu was a smart person, so I invited her over. In the future, when she visits the family, it’ll be logical to guide and take care of her. No one will underestimate our family just because she’s a concubine. However, not only is Concubine Qiu smart, but she’s also shrewd.

With her personality, I’m afraid she’s ambitious.”

Nanny Liu smiled and said, “I think Concubine Qiu’s status is a little low. Even if she’s a little shrewd, she’s still easy to manipulate.”

This was the truth. Old Madam Yu relaxed a little. “It’s just that Concubine Qiu is pregnant, so she can’t serve Eldest Son. It’s not good for Eldest Son to keep sleeping alone. This is against the rules. In the future, Concubine Qiu will have to help Yao Yao manage the household. The family is busy, so she can’t serve

Eldest Son wholeheartedly. We still have to find a good concubine for him.” At the thought of this, she couldn’t avoid taking in concubines.

Although there were a few potential concubines in the family and they were all decent-looking, their statuses were too low, and they did not have any children for Eldest Son, so it was naturally not appropriate for them to be concubines.

Concubine Qiu was an exception and was promoted because her ancestors were also from a poetic family.

In less than two days, Old Madam Yu looked for Yu Youyao and mentioned this matter.

Yu Youyao had long guessed this situation. She only smiled and said, “I don’t know much about this either. Grandmother has to step in.”

A mother knew her son best. Her grandmother had always known Yu Zongzheng’s preferences, so she would definitely choose someone that Yu Zongzheng liked.

Old Madam Yu nodded. “I’ll just choose the daughter of an official’s concubine. Her status can’t be too high. Otherwise, she’ll offend the main wife and others will think that our family dotes on our concubines and undermines the wife. It won’t be good for our reputation, but her status can’t be too low, lest we embarrass your father.”

Although her status would be greater than Concubine Qiu’s, Concubine Qiu was pregnant. No matter if it was a girl or not, she could still suppress a new concubine. Both of them were concubines, and neither of them was more dignified than the other. It was suitable.

However, this matter could not be rushed.

At the end of August) the palace examination that had been delayed finally released the rankings.

Early in the morning, the two families of the Yu Residence were dressed neatly and waiting in An Shou Hall to hear the news.

Yu Shande couldn't wait to run out early in the morning to see the Imperial Rankings.

The family waited anxiously.

Old Madam Yu couldn't even hold it in anymore. Seeing that there was still no news from noon, she couldn't sit still anymore. "Why aren't our family members here yet?"

Madam Yao hurriedly said) "Old Madam, don't be anxious. Every time the rankings are released, there are tens of thousands of people in the capital.

Even ordinary citizens have to see Imperial Rankings to watch the commotion. Perhaps there are too many people and they don't fancy it for a moment. Wait a little longer."

The servant who went out to look at the rankings at home went to Chang'an Street at dawn to wait for the Imperial Rankings to be posted.

If their family was like this, others would definitely be the same.

The Imperial Rankings venue was only so big. It couldn't be seen from afar, and it wasn't easy to get close when there were many people.

Every three years, Old Madam Yu had to experience this. How could she not know this? It was inevitable that she would be very anxious.

Yu Youyao handed her a cup of lotus seed tea. "Some people will wait for the Imperial Rankings until it gets dark. It's still early. Grandmother, have some tea to calm yourself down."

Old Madam Yu had yet to finish her cup of tea when...

The servant boy, who had been sent out by the family to look at the rankings, ran into An Shou Hall while panting. Perhaps because he was too anxious, he did not stop in time and knelt on the ground with a thud.

Old Madam Yu quickly put down her teacup and stood up from her chair. She quickly asked, "How's our family's examination ranking?"

The servant ran into An Shou Hall in one breath. He was panting heavily.

When he heard Old Madam's question, he did not dare to delay anymore. "Reporting, reporting to Old Madam..."

As he was panting too hard, he started panting again before he could finish speaking.

Madam Yao was so anxious that she couldn't help but stomp her feet. "Why are you panting? Old Madam is still waiting for you to speak."

Although no one from the residence had participated in the imperial examination this time, four people from the clan had participated in the palace examination. This was also a joyous matter for the Yu Residence.

Anyone else would be anxious.

Yu Youyao quickly said, "Grandmother, Second Aunt, don't be anxious. Let's wait until he's finished panting."

As soon as she finished speaking, the servant was already panting. He hurriedly said, “Old Madam, Second Madam, Eldest Miss, our family did well. Young Master De is ranked 18th, Young Master Qing is ranked 76th, and Young Master Xing is ranked 97th in the second class.”

Even the worst was ranked 32nd in the third class!

Old Madam Yu was momentarily emotional and couldn't help but tear up. ‘Good, good. Four people from the clan have advanced after the palace examination this time. It's already a blessing. I didn't expect that their rankings would be so high. Three of them are in the top 100. This is really the blessing of our ancestors...’

With Yu Shande's ranking, he would definitely be able to be a scholar and enter the Hanlin Academy. Perhaps in the future, the Yu Residence would have another important cabinet minister.

The others' rankings were not low either. Their futures would definitely not be bad.

Only when the younger generation was successful could they protect their ancestors' foundation and help the aristocratic families prosper.

Madam Yao quickly comforted her, “It's an auspicious day to receive the rankings. It's a good day for our ancestors. Our Yu family's future is bright!”

Old Madam Yu quickly pinched her handkerchief and gently pressed the corner of her eye. She smiled and said, “I'm too happy. I'm old and my eye sockets are shallow. I'm not as steady as you young people.”

The talents of the Yu Clan had withered. It was only after Second Brother had passed the examination that she had seen hope for the Yu Clan to prosper. That was why she had spared no effort to plan for Second Brother.

Everyone felt that she was too scheming. Her eldest son was separated from her, and her second son was also separated from her.

But how could they know?!

Before Old Master died, he held her hand and kept telling her to raise her sons well and bring glory to her ancestors. Only when she agreed did he take his last breath.

At that time, she did not know how heavy this last request and promise was.

When she became a widow and guarded a huge courtyard, no one in the family could answer the door. No one could support the family, so it was almost impossible for her to move forward.

At the most difficult time, there were even people in the clan who bullied her as a widowed mother, and wanted a share of her wealth.

She was the one who had carried Old Master's memorial tablet to the Yu Clan's ancestral hall and hung her neck in front of Duke Zhonglie's memorial tablet. When she was saved, she was only left with half her life.

Only then did she scare the people in the clan and alarm a few old granduncles, finally saving the family business.

However, even so, the Yu Residence was still distant from the clan. Only she knew how difficult it was for a widow to not have the support of the clan..

Chapter 462: Top Four Advanced Scholars

It wasn't until her eldest son and second son were on the rankings one after another that she felt proud.

She had endured for so many years not for the Yu Residence or the Yu Clan.

It was for her sons and a promise to Old Master.

Now that there were promising juniors in the Yu Clan, she could now take a breather.

Seeing that Old Madam Yu was a little sad, Madam Yao smiled and said, "Tomorrow, the second branch will step in and hold a banquet to reward them."

A lucky scholar could choose a residence and study in the Hanlin Academy for three years. He was a close confidant of the emperor and was in charge of drafting decrees and explaining scriptures to the emperor.

The current Cabinet Grand Secretary, Xia Yansheng, was from a noble family.

It was obvious that Yu Shande had a very bright future.

Such a joyous event should be celebrated. Moreover, it would be more logical for the second branch to step in. It would also be more glorious and dignified. Not only would the Yu Residence's reputation rise, but also for Yu Shande's future.

At that time, the people who would be invited would all be Yu Shande and the others' future connections.

Old Madam Yu patted Madam Yao's hand. "Okay, okay, okay. Let's do it like this. We have to be lively. Our family hasn't been lively for a long time." Yu Youyao agreed wholeheartedly.

Her grandmother was a widow, so the Yu Residence kept a very low profile, unlike other families that had a small banquet every three days and a big banquet every five days. Even if there was no joyous occasion, they had to forcefully create one.

As the family was talking, the sound of gongs and drums came from outside

Old Madam Yu perked up. "The famous runner must have arrived. Let's go quickly to the door."

Madam Yao quickly helped Old Madam Yu out.

Yu Youyao and the others followed behind.

Yu Shuangbai had been holding back her words for a long time. When she felt uncomfortable, she moved closer to Yu Youyao. "I wonder how Brother De and the others did?"

Yu Youyao thought for a moment. "The imperial examination is like a thousand troops crossing a single bridge. It's already not easy to pass."

After making many turns along the corridor, they finally arrived outside. A few bailiffs had red belts around their waists and surrounded the high-spirited Yu Shande. They beat gongs and drums all the way to the entrance of the Yu Residence. Behind them were many commoners who were watching the commotion, as well as servants from other families who were trying to gather information. It was extremely lively.

When they saw Old Madam, a servant hurriedly said, "Congratulations, Old Madam. It's a joyous day in your residence. Yu Shande is ranked 18th..."

When the people who were following behind to watch the commotion heard that he was ranked 18th, praises sounded one after another. This ranking was definitely top-notch.

Old Madam Yu smiled so widely that her wrinkles appeared. "Thank you for coming all the way here to report the good news."

Then, Nanny Liu took a step forward and stuffed a few bulging money bags into the servant's hands with a smile. "Masters, take this and drink..."

The servant picked up the money bag and his smile became even more solicitous.

The butler politely sent him off.

The Yu Residence took the prepared candy, pastries, dried fruits, and so on. They also distributed 500 yuan to the commoners who had followed the servants over to watch the fun, so that they could also bask in the joy of the residence.

When the commoners received the food, they couldn't bear to eat it themselves. They wanted to bring it home and distribute it to their promising descendants so that they could bask in the joy of this literary celebration. Perhaps they would be smarter.

After receiving the food and reward money, all kinds of joyous words did not

It was also lively in front of the Yu Residence.

Not long after, another servant came to report another name. This time, it was Yu Shanqing, who was ranked 76th in the second grade. The lively group immediately surrounded the Yu Residence.

Four people from the Yu Residence had passed the examination in a row. The famous runners had come to visit repeatedly, and it had even become news in the capital. When the commoners received the news, they ran around to spread it..

"One of them succeeded because their ancestors burned incense. Two of them? Their family must have accumulated good karma. Four of them succeeded in a row..."

"Isn't that so? Second Master Yu is ranked on the leaderboard. Now, he's even a cabinet aide. Tsk tsk tsk, the Yu Residence is really impressive!"

"I heard that their Old Madam eats vegetarian food and prays to Buddha all year round. She's a Bodhisattva-hearted person. Also, Eldest Miss Yu is a kind person. My aunt's youngest son accidentally had asthma. Even the doctor in the medical center said that he couldn't be saved. He was coincidentally passed by by the young miss who sacrificed a powerful medicine to save his life. My aunt is also a grateful person, so she went around asking about her benefactor. Later, she found out from the doctor in the medical center that her benefactor was the Eldest Miss of the Yu Residence."

“Good intentions are rewarded. No wonder four family members are ranked on the same ranking...”

On such a good day, as long as someone congratulated them, they would be rewarded.

After a busy day, the residence was finally quiet.

Yu Youyao had prepared a family banquet. When Yu Zongzheng and Yu Zongshen returned, the family gathered together to celebrate Yu Shande’s name on the Golden Ranking List.

The capital became lively, and there was an endless stream of invitations.

The first branch had also received many invitations. Yu Youyao tried her best to decline them if she could. If she couldn’t, she would go through the motions with Second Aunt, Madam Yao. Nothing bad happened.

The Invitation to the Yu Residence’s Banquet was also sent out. The feast was arranged for September 10th.

Time passed unhurriedly.

As Old Madam Yu was a widow, the Yu Residence did not have many people.

Therefore, the two branches of the Yu Residence had always kept a low profile and rarely held banquets. This time, four people from the Yu Residence were on the rankings. Even though it was not surprising that the second branch was holding a banquet, it still caused a commotion.

Yu Zongshen was the second-in-command of the cabinet. Just his status alone made everyone in the capital want to curry favor with him, let alone anyone with discerning eyes. He was also the successor nurtured by Elder Xia.

Whose role would he take over?

He would be taking over as the Grand Secretary. Xia Yansheng was already in his seventies and would resign in a few years.

This banquet was not like a small family banquet.

After the rankings were released, the Yu Residence prepared to celebrate.

Madam Yao was discussing the banquet with Old Madam Yu. “There are more than a hundred people who have officially received an invitation. They have to bring their families along. I reckon many people from the clan will also come.

With Master’s status, even if he doesn’t receive an invitation, many people will still come uninvited. On such a good day, we can’t refuse.”

“In that case, we have to arrange at least 30 tables. We also have to reserve five tables in case we’re not prepared and make a fool of ourselves.”

“As there are more people, it’s inevitable that there will be chaos. The male guests will be greeted in the second house, and there will probably be more female guests. We’ll have to trouble Old Madam and Yao Yao to greet them in the main house.”

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she knew that her second daughter-in-law had a plan in mind, so she nodded. "Let's do it this way. I'll have to trouble you to manage it during this period of time. If you're too busy, bring Yao Yao and Shuangbai along. They're a little young, but they can still do some small things.."

Chapter 463: Creating Trouble

When other families encountered such a big banquet, it would be a family of daughters-in-law working together to settle this matter.

Their family was small to begin with, and Madam Yang was useless in the Tranquil Heart Residence. She was also old, so she could only talk. Madam Yao had to arrange everything, so how could she be busy alone?

Madam Yao had the same intention. She joked, "Shuangbai has only learned a little about managing the family from Nanny. I'm afraid she won't be able to help much. On the other hand, Yao Yao is young, but she's good at managing the household. When the time comes, there will be many things that we have to trouble her with. If she orders people around until they're tired, you can't blame us."

It was a half-joke.

However, the meaning was clear. Holding a banquet was completely different from Yu Youyao's small dinners at home. It was inevitable that it would be difficult. The more things there were, the more troublesome it would be. There would definitely be some mistakes.

It was better to get straight to the point.

Old Madam Yu was a smart person. No matter how polite her words were, she could tell that something was amiss. "When someone comes to your side, it's your own business how they're arranged. Don't look for me if something goes wrong. Your sister-in-law is sick. In the future, we'll have to rely on Yao Yao for family matters. Bring her along and let her learn well."

Madam Yao was relieved to hear that.

After discussing everything with Old Madam Yu, it was basically settled.

Yu Jianjia listened from the side, feeling upset.

It was such a big matter in the family, but Old Madam and Madam Yao actually let Yu Youyao and Yu Shuangbai participate. As the Third Miss of the Yu Residence, she was sitting here without saying a word.

Yu Jianjia couldn't help but glance at Yu Youyao, her mouth full of bitterness. "Grandmother, after recuperating in the manor for a few months, my health has improved a lot. Although I can't help manage such a big matter at home, I can still help with some small tasks."

It was rare for the family to hold a banquet, and it was a rare opportunity for her to show her face. She couldn't let Yu Youyao take all of the credit.

The corners of Yu Youyao's mouth curled up slightly as she glanced at Madam Yao.

Old Madam Yu hesitated.

This time, Yu Jianjia did not cough as often as before. She panted after taking a few steps. Imperial Physician Hu had also said that her health improved a lot.

Yao Yao and Shuangbai were both learning how to manage the household, so she couldn't favor one over the other.

Yu Jianjia couldn't do anything heavy, but she could do something lighter...

Madam Yao could tell what Old Madam was thinking, so she smiled and said, "Third Miss's body is a little weak. How can this banquet be light? You should recuperate carefully, lest you tire yourself out and the family's heart will ache." Yu Jianjia was an obedient and sensible child. If she helped, there probably wouldn't be any mistakes.

However, Yu Jianjia had just recovered a little. If she fell sick again, no matter what, as her elder, she would definitely not be able to escape.

Wouldn't it be unlucky to ruin such a good recovery?

If they delayed the banquet, wouldn't that cause trouble?

How could Old Madam Yu not tell that Madam Yao was clearly unwilling to involve Yu Jianjia? She could only say, "Your second aunt is right. It's more important to recuperate carefully." Worried that Yu Jianjia would think that she was biased) she added, "Seventh Aunt who is taking care of you is a capable person. She's good at managing the household. Learn from her carefully. When you recover in two years, you can help your eldest sister manage the household."

Madam Yao was just short of saying that her health wasn't good and she should not go out to cause trouble.

Yu Jianjia hated her in her heart, but she couldn't find anything to refute. She couldn't help but bite her lip and lower her head in disappointment. "Grandmother is right."

As for what Old Madam had said about helping Yu Youyao manage the household after she recovered a little...

She did not believe it at all.

So what if she said it nicely? In her heart, Yu Youyao was the most important.

Yu Jianjia looked at Madam Yao and said apologetically, "Mother is seriously ill. Second Aunt is in charge of the banquet. I feel very apologetic, so I wanted to help. It's my fault for being insensible and making things difficult for Second Aunt."

She had been sick and weak since she was young. Every time she had a headache or fever, the entire family would care about her. Her father doted on her more because she was sick and weak.

No matter what she wanted, she only needed to cough a few times to achieve her goal.

If she had a conflict with her sisters at home, as long as she pretended to be sick, she would always be the one in the right.

As time passed, she became used to using her body to achieve her goals.

Her mother didn't think there was anything wrong.

It was only at this moment that she clearly realized what the words “weak body” meant. Even her family felt burdened. What would outsiders think of Madam Yao repeatedly expressed that she was only concerned about her health and had no other intentions.

Yu Youyao was not surprised by this outcome.

She took out the list that she had made and handed it to Madam Yao. “I saw that Second Aunt had been busy these past few days, so I took the initiative to list the crops that our family had planted in the farmstead near the suburbs of the capital. Second Aunt, take a look. If there’s no problem, you can use the things you need for the banquet from the farmstead first. If there’s nothing in the farmstead, you can arrange for someone to buy it now.”

Although the first and second branches had split up, there were only her father and second uncle in the Yu Residence and they had to help each other. Therefore, they kept a portion of the public assets under the joint management of the first and second branches.

Madam Yao couldn’t help but be stunned. She took a deep look at Yu Youyao and took the list.

Meat, vegetables, fruits, and so on were sorted one by one. The crops on the farm were ripe and the number of crops produced was recorded with the approximate number of them mixed.

After Madam Yao finished reading, she smiled and said, “Old Madam said that you’re proficient in general affairs, but I didn’t expect you to be such a capable person. You’ve already made preparations before the banquet at home is even held. This way, the family will save a lot of trouble. I’ll leave the work arranged from the manor to you.”

Since she could list everything in the manor so clearly, she was naturally relieved to leave this matter to Yu Youyao.

From this, it was obvious that Yu Youyao was capable.

Yu Youyao nodded. “Second Aunt, don’t worry.”

With the list of crops that Yu Youyao had listed, she could choose which dishes to make. Madam Yao called the stewards and kitchen maids of the first and second branches over without stopping to discuss the dishes on the table.

Look, this was what Yu Youyao was capable of.

Without this list, she would have to spend time doing it herself, and it would take a lot of time to prepare for the banquet.

The most important thing for the banquet was the banquet food. It was naturally more appropriate to prepare early.

This saved her a lot of trouble.

Madam Yao even said to Yu Youyao, “I heard that Mother Zhao from your small kitchen has been taught by Nanny Xu to make good medicinal cuisine.

Call her over too..”

Chapter 464: Banquet

In the past, Old Madam was sickly. Every few steps she took made people tremble in fear. They were worried that she would die before she could even catch her breath.

It was also because after Nanny Xu entered the residence that Yu Youyao had grown up. Not only did she have medicinal fragrance every day, but she also had the medicinal cuisine that Mother Zhao had specially prepared for her.

She had already recovered.

Good medicinal cuisine at the banquet was no greater dignity.

Yu Youyao smiled and agreed.

The group discussed for nearly two hours before they settled the banquet. “There are 18 dishes on the table, three soups, and two health-nourishing medicinal cuisine for the season. The meat and vegetables...”

Old Madam Yu listened.

Madam Yao was an elder, so naturally, the banquet had to be held conservatively.

Yu Youyao was younger and more meticulous. The two of them were smart people and discussed with each other. Not only did they look generous and proper, but they were also very meticulous.

If she had to do it herself, she probably wouldn't be able to do this.

Seeing that Yu Youyao was smart, Madam Yao smiled and said, “I have something else for you to do here. Don't think it's too hard.”

Yu Youyao smiled. “Second Aunt, just instruct me.”

Banquets were a common thing for the first and second branches. If she could do more, she would do more.

Madam Yao did not stand on ceremony. “I'll leave the tea, snacks, fruits, snacks, and so on to you. Bring Shuangbai along. She's greedy and can always come up with tricks in this aspect. I think she can help.”

Yu Shuangbai, who couldn't interrupt, pouted.

She kept feeling that she had been misconstrued by her biological mother.

Yu Youyao agreed happily. “Fifth Sister and Sixth Sister will also come over to help. When the time comes, we'll get Nanny Xu to help. There shouldn't be a problem. Second Aunt, don't worry.”

Madam Yao was originally worried about leaving such a big matter to Yu Youyao. She only felt that she was smart and should be able to take responsibility. When the time came, she could keep an eye on her.

Now that Yu Youyao had mentioned Nanny Xu, she was really relieved. “That's good. With Nanny Xu's help, it will definitely be appropriate.”

Nanny Xu's abilities were obvious to all. Not to mention the changes in Yu

Youyao, even Old Madam's health had improved because of the abilities Nanny Xu had taught Yu Youyao.

It would definitely be better if Nanny Xu could help with the banquet in the residence. However, Nanny Xu was not a servant of the residence. Even Old Madam could not easily order her around, so she naturally would not provoke her.

Yu Youyao had spoken because she was confident that Nanny Xu would agree. Naturally, she was happy to see it happen.

As for Lianyu and Fangfei, Yu Youyao did not mind that they were young and were happy to bring them along, so she naturally had no objections.

Now that everything had been arranged, she would have to spend a lot of effort to manage it.

Madam Yao called Yu Shuangbai over again. "Nanny Liu wants to arrange the personnel in the residence. Learn from her. If your eldest sister wants to arrange for tea and snacks, you have to help too. Don't be too playful."

During this period of time, Yu Shuangbai had improved a lot, and her studies had improved by leaps and bounds. She also had good manners. If she followed Nanny Liu, she could also learn how to manage the household.

Yu Shuangbai puffed up her cheeks and agreed.

Considering that there were not many people in the family, Madam Yao transferred some people over from the manor. Old Madam Yu was also personally in charge, and Madam Yao and Yu Youyao also helped out.

The house was in chaos, and they were so busy that their feet did not touch the ground.

On the tenth of September, the Yu Residence swept the courtyard early in the morning. The door was wide open, preparing to welcome the guests.

On the male guests' side, Yu Zongzheng led Yu Shande and the others, who were on the Golden Ranking List this time, to welcome guests at the Flowerfall Gate. Yu Zongshen was greeting them in the house with his eldest son, Yu Shanyan.

On the female guests' side, Madam Yao brought Yu Shuangbai out to welcome the guests. Yu Youyao and the Seventh Aunt of the clan greeted guests in the courtyard.

The Zhenguo Marquis Residence was the first to visit.

The Madam of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence and Third Madam Yu, Yu Miaofu, led the people of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence over. Song Wanhui and the other sisters in the family also followed.

Yu Youyao immediately went over to welcome them. After greeting the elders, she asked, "Grandmother Song, why are you here too? How can we trouble you with such a small matter in our family?"

Old Madam Song said bluntly, "You don't have many family members. It's inevitable that Second Madam Yu will be busy. With so many people around, there will be more trouble. I came to help out. Anyway, when I reach your house, I'll be served well. It won't tire me out."

Old Madam Song and her grandmother were famous in the capital. They were both respected elders. With them in charge of the residence, the banquet today would probably go more smoothly.

Yu Youyao quickly brought her to the guest courtyard.

When the two of them met, they naturally had a lot to say.

Yu Youyao continued to entertain the guests.

At this moment, the people from the Qi Residence arrived.

Old Madam Qi had also come over. The two families had always been close, so she probably had the same thoughts as Old Madam Song and came over to help suppress the situation.

When Old Madam Qi saw Yu Youyao, she was so curious. She was clearly a

guest at someone else's house, but she immediately took off the sea-green bracelet on her wrist and put it on her wrist without any explanation—

‘Good child, you’re becoming more and more like your mother, and your personality is as straightforward as hers. It’s really good. The medicinal tea and medicinal fragrance you sent previously are all top-notch things. I like them very much.’

Although the relationship between aristocratic families was a mix of closeness and distance, anyone who could get along was basically like having a gourd on a vine. Usually, when they gave gifts to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, other families couldn't avoid it.

Yu Youyao quickly said, “I originally wanted to make it to nourish

Grandmother's body. I saw that it was working well, so I sent some over. As long as Grandmother Qi likes it.”

Old Madam Qi knew that she was busy, so she did not hold her back and say too much.

When they arrived at the guest courtyard, Old Madam Yu's smile deepened when she saw her. “Old lady, why are you here too?”

Old Madam Qi smiled at Old Madam Yu. “I haven't received an invitation from your family for the past three to five years. It's really rare. How can I not come over to take a look?”

Old Madam Yu had also guessed why she was here. “Let me tell you, our family only has one daughter-in-law. Even our growing granddaughter has to help welcome guests. We don't have time to entertain you.”

As soon as she heard this, she knew that they were on very good terms.

Old Madam Qi rolled her eyes at her. “I'm not like the two of you who can manage things yourselves.”

Old Madam Qi was the oldest, but her health was also the best.

Yu Youyao then instructed the young maidservant who was serving tea. “Sixth Madam Qi likes cleanliness in her teacups, bowls, plates, and so on. She needs all kinds of utensils. You have to replace them with new ones in front of her.

Old Madam Qi likes the Red Tieganyin, and she doesn't like the Green Tieganyin, so don't get it wrong. You have to choose one with a strong fragrance.. First Madam Qi...”

Chapter 465: The Battle Begins

After the young maidservant noted it down, she quickly went out to greet the guests.

It wasn't until noon that all the guests finally arrived.

When guests came, they first had to greet their elders. As soon as the madams and young misses arrived at the guest courtyard and saw the three old madams sitting in the room, they consciously became reserved.

They had to explain carefully to their juniors, "The few old madams are all respected elders in the capital. They're all gathered in the Yu Residence today because they're giving the Yu Residence face. Your words and actions in the Yu Residence are all under their watch. You have to be careful with your words and actions. Don't cause trouble and embarrass them."

The adults had a rare solemn attitude. They had all been raised well, so they naturally knew the severity of the matter.

The Yu Residence treated the elders well.

The tea was according to everyone's taste, and there was nothing wrong.

The food was also meticulously arranged. There were many different dishes, and there were no different ones.

The elders gathered to listen to the show and chatted.

The juniors were also entertained by Yu Youyao.

Song Wanhui held a poetry recital and even asked the elders for a prize. A group of young misses gathered together to recite poetry. It was really a lively competition.

Qi Sinian started a chess game. The young misses who did not like crowds gathered together to play chess against Yi.

Those who weren't good at needlework chatted with Tang Yunxi.

Yu Jianjia also got to know a few people who liked flowers and plants and chatted about her experience in nurturing flowers.

Yu Shuangbai couldn't sit still. It was inevitable that she would meet people of the same background, so they went to the lotus lake to pick lotus pods.

When there were too many people, it was inevitable that there would be some quarrels. All the young misses knew their limits, so they naturally wouldn't make too much of a fuss. In addition, Yu Youyao was always on guard, so they didn't go overboard.

Unknowingly, it was time for the banquet.

The dishes on the table were also very sumptuous. In fact, there were also rules for banquets held by wealthy families. As each family walked over, they saw many different dishes. Whenever a family produced a good dish, people would compete to imitate it. The taste was different, but there was not much difference.

However, the dishes of the Yu Residence were very fresh.

They used the same ingredients to make different tastes. For example, a dish called “Three Dishes of Sea Cucumber”.

The first dish was sea cucumber cut into slices. They dipped it in the sauce and ate it. The taste was sweet and refreshing.

The second dish was fire garlic sea cucumber. It was stir-fried with fragrance, and the taste was a little heavier.

The third dish was sea cucumber medicinal soup, which was light and nourishing.

It was clearly three dishes, but they were fused to become one dish. People of different tastes could eat one dish, and they immediately received many praises.

After the banquet was over, the Yu Residence sent someone to send over medicinal tea for digestion.

The room was lit with incense, and the fragrance was deep and pleasant.

Unknowingly, it made people relax and gather to chat and laugh harmoniously.

It wasn't until seven o'clock that all the guests in the residence were sent out.

Yu Youyao was so tired that her feet were sore, but she still forced herself to stay awake. “Second Aunt, you've had a long day. Rest for a while. Leave the rest to me.”

She was tired, but Madam Yao was even more tired than her.

Madam Yao was indeed so tired that her head felt heavy. She thought about how the servants were in charge of cleaning up, and Yu Youyao was only in charge of commanding. It wasn't impossible to hand it over to her, so she said,

“Then I'll have to trouble Yao Yao.”

She had also understood what happened at this banquet.

Not only was Yu Youyao smart and magnanimous, but she was also very capable. The allocation of the dishes in the manor was done well and she did not make any mistakes. The arrangements for tea, snacks, fruits, and snacks were also very meticulous. When she greeted the guests, she heard many praises. Her family ate a lot of snacks.

She also entertained the young misses of the various residences well.

Nanny Xu brought over some medicinal cuisine. “Have some medicinal cuisine first to fill your stomach and recuperate. I'll bring Chun Xiao and Xia Tao to arrange the packing.”

Yao Yao had eaten five to six portions at the banquet just now. After the banquet, she was indeed hungry. She quickly picked up the bowl. Before she could take a bite of the medicinal porridge, she placed the spoon into the bowl.

“How's Grandmother's health?”

Although her grandmother did not interfere in the banquet, it was still noisy for the entire day.

Nanny Xu smiled and said, “I see that Old Madam is in good spirits. She ate the medicinal cuisine just now and has already returned to An Shou Hall to rest.”

When one was old, their days were cold, so it was inevitable that they liked crowds.

It was definitely impossible to host an event every day. Occasionally, it would happen once or twice. When she saw more people and spoke more, she would feel more relaxed.

Yu Youyao was relieved.

After the house was tidied, Yu Youyao went to An Shou Hall.

Yu Zongzheng and Second Uncle were both there.

When Madam Yao saw her coming, she quickly asked, "Is everything done at home?"

Yu Youyao nodded. "I've roughly packed up. As for the details, I'll have to wait for Second Aunt to arrange it tomorrow."

When Madam Yao heard her words, she smiled. "It's been hard on Yao Yao today. You're the one who's responsible for entertaining the guests. I didn't hear anyone say anything bad." At this point her smile couldn't help but deepen. "I heard many madams praise you for being polite and capable today."

Yu Youyao quickly said, "It's all thanks to your good arrangements and my sisters' help."

Yu Zongshen glanced at Yu Youyao and lowered his eyes, staring at the walnut in his hand. No one knew what he was thinking.

On the other hand, Yu Zongzheng sighed with emotion. "Like mother, like daughter. Yao Yao takes after her mother."

At this point, he also thought of how good Madam Xie had been after marrying into the Yu Residence. Only after comparing them would he know who was good and who was bad. Compared to Madam Xie, Madam Yang was simply unbearable.

The atmosphere in the room froze.

Old Madam Yu changed the topic. "The banquet was held decently today. All of you have contributed. I think you've been busy all day. You're all tired. Go back and rest!"

When she returned to the Jade Courtyard, Yu Youyao collapsed.

In the blink of an eye, it was the 15th of September. The commotion in the capital had yet to die down, and Yu Youyao did not go out again. Second Aunt, on the other hand, brought Yu Shuangbai out twice.

As soon as Yu Shuangbai returned, she ran to the main house. "Eldest Sister, let me tell you, when we went to the Assistant Minister of Revenue's house today, the table that they prepared was modeled after ours. They prepared three dishes of sea cucumber and some medicinal cuisine, but they're not as delicious as ours."

Yu Youyao could not help but laugh.

Mother Zhao had been taught by Nanny Xu and was very good at making medicinal cuisine. It was normal that others could not compare to her.

In the blink of an eye, it was late September.

There was finally news from the army that had gone to Shandong to quell the rebellion. Yin Huaixi had captured the head of the Ye Residence in Jinan and used his blood sacrifice flag to provoke Li Qiguang. Finally, he declared war on him.

This news made those who had already underestimated Yin Huaixi and did not like the war in Shandong shut their mouths completely.

Killing the head of the Ye Residence was killing the dignity of the Imperial Court that could not be provoked, and destroying Li Qiguang's morale..

Chapter 466: Promotion

The lively atmosphere of the examination also ended.

News about Shandong kept being sent to the capital.

Yin Huaixi used Lian Heng's strategy to cooperate with the court officials in Shandong and break the situation of the clan alliance.

Yin Huaixi used a method to sow discord, instigating some clans in Shandong to resist Li Qiguang together with them.

The entire capital was in an uproar.

Everyone knew that Shandong was a tough nut to crack. The previous emperors of the Great Zhou had been gnawing on it for hundreds of years. The more they gnawed on it, the tougher it became. Now, it was so tough that no one dared to bite it.

Not only did Yin Huaixi eat it, but he also ate a few kilograms of meat.

After breaking the alliance of the clans, Li Qiguang's power was like scattered sand. He even instigated the clans to rebel and use their spears to attack their shields.

Shandong's victory was set. All that was left was Li Qiguang's head and the blood of his traitors.

Yu Youyao found Chang An and handed him a booklet. "Find a few scholars to make a story about Cousin breaking into Shandong. Publicize it in the restaurants and teahouses in the capital."

The storytellers all had scholarly titles. There was a clear rule in the Great Zhou Law that those with scholarly titles could discuss politics in public. As long as the people involved were not fabricated they would not be punished.

This was on the surface.

If he offended someone with his words and asked someone to teach him a lesson in secret, the Great Zhou Law would not be able to control him.

The storytellers would find teahouses and restaurants with strong reputations. As long as they did not offend people too much, even if there were a few inappropriate words, it was not worth it to hold it against them.

Chang An was a little puzzled. "Young Master is already so famous. Why do you still want to specially find someone to publicize it?"

Yu Youyao said calmly, "There are three reasons."

Chang An was stunned when he heard this. He racked his brains but couldn't think of any of the three reasons.

Yu Youyao no longer had much hope for Chang An's intelligence. Her cousin had also said that the reason why he had brought Chang An along was because Chang An's intelligence was quite mediocre.

The downside was that sometimes, it was quite a headache.

However, the advantages were also obvious. Such a person was suitable to be displayed openly and not easily arouse suspicion.

"Ye Hanyuan knocked on the drum and accused the Marquis of Changxing of ten crimes. Every crime is reasonable. Logically speaking, as long as the Marquis of Changxing is escorted into the capital and interrogated by the three divisions, the charges can be determined. However, the reality is that the Marquis of Changxing has already been escorted into the capital in June. The three divisions have interrogated him for almost three months, but there's still no result."

Chang An did not understand what she meant. "The three divisions' trial is very complicated to begin with. It's not surprising that it will take three to five months!"

Yu Youyao was also convinced, so she could only explain, "That depends on what kind of case it is. For example, persecuting the royal family. Moreover, with sufficient evidence, it's naturally best to close the case as soon as possible. After all, the longer such a case drags on, the more people will be involved. No one can guarantee that the calamity of exterminating the entire family won't be on them. The court officials don't dare to be negligent."

Chang An came to a realization. "Is there some inside story in the old prince's case?"

Yu Youyao nodded. "The entire King You's Residence has been persecuted by the Marquis of Changxing, as well as the officials and nobles of Youzhou, causing the destruction of their families. King You has even been accused of 'rebellion', and the heir, Yin Huaixi, is even sickly. Once the Marquis of

Changxing's crime is confirmed, King You's grievances will be cleared, and the matter of redress will not be delayed."

Chang An was still confused. "Of course!"

At this point, even a blockhead could tell that something was amiss. Yu Youyao was speechless for a long time. "You have to understand that although King You's family was persecuted by the Marquis of Changxing and the others, as the emperor, it's enough to leave a bad impression in history. It'll damage the dignity of the emperor and his reputation."

Chang An's eyes widened. "So, the three divisions' trial hasn't been fruitful all this time because the dog emperor instructed it?! How dare he? No matter what, the old king is still a member of the royal family. All these years, he has guarded the borders and fertile land for him. How can he ignore the old king's reputation for his own selfish desires?"

Yu Youyao sighed slightly. “The emperor is the most heartless emperor. It’s not that the emperor doesn’t want to wash away King You’s grievances, nor is it that he doesn’t want to redress them. He just wants to see how far Cousin can go in the war in Shandong before deciding how to wash away King You’s grievances and how far to redress them. The court officials who are participating in the tribunal review can see through him, so he has been delaying the progress of the tribunal review.”

If it weren’t for the rebellion in Shandong, King You would still be a traitor. However, under the premise of a retrial, the wise and mighty King You would definitely be stained with some stigma.

For example, he was domineering in his fief. That was why the officials and nobles of the north had no choice but to join forces and resist. They risked persecuting the royal family and killing nine generations to frame King You.

At that time, these people would have already lost their heads. The truth was up to the Imperial Court. The commoners respected King You because he guarded Youzhou.

However, no one knew what kind of person he was, so naturally, they would believe these rumors.

King You’s reputation was flawed. Even if he washed away his grievances, he would not have a good reputation.

It was understandable that the emperor had accidentally killed a meritorious general.

It could be said that King You himself was cruel and heartless, making enemies in the north. He deserved to die.

The history books were at most mixed. It would not affect the emperor’s dignity and reputation too much.

As the emperor, he only needed to reward King You’s orphan and be a good uncle. It was enough to completely wash away the remaining stain in the history books.

Chang An clenched his fists angrily. “If Young Master wins the battle, the old king will really be able to wash away his grievances. If Young Master suffers a defeat, even if Old Master is cleared of his crimes, I’m afraid it won’t be glorious?”

Yu Youyao nodded, then shook her head. “Even if he wins the battle, Prince You’s grievances might not be washed away. The key is to see how this battle affects the court and the world.”

Chang An was enlightened. “You want to write about the war in Shandong in a book to build momentum for Young Master and increase the impact of this battle on the world and the court.”

Yu Youyao nodded. “In King You’s case, anger arose everywhere. At this time, it’s enough to gather the hearts of the people and calm them down. I want everyone in the world of the Nine States to know that even though the heir of King You, Yin Huaixi, is young and sick, he’s still a military strategist who has descended to the mortal world. He has the magnanimity to nurture the Nine States and stand tall in the world. He dares to get back at Xiao Xiangguo, and he won’t let Meng Changjun off.”

Chang An nodded in a daze and asked, “What’s the second reason?”

Yu Youyao said calmly, “Do you know that there are also a few old generals who have fought hundreds of battles with Cousin? Among them, Chang Ningbo is the most famous. This person was

born in the countryside and was conferred the title of nobility and general with his own strength. He has an extremely high reputation among the generals who came from poor families..”

Chapter 467: Towards the Wind

Chang An agreed. “Chang Ningbo is indeed capable.”

As Chang Ningbo was going to set off with the army, he had to investigate his life carefully.

At this moment, Yu Youyao thought of her cousin. If the person talking to her now was her cousin, she would only say 30%, and her cousin would understand.

However, on careful thought, it made sense!

Yin Huaixi was the only one in the world who was unique.

Yu Youyao calmed herself down and continued, “Look, even you agree with

Chang Ningbo. Think about it carefully. One is an old general who has been

through hundreds of battles and is famous. The other is a young heir who’s only 15 years old. He’s crippled and sick. He can’t even go to the battlefield and can only guard the back. If he wins this battle, as the main general) Cousin will definitely be famous, but in terms of contributions, do you think Cousin can compare to Chang Ningbo? i ‘

Everyone would only see the people in front of them.

Compared to her cousin, who was weak in every way, Chang Ningbo, who had been through hundreds of battles, was more in line with others’ hopes for victory. The rebellion army entered Shandong and did not move for a few months.

The court was already filled with doubts. Even the people who had originally supported Yin Huaixi gradually changed their minds.

If the battle in Shandong was won, everyone would naturally think that Chang Ningbo had won the battleo

Chang An understood. “We have to take advantage of the fact that the outcome of the battle in Shandong hasn’t been decided to publicize how smart Young Master is. The credit and influence of this battle will belong to Young Master alone.” Young Miss’s brain was really impressive, not inferior to Young Master’s. Chang An looked at Yu Youyao with admiration. “Then what’s the third reason?

Yu Youyao said calmly, “After Prince You’s rebellion, what next?”

This time, Chang An’s mind came to life. He quickly said, “Of course it’s to restore the ancestral temple. The old king is already dead, so Young Master should inherit the title of king.”

Yu Youyao smiled. “You have to know that once Cousin inherits the royal title, it means that he has to inherit 300,000 troops from Youzhou at the same time to guard Youzhou. However, according to the current situation, there are still variables in this matter. Whether he inherits it or is conferred another title is up to the emperor. What we need to do is to let everyone in the world understand that Cousin has the ability to control the military and Youzhou.”

Chang An was slightly stunned. “By writing a book?”

Yu Youyao smiled. “Cousin must have made arrangements too. I don’t have to do anything else to avoid complicating matters. It’s enough to show others that war depends on brains, not martial strength. A crippled leg is nothing.

Since ancient times, there have been countless civil servants leading troops. Civil servants are weak. How can they go to the battlefield?”

She wanted to dispel the world’s prejudice against her cousin’s “disabled leg.” Chang An was enlightened again.

Yu Youyao continued, “Li Shimin led the army at the age of 14, and Huo Qubing led the army at the age of 17. Since ancient times, there have been many young generals leading the army. Cousin went to the battlefield at the age of 12 to resist the Di people and turned the tide. That was why he laid the foundation for the victory in the battle in Youzhou. At the age of 15, he led the army to suppress Li Qiguang of Shandong, who did not even dare to lead troops and did not hesitate to use an excuse to refuse the battle. How can such achievements not be compared to the famous generals of ancient times?”

She also had to dispel the world’s prejudice against her cousin’s young age.

The prejudice of the world would be broken. Cousin would then inherit the title of king and control the army. You Prefecture would become everyone’s hope. Coupled with Cousin’s arrangements, everything was logical.

Chang An was not smart but he was efficient. He did his best to do what he was instructed to do.

In just a few days!

Yin Huaixi’s actions in Shandong had been written into a book and spread throughout the capital.

In the various restaurants and teahouses, the storytellers were all telling stories about the heir of King You, Yin Huaixi. He was like his father, and was wise enough to fight Li Qiguang from Shandong.

The wind in the capital often represented the wind in the world.

When Yu Youyao heard Chang An’s report, she used the excuse of practicing calligraphy and not wanting to be disrupted to get Chang An to secretly bring her out of the residence to a restaurant on Chang An Street.

It was noon, and the hall of the restaurant was filled with people from all walks of life.

Yu Youyao put on men’s clothes and disguised herself as the young master of a wealthy family in the capital. She handed a token to the manager of the restaurant. When the manager saw that it was a token from the Yu Residence, he quickly nodded and bowed. “So it’s from the Yu Residence. Our restaurant will reserve the best private room for you. Please follow me.”

Yu Youyao only nodded and did not say anything.

The manager of the restaurant welcomed her in. She was also knowledgeable. It was not easy for her to disguise herself as a man, so it couldn’t be said that she was a man or a woman. However, as soon as she opened her mouth, she was afraid that she would be exposed. She would not cause any trouble in her own restaurant. However, in order to avoid trouble, it was best not to expose herself.

Chang An, who was disguised as Yu Youyao's servant, nodded. "Thank you for leading the way."

The private room was decorated elegantly. Sitting on the terrace, one could see everything below.

The storyteller, who was in his forties, was at a long table. He held the wooden stick in his hand and stroked his beard as he said, "Speaking of which, King You's case caused resentment in the world. Li Qiguang of Shandong even publicly launched a large-scale rebellion in Shandong in the name of enforcing justice on behalf of the heavens. It's reported that countless people died in the rebellion..."

The storyteller was very eloquent and knew the essence of suppression before promotion.

First, Li Qiguang started a rebellion, and none of the generals in the entire dynasty dared to lead their troops into battle. The original Marquis of Weining was now refusing to fight even if he had to offend the emperor.

The storyteller slammed the wooden stick and raised his voice. "Why is that?!" In just five words, he immediately had the rhythm of a storyteller.

Immediately, a martial artist asked loudly, "What kind of motley crew is this? There have been many rebellions in the Great Zhou Dynasty in the past. Every time, if it weren't for the arrival of the Imperial Court's cavalry, this motley crew would have scattered like birds and beasts."

Someone immediately chimed in

"That's right. They're just a motley crew. There are many generals in the Imperial Court who are good at war. Why can't they do anything to Li Qiguang?"

"Is Li Qiguang really that powerful? Even those experienced old generals in the court don't dare to fight?"

"Could there be something unusual in Shandong?"

"Bam—" Another shocking slap, and the entire hall was silent.

The storyteller did not keep him in suspense anymore. "If you want to know the situation in Shandong, listen to me in detail. Speaking of this, you have to trace it back to the time when the world of the Great Zhou was still uncertain..."

The storyteller had personally described an expedition when Emperor Gaozu suppressed the Eastern Barbarians and pacified Shandong. He had moved the people who had been displaced by the war to Shandong and started a benevolent governance to encourage farming. When it came to those who could survive the war, which one of them wasn't a ruthless person?

The complicated clan situation in Shandong was formed under the background of the various races living together..

Chapter 468: Coward

Not only was the storyteller eloquent, but he was also quite knowledgeable about the history of the Great Zhou Dynasty.

Many historical biographies in Shandong were even more gossipy. In just an incense stick's time, they were eloquent. They painted a situation where the clans were divided and the people were more important than the officials. The interests of the clans crisscrossed.

Hearing this, the people below were even more intoxicated and cheered repeatedly. Many people did not hold their money bags down. When the waiter walked past with a lacquer plate, they threw out reward money.

Yu Youyao was also listening with interest. She couldn't help but throw out a small silver ingot.

After that, the storyteller changed the topic and said, "Dear guests, you might not know this, but the situation in Shandong is complicated. Usually, the clans fight to the death, but in fact, it's a gourd tied to a vine. It involves a lot of things. Even an emperor can't tolerate it. All the previous emperors of the Great Zhou Dynasty have sent troops to negotiate and suppress the situation, but to no avail. Many generals even died in Shandong. What do you think we should do in Shandong?"

Then, he listed the past generals who had once crusaded against Shandong. Who were these people? Who died in Shandong?

Everyone sighed.

They finally understood why Li Qiguang dared to start a rebellion like this. He had never been beaten by the Imperial Court and thought that he was invincible.

They also understood why no one dared to quell the rebellion even though there were so many generals in the court who were good at war.

It turned out that although the situation in Shandong was complicated, the Imperial Court had to have a reason to send troops. They had to have a suitable reason to convince the world to mobilize troops on a large scale before they could be conquered. Otherwise, it would be an unprovoked war. It was cruel and heartless. As long as they were not stupid, no emperor was willing to bear such an eternal infamy.

The main purpose of the Imperial Court's army was to intimidate Shandong.

In that case, if they fought lightly, they would suffer a defeat. If they fought seriously, the commoners would suffer. If they caused trouble and were infamous, they would probably not have a good ending.

In that case, since Prince Yin dared to invite himself to fight, he was really fearless. The younger generation would surpass him!

Before she could finish speaking, everyone already had a faint admiration for

Yin Huaixi.

The storyteller went deeper and deeper, breaking the words into pieces. He spoke in a simple and understandable manner, and everyone present understood.

Yu Youyao also listened attentively, sighing inwardly that experts were among the commoners.

When the storyteller arrived at one part, he slammed the wooden stick again.

"Let's get back to the main topic. Speaking of which, Yin Huaixi, the heir of King You, invited his troops to the hall. That caused a commotion in the entire capital. During

this period of time, regardless of gender or age, everyone in the capital has been discussing him..."

He mentioned a little more when the people in the capital said that Yin Huaixi was weak, crippled, sick, and couldn't take on a heavy responsibility. They said that there was no one left in the Imperial Court and they had sent a piece of trash. They also said that King You hadn't been appeased, and that Yin Huaixi was still a criminal and couldn't lead the army. In short, they made Yin Huaixi sound worthless and extremely unbearable.

"Bang!" On the spot, a burly man was furious. He slammed the table and shouted indignantly, "F*cking bullsh*t. Yin Huaixi is treated as a cowardly turtle Yin Huaixi is young and sick, yet he still dares to go to the capital alone. I'll plead guilty. If he dares to step forward when others are cowardly turtles, I'll respect him as a man."

"That's right. Those people said that Prince Yin was incompetent! Do their faces hurt now? For hundreds of years, countless generals couldn't bite down on them, and they didn't dare to. Prince Yin controlled it easily. Even if we don't continue fighting this battle, just killing the head of the Ye Residence has already showed dignity of the Imperial Court."

"Haha, I've really heard a joke! Prince Yin is not capable? Prince Yin went to the battlefield at the age of twelve to fight against the Di people. How can a group of bandits in Shandong be stronger than the Di people? I'll sit and wait. Prince Yin will kill all the rebels in Shandong and return peace to the world..."

The crowd was emotional!

The storyteller slowly drank a cup of wine. When everyone's anger was about to be vented, he patted the wooden stick and the restaurant fell silent again.

"Prince Yin led his troops to Shandong. The army was stationed in Langya Mountain, so they haven't been moving. His generals weren't confident in this battle, so they looked for Prince Yin to discuss countermeasures!"

Here was the main point.

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

All eyes were focused on the storyteller, waiting for him to continue.

The storyteller did not disappoint and spoke

The general asked, "Does Head General Yin have a good plan for the battle in Shandong?"

Prince Yin said, "Do you have any suggestions?"

The general shook his head. "The situation in Shandong is too complicated. Although we've led our troops for many years, we've always raised our guns and fought. However, we can't do this in Shandong. What should we do?"

As he spoke, the storyteller paused!

The waiter walked around the hall with the wooden tray. After receiving a full reward of silver, he listened to the guests urge him. The storyteller was finally satisfied and continued

Prince Yin said, “The root of the chaos in Shandong lies in the alliance of the clans. If we can break the alliance of the clans, Shandong will only be a pile of loose sand. There’s nothing to fear.”

The general nodded. “The clan alliance is like a gourd on a vine. It’s not like no general in history has tried this method, but in the end, they all failed. No one in the clan alliance can break it.”

Prince Yin said, “The clan alliance isn’t invincible. It can be broken with joint forces!”

At this point, the storyteller paused again!

Some scholars understood what “joined forces” meant, but they did not know how Yin Huaixi had used it to break the clan alliance.

Most people were confused about what joined forces meant.

The storyteller said, “Joined forces means uniting the weak to attack the strong. Li Qiguang had joined forces with the clan to resist the Imperial Court. This was the strength of uniting the weak to attack the Imperial Court. On the other hand, Prince Yin had advocated that even the officials of the eastern court of Hengshan should cooperate from the inside and out to break the clan alliance.

Immediately, a scholar slammed the table and stood up excitedly. He shouted, “In ancient times, Zhang Yi implemented the same strategy in the State of Qin and broke the alliance of the six states. Today, there’s Head General Yin who implemented the strategy in Shandong and broke the alliance of the clans. It’s too smart. It’s simply too smart. Head General Yin is really unparalleled in wisdom. The hero is so young...”

The storyteller also sighed and broke this strategy into pieces. Now, everyone present understood, and exclamations rose and fell.

The storyteller first talked about the joint forces strategy to sow discord and to instigate the clan to rebel against Li Qiguang...

It was a shocking scene.

There was even more applause—

“In the future, if anyone dares to underestimate Head General Yin again, I’ll spit on them. So what if he’s young? They’re smart. the Marquis of Ningyuan is old enough, right? He’s just a coward..”

Chapter 469: Excitement

“You said that Head General Yin is trash? His legs are crippled, not his brain. So what if he can’t go into battle to kill the enemy? It’s not a big deal. There have been many examples of civil officials leading troops in the past dynasties. Those civil officials are weak. Could it be that they can go into battle to kill the enemy? I think they’re inferior to Head General Yin.”

“Head General Yin is like a tiger. When the trial of the three divisions is over and King You’s grievances are resolved, the heir will inherit his father’s title and guard Youzhou...”

There was a commotion in the restaurant. Yu Youyao instructed, “Arrange for the people in the capital who are in charge of rallying the commoners to be more careful. Don’t let anyone notice anything amiss. The wind in the capital often represents the wind in the world. We have to let Cousin’s reputation spread throughout the world to overshadow the anger of the people because of King You’s case.”

The anger of the people had arisen because of King You’s case. It was only right that the heir of King You took over Shandong.

The greater the impact of this battle in Shandong, the more difficult it was to let King You’s case go. After all, King You and his father had both made great contributions to the Great Zhou. If the Imperial Court couldn’t understand and made King You bear the bad reputation, not to mention how difficult it would be for Yin Huaixi who had just made a contribution to calm down, it would probably disappoint everyone in the world.

Those who participated in the three divisions’ trial could not be ignored.

Chang An nodded in agreement.

Yu Youyao stood up and said, “Let’s go elsewhere to take a look.”

After leaving the restaurant, Yu Youyao strolled along Chang’an Street.

As the situation in Shandong was good, Chang’an Street had returned to its usual prosperity and liveliness. The commoners had to gather in groups of three to five to discuss the war in Shandong.

It was better to be an advocate of peace than to live in a chaotic world. Even if life was tougher, it was still better than living during war.

The situation in Shandong had indeed calmed the hearts of the people.

Yu Youyao noticed a bookstore by the roadside.

The waiter took out a stack of books and shouted outside, “Don’t miss it. Read about how the heir, Yin Huaixi, will destroy the alliance of the Shandong Clan and plan to kill the Ye Clan Leader to instigate the rebellion...”

At the moment, what people were most concerned about was the war in Shandong. When they heard many people’s discussions, they were also confused. When they heard that there was a book, they stopped to buy them.

Yu Youyao was amused and entered the bookstore

Immediately, a server welcomed her. “Little Young Master, do you want to read or buy books? Our shop has a complete collection of books, and we even release all kinds of books every month. Recently, the most popular books are about the war in Shandong...”

Yu Youyao said, “Just a book about the war in Shandong.”

The server introduced, "I see that the Little Master's clothes are extraordinary. I think you definitely don't like the typical script sold on the streets. Our shop has a collector's version. The person who wrote the script is the master of this imperial examination. The ink brushes he uses are all top-notch. I guarantee that they're worth it."

Yu Youyao couldn't help but ask, "Other than the collector's edition, what other versions are there? What's the price?"

The waiter was eloquent. "The ones sold on the streets are the most ordinary ones. They only cost 20 copper coins a copy. The hardcover version costs 500 copper coins a copy, and the collector's version costs one tael of silver..."

Yu Youyao compared them. The three versions were indeed very different. "Give me a collector's edition."

The waiter was overjoyed and quickly said, "We still have other books about Prince Yin. Do you want to take another look?"

Yu Youyao was stunned when she heard this. Her cousin's reputation had just spread, but there were already books about him in the past?

The waiter introduced non-stop, "'Heir Yin's Great Breaking of the Treasure

Cage Chess Game', 'Heir Yin turns the tide and resolves the predicament in Youzhou', 'Heir Yin resists the Di people', and 'Heir Yin endures humiliation and pleads for his father'. Our shop's reputation guarantees that all the scripts are based on the true events of Heir Yin and are not fabricated. Recently, the scripts about Heir Yin have been very popular. I've already bought a batch yesterday, and these are the new ones today..."

Yu Youyao was convinced by the server and also bought a copy. They were all collector's editions.

In the end, the waiter pushed out more sets of books. "Don't you want to know what kind of local customs can raise a genius like Prince Yin who has descended to the mortal world and is covered by literature?! Our shop has the most complete books on Youzhou culture on the market..."

Yu Youyao thought for a moment. "That makes sense. I'll get a few."

The waiter's eyes darted around. "Shandong has always been a tough nut to crack. Our shop has many books about Shandong, including biographies, scriptures, history, and so on. We'll introduce the complicated situation in Shandong in detail for you to understand the war situation in Youzhou and the heir of Yin..."

After paying and leaving, Yu Youyao tilted her head to take a look. Chang An was already carrying a stack of books.

The waiter held onto the door frame and waved enthusiastically. "Guest, come again next time!"

Clearly, her cousin had become famous recently. Many customers who had entered the shop had been fooled like this and bought a bunch of storybooks.

This was an amazing tie-up.

Amazing job, cousin!

At this moment, Yin Huaixi, who was far away in Shandong, had also received a large stack of books about himself from his subordinates.

Yin Huaixi picked one and casually flipped through a few pages. The content of the book was nothing more than a slightly exaggerated and gorgeous story about the joined forces strategy to break the alliance of the clans.

Even Yin Huaixi couldn't help but twitch his lips. "Yin Qi, explain what kind of nonsense this is? I asked you to keep an eye on the capital, and you're keeping an eye on this?"

Seeing that Young Master was a little displeased, the black-clothed Yin Qi silently lowered his head. "This, this was all instructed by Young Miss. She said that she wanted to build momentum for Young Master."

With that, he lowered his head again.

Instantly, the tent was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop

Yin Qi tried his best to reduce his presence when Young Master's indifferent voice came from above his head. "The wind in the capital often represents the wind in the world. Although her methods are a little crude, it's not a bad idea. She used the influence of the battle in Shandong to push the boat and kill two birds with one stone."

Impressive, Young Master. You're very skilled at changing your words!

Yin Huaixi had already made arrangements and schemes for what would happen after the rebellion.

Yu Youyao knew the court well and used the public opinion of the world to pave the way for him. She had put in a lot of effort, which saved him a lot of trouble.

However, this method!

Yin Huaixi looked at the exaggerated words in the book and was a little embarrassed. "The planned schemes of the world are often better than thousands of natural occurrences. By controlling the situation, the world is in our grasp. What's wrong with that?!"

After escaping another calamity, Yin Qi heaved a sigh of relief.

This was the first time he had heard Young Master praise someone so refreshingly. He was lying through his teeth.

He had heard everything!

Young Master clearly despised it to death, yet he still said that it was such a mess..

Chapter 470: Borrowing a Knife to Kill

Yin Huaixi threw the book in his hand aside. Out of sight, out of mind. "How's the situation in the capital?"

Feeling that he was about to walk through the gates of hell again, Yin Qi's scalp went numb again. He could only bite the bullet and say, "After the imperial examination was released, there was an open and secret struggle in the court, and there were frequent changes. Marquis of Ninevuan's family was

suppressed by the court officials led by Xia Yansheng. Many people have already been implicated in the old kings case.”

When newcomers entered the court, it was often the best time for the powerful ministers to eliminate their dissidents and nurture their henchmen. There was an excellent opportunity in front of Xia Yansheng.

It was the case of King You.

Concubine Lu (Concubine Lan) had yet to completely fall out of favor, and the Marquis of Ningyuan was still angry. After all, he was a new noble personally promoted by the emperor. It was a pity to abandon her.

Naturally, Xia Yansheng would not interfere with the emperors interests.

Yin Huaixi’s lips curled up slightly. “I’ve already sharpened the knife and handed it to Xia Yansheng. How can this knife not move?

If he couldn’t touch the Marquis of Ningyuan, he would start with his subordinates.

Now that the situation in Shandong was clear, he, the heir of King You, was famous in the world. The case of King You was also bright and had to be investigated clearly.

The evidence was all readily available.

Yes, he had colluded with the Marquis of Changxing to persecute the royal family.

After weakening the power of the Marquis of Ningyuan’s faction, the Marquis of Ningyuan was nothing to be afraid of. When the Marquis of Ningyuan was completely weak, the emperor would give up on him. Real powerful ministers were the best pig hunters.

Patience was a must for a hunter.

Yin Huaixi chuckled. “With the butcher’s knife in hand, Xia Yansheng should remember who the owner of this butcher’s knife is. If he’s smart, he should understand that what he borrowed has to be returned sooner or later. If he wants to take advantage of it, he has to be prepared to suffer a backlash.”

He had long known that it was actually not easy to successfully clear the crimes of the father and son.

The greatest resistance was the current emperor, and even more so the court officials.

Fighting the rebellion in Shandong was killing two birds with one stone.

With a clear move, the arrow pointed at the current emperor. With the credit and influence of this battle, the emperor saw his value. With the general trend, it would be more logical to redress the rebellion.

The resistance of the court officials was no less than that of the current emperor.

This hidden move was to “borrow a knife” to kill.

He had lent the “knife” to Xia Yansheng to help him eliminate his accomplices. After that, Xia Yansheng had to return the ” knife” to help King You successfully redress his crime.

Xia Yansheng knew very well that he had used the power of Shandong to suppress the rebellion and King You's case to deal with the Marquis of Ningyuan. Smart people should know that power was often borrowed and returned.

Yin Qi said respectfully, 'Young Master's plan was flawless, but he also calculated that Xia Yansheng would be in charge of the cabinet. Naturally, he's a smart person.'

Now, the Marquis of Ningyuan was human meat and Xia Yansheng was a butcher.

However, Xia Yansheng's knife was borrowed from Young Master.

There were probably only two types of people in this world to Young Master.

One was a chess piece that could be used, and the other was a worthless piece.

Mr. Xian Yun and Xia Yansheng were the most important chess pieces.

Yin Huaixi couldn't deny it. "Whether you're smart or stupid, since you're a chess piece, you have to be controlled by me. There's no other choice."

Yin Qi was impressed. Young Master's plan had never failed. He had really calculated everything.

He thought of the stack of books he had handed to Young Master just now!

This was definitely not within Young Master's plan.

Tsk, tsk, tsk. Could this be the only "loss" for Young Master?

As a result, to Young Master, it was everyone in the world or his lover?!!

What was going on? Why did the words suddenly jump out of her mind?!

Young Master clearly just liked Young Miss as a family friend! Although this love had already reached the level of "preference", This was inexplicable. Why did he suddenly think this way?

Yin Qi quickly shook his head to get rid of the messy thoughts in his mind. How could a subordinate like him think about his master's matters?

Yin Huaixi did not comment. He frowned and asked, "Previously, I asked you to send someone to keep an eye on Song Mingzhao. Has he been acting strangely recently?"

Song Mingzhao was not on his chessboard. He did not care about him. The only thing he was more concerned about was that Song Mingzhao was Mr. Xian Yun's disciple.

Previously, when Yu Youyao had mentioned Song Mingzhao in her letter, he had been a little worried, so he had specially sent someone to investigate Song Mingzhao. He realized that without his knowledge, the little girl and Song Mingzhao had actually interacted so much.

He had a bad feeling

As their interactions became more and more frequent, the relationship between Yu Youyao and Song Mingzhao would become deeper.

It was as if an invisible force was stirring the long river of fate, forcefully tying the two of them together.

This was probably what people often said

Yin Huaixi muttered, "Fate?"

He, Yin Huaixi, did not believe in fate in his life. He only believed in himself.

The subordinate's heart skipped a beat, and he quickly said, "After the Mid-Autumn Festival, Song Mingzhao used the excuse of saving his life to bring a gift to the Yu Residence to thank Young Miss. Young Miss did not owe him a favor for saving her life. After that, when Young Miss sent Song Mingzhao out of the residence, I don't know why the two of them didn't part on good terms."

The Song and Yu families were long-time friends. Even though Young Miss was related to Song Mingzhao, it was only natural that they were not deeply involved.

Why was Young Master so wary of Song Mingzhao?

Yin Huaixi's expression was inexplicable. "Didn't part on good terms?" He placed the words in his mouth and chewed on them one by one. There was an indescribable gloom. "Yao Yao has always been the type of person who doesn't offend others unless they provoke her. Since this Song fellow is so insensible, let's teach him a lesson!"

He lowered his eyes and rubbed the cool summer beads on his wrist.

Since she did not care about this person, there was no need to guess why Song Mingzhao had provoked Yu Youyao.

Since she was with him, he naturally wouldn't let others wrong her.

Those so-called ties would be cut off one by one. Song Mingzhao was not magnanimous, but he prided himself on being a gentleman. His thoughts were as deep as a ditch. It was better for him not to be too involved with Yu Youyao.

Otherwise, he would hurt others and himself.

Yin Huaixi's lips twitched slightly. "I remember that there's a direct descendant of the Song Clan called Song Xiuwen. He's currently in charge of the capital of Zhejiang and is also a general. He's in charge of the war in the coastal areas of Ningbo, Shaoxing, and Taizhou. He fights with the pirates all year round and has outstanding military achievements. He's also accumulated a lot of prestige for the Zhenguo Marquis Residence."

The subordinate in black lowered his head, not even daring to breathe loudly.

The governor-general was already the top presence among the external officials. He was also a high-ranking official. He was an official at the border of the town, and he was also a fourth-ranking general..