

All Hail 471

Chapter 471: Endless Troubles

Song Xiuwen had both official titles. His status in Zhejiang was even on par with the general.

Yin Huaixi chuckled. “The sky is cold. It’s time for the sky in Zhejiang to change.”

The treasury of the Great Zhou Dynasty was empty. Maritime trade was the emperor’s money maker, and the prosperity of maritime trade relied on the generals fighting the pirates along the coast.

Therefore, as a merchant, the Xie family had a lot of influence in the Great Zhou Dynasty. Ordinary people did not dare to provoke them.

Something had happened to the general who was exterminating the Japanese. The dog emperor could no longer sit still.

To the Zhenguo Marquis Residence, this was no different from a thunderclap that had descended from the sky on a sunny day. No matter what, it would cause chaos and cause feathers to fall to the ground.

If his family was in trouble, Song Mingzhao probably won’t have the intention to provoke any young lady!

The subordinate in black gasped. “I-I understand.”

The downfall of Song Xiuwen was enough to cause the Marquis of Zhenguo’s Residence to be in trouble. Even the dignity they had built over the years would be damaged.

However, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence and the Yu Residence were family friends. Even if Young Master did not do anything to the Zhenguo Marquis Residence on account of Young Miss, it would implicate the Yu Residence. Yin Huaixi continued, “Send a message to Xia Yansheng...”

The rumors about Yin Huaixi became more and more intense. Even the emperor in the palace heard the news and ordered someone to buy a book about Yin Huaixi to read.

The story written in the book was basically true, and it matched the contents of his previous investigation.

It seemed that it was also the case of King You that had angered the people. Furthermore, Yin Huaixi was the son of King You. This time, he had invited himself to lead the battle and go to Shandong to quell the rebellion. He had already caused many rumors to spread.

Now that Yin Huaixi was in Shandong, he had indeed displayed the dignity of the Imperial Court and calmed the hearts of the people.

Rumors were indeed common.

The current emperor held a thin book. “Little He, you’re right. Yin Huaixi is indeed like his father. The Marquis of Ningyuan is far inferior to him!”

Eunuch He lowered his head. “That’s because Your Majesty has a discerning eye. You didn’t underestimate Head General Yin just because he’s young and weak. You were also entrusted with a heavy responsibility. Head General Yin didn’t let the emperor down this time.”

Previously, the emperor had wanted to send the Marquis of Ningyuan to guard Youzhou. Now, his attitude...

The emperor sighed softly. “The situation in Shandong is complicated. Over the years, it has been a huge problem for the royal family. I can’t wait to get rid of it. Ever since I ascended the throne, I’ve sent troops twice to suppress the Shandong Clan, but to no avail. The clan is arrogant and ignores the dignity of the court. However, there are still tens of millions of innocent people in Shandong. It’s easy for the Imperial Court to send troops. If they want to mobilize troops, they have to have a reason. Once there is a mutiny in Shandong and they can’t take down Shandong in a short period of time, the vassal king would enter the capital in the name of helping the capital...”

Shandong was only 600 kilometers away from the capital. The reason why the problem in Shandong could not be resolved for so long was because of the vassal lords.

Eunuchs couldn’t do political work, so Eunuch He lowered his head and shut his mouth.

The emperor continued, “I didn’t expect that Yin Huaixi would really resolve the issue in Shandong, which has been a headache for me for many years. Yin Huaixi has contributed greatly to the ancestral temple and the country. How do you think I should reward him?”

The victory of Shandong was set. As long as the army returned to the court, Shandong would be completely under the control of the Imperial Court.

Eunuch He did not dare to interfere with the emperor’s intentions, but it was not good for him to keep quiet. “Master Yin has contributed. Why don’t you invite Elder Xia into the palace and discuss with him before making a decision?”

Rewarding the meritorious officials was the job of the cabinet.

The emperor nodded. “Call Elder Xia into the palace!”

At this moment, Xia Yansheng recruited a few trusted aides to discuss matters in the study, including Xie Zongshen.

“Elder Xia, the Marquis of Ningyuan has persecuted King You’s family and stolen the military power of the north. Such a monstrous crime of persecuting the royal family can’t be punished. The emperor has only demoted Concubine Lu (Concubine Lan) and the title of the Marquis of Ningyuan (Marquis of Weining). It’s obvious that he wants to protect him. However, Li Qiguang’s rebellion and the Marquis of Ningyuan’s refusal to fight in the court has already dissatisfied the emperor. Why don’t we take the opportunity to pursue him and beat him up?”

“That’s right. the Marquis of Ningyuan was personally promoted by the emperor. That Concubine Lu is also very capable. Even though she was demoted by the emperor, no one in the palace dares to provoke her. I wonder when she’ll regain her favor. At that

time, won't the Marquis of Ningyuan's family be even more arrogant? We should take this opportunity to bring the Marquis of Ningyuan down in one fell swoop."

'Elder Xia, this is a good opportunity. King You's case is about to be reopened, and Yin Huaixi has obtained a preliminary victory in Shandong..."

Xia Yansheng turned to look at Yu Zongshen, who had been silent. "What do you think?"

Yu Zongshen gently twirled the walnut in his hand. "There's a limit to everything. The Marquis of Ningyuan is just a vicious dog, and Yin Huaixi..." He paused for a moment. "He's a vicious wolf!"

Xia Yansheng turned to look at his trusted aides. "Do you think Yin Huaixi is easy to get along with?" He took out a note from his sleeve and spread it on the table.

Yu Zongshen looked down and saw a line of words written on it. "Is my knife useful?!"

The study was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop

Xia Yansheng sighed slightly. "I'm sure you've guessed who wrote this note."

Yu Zongshen thought for a moment. "Since we used his knife, we definitely have to return it to him. Since we're already in the game, we'll just have to put in a little more effort in the next interrogation."

As soon as these words were spoken, a few old court officials in the study objected

"But King You's case involves a lot of people in the court. Although the three divisions have already interrogated some people,..." Those who were all pushed out were scapegoats. The real culprits were still in the court.

"Accidentally killing a meritorious general and killing his siblings also concerns the emperor's dignity and reputation..."

"King You died an unjust death, but back then, he committed suicide in the Golden Hall before the trial was over. After that, he was hastily convicted, and we couldn't escape punishment..."

Back then, the reason why King You had been killed was because Prince Yin had killed people and snatched things in Youzhou, affecting the interests of the officials and nobles of the north.

The interests of the north were often closely related to the royal court.

In other words, there were people in the court who were protecting and colluding with the officials of the north to benefit.

In the eyes of these court officials, the fact that the heir dared to touch the north meant that he was fearless. He must have found evidence that they were greedy and lawless.

For the sake of their heads, they had no choice but to strike first.

Unexpectedly, if the roots were not removed, there would be endless trouble in the future.

Yin Huaixi had actually stirred up a storm in the royal court alone.

However, now that Yin Huaixi's reputation had soared and his victory in Shandong was imminent, the situation was already out of control. It was not a wise move to offend him.

Yu Zongshen said calmly, "We just have to wait for Yin Huaixi to win and return to the court. It's time for the tribunal to come to a conclusion. The accumulated troubles in Shandong for hundreds of years have been eliminated. Yin Huaixi contributed to the country, and the emperor will reward him. Just this merit alone is enough to be recorded in the history books. The mistake of accidentally killing a meritorious general is nothing.."

Chapter 472: Great Victory in Shandong

The emperor would support King You's innocence. He would even think of ways to extend Yin Huaixi's life and put him in an important position.

The emperor no longer believed in the court officials regarding King You. He only believed in the court officials who could bring him benefits, and Yin Huaixi was the one who could bring him benefits.

As soon as these words were spoken, there were some old ministers present who were not involved. Some gloated and watched the commotion, while others' expressions changed when they heard this and they trembled on the

Yu Zongshen pointed out of the window. "Recently, I'm sure you've all heard the rumors about Yin Huaixi in the capital. The direction of the wind in the capital often represents the direction of the world. Yin Huaixi is as powerful as the sky, and he has the protection of the commoners. The three divisions will definitely be investigated and they will get to the bottom of it. At that time, the emperor will follow the will of the public. It's an act of benevolence and righteousness. If you obstruct him in every way, you'll be disloyal and unrighteous. Those who have lost their morals are not worthy of taking power."

Rumors were like a sharp knife. The funny thing was that this knife was already at their throats, but these people still did not notice. Years of power struggle had already corroded their conscience and brains.

How could they take a mere commoner seriously?

Little did they know that water could carry a boat, but it could also overturn it.

Now, it was too late.

Some people were uninvolved, while others' expressions changed drastically.

They finally understood that the reason why Elder Xia invited them over today was not for a real meeting, but for their heads.

Xia Yansheng narrowed his eyes slightly. After a while, he said, "What needs to be abandoned, we should have done it long ago and dealt with all the people in the north back then. If King You wants to be rehabilitated, he has to be dealt with quickly. Only when this matter is over can our heads be preserved." At this point, he sighed slightly. "Those who have sinned, think of a way yourself.

If you can't think of a way, you have to offer your heads. I'll think of a way to protect the lives of your nine families."

These indifferent words only meant one thing. Those who could live would live, and those who couldn't would die.

Those who were unwilling to die would die.

Only one person was willing to die.

However, who else in this world would be willing to die?

Yu Zongshen picked up his teacup and lowered his head to drink his tea. "Look at the Marquis of Ningyuan's current situation. Do you really think that all of this isn't within Yin Huaixi's plan? Do you really think that Yin Huaixi will be so stupid as to not know who his enemy is and only deal with the Marquis of Changxing?"

"Back then, he was only 12 years old, but he was already able to make all of you lose your composure and think of the move of persecuting the royal family. Now that he's been stable for a few years, do you think you can rest easy?"

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

Yu Zongshen said calmly, "You have to think carefully. Previously, you borrowed Yin Huaixi's saber to eliminate dissidents. You were on the chopping block, but this saber was borrowed. Yin Huaixi is the owner of this saber. In other words, from the day Yin Huaixi entered the capital, he will be on the chopping block, and you will be human flesh. This is an indisputable fact."

There was still dead silence—

Before death, who in this world would be willing to die?

Yu Zongshen continued, "The best hunters often appear in the eyes of the hunters as prey. From the moment Yin Huaixi entered the capital, he was the perfect hunter who disguised himself as prey. Who was killing or being killed had already been decided."

Not only did Yin Huaixi have a knife, but he was also a hunter who was proficient in hunting.

At this moment, there was a knock on the door. "Old Master, someone from the palace has come. They said that the emperor has invited you into the palace."

Xia Yansheng opened his eyes. "The war in Shandong hasn't ended yet, but the emperor can't wait to reward Yin Huaixi. I think it's time for the three divisions to come to a conclusion."

With that, he stood up with a trembling body.

These words reminded some people that they were about to die.

It was time to die even if they didn't want to.

As Xia Yansheng trembled and walked out of the door, he sighed. "I'm old. I'm not as powerful as young people after all. Just a note can clearly determine the life and death of the court officials and control the overall situation of the court. How is this a vicious wolf? It's clearly a..." He took a deep breath and exhaled slowly. "An evil dragon!"

He said the last words softly and heavily.

Everyone present understood.

They were all terrified.

Xia Yansheng added, “Just wait and see. The show has just begun.”

Someone from the cabinet participated in King You’s case.

In order to avoid implicating themselves, some important ministers in the cabinet would definitely join forces with the other court officials to obstruct them.

The emperor might not be able to win against the court officials.

In order to completely clear King You’s name, Yin Huaixi borrowed a knife from him to eliminate the Marquis of Ningyuan’s subordinates. However, this was a double-edged sword.

He had hurt the Marquis of Ningyuan and him.

Unfortunately, he had lived for so long but had unknowingly fallen into Yin Huaixi’s trap.

Just as Yu Zongshen had said, the best hunters often looked like prey. Who would have thought that a sickly young man who was only 15 or 16 years old was actually a true hunter with a butcher’s knife?

Since he was already in the game, he could only be a chess piece.

He only hoped that he could survive until the day he retired and not lose his integrity.

The Great Zhou Dynasty was in turmoil, and the royal court was also in turmoil.

At the end of September, there was another report from Shandong—

Head General Yin captured Li Qiguang alive, and many clans who had allied with him surrendered.

Head General Yin would join forces with the local court officials to capture the traitors under Li Qiguang and resolve the accumulated ills left behind by the clan in Shandong. He would also preside over the related matters such as opening warehouses and boosting food after the battle in Shandong.

From Li Qiguang’s rebellion to Yin Huaixi capturing him alive

Yin Huaixi only took three months to resolve the Shandong issue, which had given the Great Zhou Dynasty a headache for hundreds of years.

When the news reached the capital, the emperor was overjoyed. “Good, good, good. What a smart man this Yin Huaixi is. As expected of a descendant of the royal family. He has the aura of a great ancestor.”

Her words made all the court officials in the royal court tremble in fear.

Xia Yansheng sat calmly on a chair. “King You and his father are both loyal and dedicated people. They have contributed greatly to our Great Zhou Dynasty. They indeed have continued the legacy of our ancestors.”

Since he had the resemblance of a noble ancestor, how could he be tainted for no reason? Xia Yansheng’s indifferent words indicated that he supported the emperor to interrogate King You’s case and restore his clean reputation.

No one in the court dared to refute.

The emperor's meaning was very obvious. Yin Huaixi had the legacy of a great ancestor, so it was inevitable that he would be placed in an important position. Prince You naturally could not have a bad reputation.

Xia Yansheng's words were nothing more than following the emperor's wishes.

The words of the emperor and minister had already decided the life and death of a group of powerful officials.

The emperor smiled and looked at Xia Yansheng. He said meaningfully, "In that case, I'll have to trouble you with King You's case." He emphasized the word "troubled" with a hint of coldness..

Chapter 473: Revenge

Anyone who wasn't a fool would understand that the emperor valued this case very much and it couldn't be negligent at all. Otherwise, it would be disobeying the emperor and a serious crime.

Xia Yansheng lowered his eyes. "I'll naturally do my best."

The outcome was set!

However, the royal court was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Yu Zongshen looked at the old minister beside him, whose face was already ashen. He lifted his clothes and knelt on the ground. "Your Majesty is wise."

Only then did the ministers react. They knelt on the ground and shouted, "Our emperor is wise. Long live our emperor."

The news spread outside the palace

Mr. Xian Yun was playing chess with Mr. Hu Shan.

The black and white chess pieces collided, revealing hidden killing intent for no reason.

Mr. Hu Shan stroked his long beard and looked at the chess game steadily. "This chess game is very exquisite. The intentions of the black and white chess pieces are hidden. Who knows if they are real or fake, but they're interconnected and have hidden killing intent. The person who this game is also hiding in the game and is using himself as a chess piece to push for the changes in the chess game."

Mr. Xian Yun looked up at him. "I was the one who started this game just now. Why are you so sure that I'm not the one who set it up?"

Mr. Hu Shan rolled his eyes at him. "Everyone in the world calls you and me the 'Sages of Yushan'. Compared to the ancient sages, we've only read a few more books and picked up the wisdom of our predecessors. Only by standing on their shoulders can we see greater heights. How can we dare to call ourselves sages? We've known each other for decades. How can I not know you

In other words, the two of them were about the same. I don't have the ability, and of course you don't.

Mr. Xian Yun sighed slightly. "That's right!"

Mr. Hu Shan looked at the chessboard again and pointed at a white chess piece on it. "This is a reflection of what is going on and the pieces represent the leaders and followers. This chess game

uses the world as a chessboard, the emperor as a chess piece, and officials as chess pieces. We don't dare to call ourselves 'Sages', but the people who run this chess game are worthy to be called 'Saints'. What do you think?"

Mr. Xian Yun nodded. "However, this game is only the tip of the iceberg on the chessboard of the person who set it up. I'm ashamed, but I can only see the tip of the iceberg. It suits the current royal court."

Mr. Hu Shan was suddenly surprised, but not surprised. "The most powerful hunters often appear in front of others as prey. Yin Huaixi used the battle in Shandong as a chessboard and used himself to lure the current emperor and Elder Xia into a game. If Yin Huaixi isn't a sage, how can anyone in the world dare to call themselves a sage?"

Even the current emperor was probably a speck of dust in his eyes.

The current court situation was all under Yin Huaixi's control. The emperor was being played by him, but he did not notice it. He was still waving the flag, shouting for him, and giving him reputation and status.

Mr. Hu Shan agreed deeply. "Previously, I had a chat with Yin Huaixi about the situation in Shandong. He didn't mention how to eliminate the disaster in Shandong, and I didn't ask because Yin Huaixi never did anything he wasn't confident in. Even if he wasn't confident, he could create a chance of winning. That's the most terrifying thing about this person."

Mr. Hu Shan did not know Yin Huaixi well, but ever since he had entered the capital, he had paid a lot of attention to him. "You're right. Looking at the situation in the battle in Shandong, Yin Huaixi has vividly displayed the word 'intelligent'."

He paused for a moment

"He joined forces with officials from all over Shandong and broke the alliance of the clan to lay the foundation for this battle."

"Inducing the clan to resist Li Qiguang and weaken their power."

"Killing the Ye family head is an act of establishing authority. It will raise the morale of the Imperial Court and destroy Li Qiguang's prestige. The hearts of the clan will collapse, and it's only logical to capture Li Qiguang alive."

"To capture the bandits, we have to capture the king first. Once Li Qiguang is caught, it will be followed by a group of traitors. They will have no leader and will be in a state of disunity."

Mr. Xian Yun agreed deeply. "Every scheme hit the nail on the head. Moreover, the scheme was precise and mysterious, with no deviations or mistakes. It formed a situation where nothing was missing. In the end, he obtained the greatest victory at the lowest price."

"Yin Huaixi's scheme is far more than that." Mr. Hu Shan looked at the chessboard and suddenly took a white chess piece and placed it in a corner north of the chessboard. "You should be missing a chess piece!"

Mr. Xian Yun took a closer look. This chess piece was connected to the chessboard, forming another force. "This child has the intention to take revenge on the Great Zhou."

Hu Shan lowered his eyes and thought to himself.

Mr. Xian Yun's sentence came from Qu Yuan's "Eastern Lord". However, the Eastern Lord in the poem was great, brilliant, generous, and selfless.

However, the Yin Huaixi that Mr. Xian Yun had mentioned might not be the case.

Mr. Xian Yun used this as a metaphor for Yin Huaixi, probably because he hoped that Yin Huaixi would be like the Eastern Lord. "Raise a long arrow and shoot at the Heavenly Wolf. Control the remaining arcs and prevent chaos. Use the Big Dipper as a goblet and fill it with wine for the people."

He raised his long arrow and shot at the greedy Heavenly Wolf. He controlled the Heavenly Bow to prevent calamity from descending to the human world. He used the Big Dipper as a goblet and filled it with fine wine. The wine was directed to the ground and given to the human world.

The situation in Shandong was settled, and Yin Huaixi's name spread throughout the world.

After more than a month, Yu Youyao finally received a message from her cousin.

She was in no hurry to open the letter that Yin San had sent. First, she took the letter that her cousin had sent her at the end of August from the camphor box. There was a faint musk scent on the letterhead. It was mixed with the fragrance of brushes, ink, and books, but it was very elegant.

There was only one line of words on the letter. "A hundred thousand soldiers entrusted their lives to me."

For the next month, she did not receive any more messages from her cousin.

Yu Youyao gently rubbed the letter in her hand and chuckled. "We'll take care of each other. With the least losses, we'll resolve the chaos in Shandong. Those soldiers who can't go home because of the war and can reunite with their families can finally go home."

Her cousin had never taken Li Qiguang seriously.

In his opinion, Li Qiguang was not as important as a single soldier under him. He had painstakingly planned this just to bring more soldiers home and reunite with their families with the least damage.

He had done it.

Mr. Xian Yun said that her cousin was the Asura of the world, but she felt that he was the Eastern Lord. "He's about to usher in a new era for the east."

The sun was about to rise in the east.

Yu Youyao opened the letter that Yin San had just sent. "I'll definitely return in late October. I'm fine. Don't miss me!"

These short words made Yu Youyao overjoyed.

After hugging the letter happily for a while, she asked, "Quick, tell me how

Cousin invited them into the trap and captured Li Qiguang alive without wasting a single soldier."

Yin San explained, “After Young Master instigated the rebellion of the clans led by the Leng Residence, Li Qiguang was suspicious and suspected that there were still spies from the Imperial Court in the clan. He didn’t trust them much to begin with, and the clan relationship that was barely maintained with benefits was already only in name.”

“Patriarch Ye’s death was undoubtedly a shock to the clans. Many clans withdrew from the alliance. Li Qiguang knew that he was no match for him, so he pretended to deal with the Imperial Court for half a month and pushed the other clans around him out to block the attack..”

Chapter 474: Three Feet of Ice

“In secret, Li Qiguang wanted to divert the attention of the Imperial Court and plan to escape. After Young Master received the news, he beat him at his own game and revealed the news to the clan. There was internal strife between the two sides, and in the end, Young Master captured them all.”

Yu Youyao pursed her lips. She knew that she couldn’t hear any exciting stories from Yin San.

This was the process.

However, how could it be said in just a few words?

However, since Shandong had been resolved so easily, her cousin would be able to return to the court in about half a month, so Yu Youyao did not dwell on this.

She laid out the paper, dipped it in ink, and replied to her cousin.

After not writing to her cousin for more than a month, Yu Youyao rambled on for more than 20 pages. Just like before, most of them were trivial matters in the residence

For example, this year, the top scholar was from a poor family.

After the article about the palace examination circulated, Yu Youyao also read it.

This scholar of the Humble Class was indeed extremely talented. He wrote the entire “Theory of Governance” and used the memorial that he had given to the gods during the Daoist Ritual.

It used extremely beautiful words to express that in the world, it was the land of the emperor. The emperor ruled with kindness, and the vassal kings should bow down.

When a vassal king ruled the people, he had to be benevolent and lead the army without being self-important

The vassal lords govern their fiefs and respond to the emperor’s benevolence. The vassal lords had to know the rules and the emperors benevolence...

There was a key point. The vassal lords surrounded the land and became kings. The people of the vassal lands were under the rule of the vassal lords, so they naturally did not know about the merit of the emperor.

He pointed out that the vassal lords had to be governed first. The people's hearts were with the emperor, so there was nothing for the vassal lords to do.

It was indeed true, but the action was rather empty. It was not even as good as Yu Shande's article.

Yu Youyao could clearly tell that this article was filled with Daoist words. The words were filled with flattery and favor. It was obvious that he wanted to follow the path of a scholar and rise through the ranks.

On the other hand, he had flattered the emperor. The emperor was overjoyed and showed his talent. Even if it was a different way, he was still chosen by the emperor as the top scholar.

Yu Youyao also mentioned the top four scholars of the Yu Residence, causing a commotion in the world.

In ancient times, there was a sect with four scholars who were from the same sect but on different rankings. It was a legend. It was extremely rare for a family to have four scholars like the Yu Residence this time.

Yu Youyao guessed that this was probably related to Duke Zhonglie.

There were many related books that had been passed down through the generations in the heavy industries, agriculture, and business world. The Yu family had inherited the legacy of their ancestors for generations and had first considered Duke Liezhong's books as the Four Books and Five Classics to study.

In this imperial examination, many young masters of aristocratic families

who prided themselves on being talented had their courage reduced by the words "ruling the vassal state." It was inevitable that they would be timid and not show their standards.

Ever since Emperor Gaozu, the Great Zhou Dynasty had praised Duke Zhonglie's political affairs. It also placed great importance on heavy work, agriculture, and business. No matter from which point of view, it was compatible with governance.

Some descendants of the aristocratic families failed the imperial examination while the performance of the Yu Clan was especially outstanding.

In addition, the Yu Clan had fewer talents. Although the article did not have any important requirements for governance, it was still useful and practical. In addition, the treasury was empty. Heavy work, agriculture, and business were the foundation of the treasury.

The emperor also valued the Yu Clan and supported it for his own use. That was why he valued the Yu Clan so much.

Yu Youyao mentioned that Yu Shande had chosen a lucky scholar to enter the Hanlin Academy.

She even mentioned that there was a big banquet at home. There were 35 tables each for men and women, and there was almost no room for everyone. Fortunately, they were all prepared at home. Otherwise, it would be embarrassing.

At this point, she couldn't help but complain to her cousin. It was too tiring to hold a banquet, and there weren't many people in the family. Each of them had to do the same work as ten people. Fortunately, Nanny Xu helped...

She even wrote that now that Concubine Qiu was pregnant, she could help manage the situation.

After rambling for a while, she was about to mention Song Mingzhao's visit when she thought about it and dismissed the idea. What did Song Mingzhao have to do with her?

Why should she care so much!

(Qing Ci: In the Ming Dynasty, there was a saying that there was a "Prime Minister of Qing Ci." As Emperor Jiajing was obsessed with Daoism, most of the ministers in the cabinet who could successfully rise to power had written excellent Qing Ci to flatter the emperor.)

After writing the letter, Yu Youyao shook her arm and looked at it carefully again. The red silk inkstone was soft and smooth, and the words she wrote were beautiful.

Yu Youyao divided the finished letter into two envelopes and took out some spiritual dew, medicinal dew, Lingxi Bug Liquid, lotus seed tea that she had made a few days ago, and so on. She handed a huge package to Yin San. "Tell Cousin to take care of his health." It was easy to fight, but the aftermath of the battle was the highlight.

The clans had controlled Shandong for hundreds of years. Without the deterrence of the Imperial Court's 100,000 troops, and without her cousin presiding over it, the officials of the various prefectures in Shandong might not be able to deal with the remaining forces of the clans.

Rome wasn't built in a day. There were too many ills in Shandong. Her cousin still had many things to deal with.

The news of Shandong's great victory caused an uproar.

Yu Jianjia had also bought a lot of books about Prince Yin. For some reason, she thought of Zhou Linghuai, who had yet to return from Youzhou!

When had Yu Youyao, who used to be as stupid as a pig, become a different person?

On careful thought, it was after Zhou Linghuai entered the residence.

Zhou Linghuai had taught Yu Youyao how to study. Yu Youyao had changed from being ignorant and incompetent in the past and had gained Ms. Ye's praise.

Zhou Linghuai taught Yu Youyao calligraphy. Yu Youyao changed from her usual handwriting and practiced calligraphy that only men could practice. She caught her father's eye.

Zhou Linghuai had taught Yu Youyao how to play the zither. Yu Youyao had changed from not being good at zither skills in the past. Although she did not show much of her zither skills, she could still receive applause from the entire hall a few times.

They were both 15 or 16 years old. They were both crippled and weak, and were even from Youzhou. Zhou Linghuai was shrewd, and Yin Huaixi was peerless in intelligence.

When had a disabled person like Zhou Linghuai become so powerful?!

This was too much of a coincidence!

However, on careful thought, Yin Huaixi and Zhou Linghuai had both suffered a family change, so everything made sense.

Yu Jianjia put down her notebook in frustration. Feeling suffocated, she called Seventh Aunt over. “Aunt, after returning to the residence during the

Mid-Autumn Festival, many big and small things happened one after another. It’s been almost two months. Now that everything in the residence is over, I want to return to the manor to continue recuperating.”

Yu Jianjia finally understood that her mother had completely become an abandoned woman.

It was unknown if Old Madam and Yu Youyao were crazy, but they actually praised a concubine in every way.

Not long after Concubine Qiu stabilized her pregnancy, Old Madam picked a clan aunt from the clan to teach and help Concubine Qiu manage the household with Yu Youyao.

The huge Yu Residence was actually handed over to a concubine to manage.

It was simply ridiculous.

Seventh Aunt took care of Yu Jianjia’s daily life and knew that she had not had a good appetite recently. “I’ll report it to Old Madam first and hear what she has to say.”

She understood that after Yu Jianjia returned to the residence, everyone in the residence accommodated her first. Although it was not as peaceful as the manor, Yu Jianjia’s courtyard was still very quiet.

Old Madam wanted Yu Jianjia to stay in the courtyard to recuperate..

Chapter 475: Doting on a Concubine and Ignoring a Wife

Yu Jianjia lowered her eyes and said gently, “It turns out that Mother is seriously ill, and all the family matters are reliant on Eldest Sister. She’s not much older than me, but she’s busy every day. I’m very worried) so I’m not in the mood to go to the manor to recuperate.”

At this point, she sighed faintly, looking a little ashamed.

“Third Miss, don’t let your imagination run wild. Everyone at home is looking forward to seeing you well.” Although she said that, Seventh Aunt agreed deeply. Previously, Yu Jianjia’s illness was serious, so she had gone to the manor to recuperate. It could be said that she had no choice.

However, now that her health had improved a little, Old Madam was old. As her granddaughter, she had to be filial to her.

Her mother was seriously ill. Although she couldn’t sit by the side and attend to her illness, she should go over every now and then to take a look and show her concern.

It was also difficult for Eldest Sister to manage the family. As her younger sister, even if she couldn’t help much, she should do what she could.

Only filial piety, virtue, respect, and deference could truly show everyone’s upbringing.

However, Yu Jianjia did a good job.

Although Second Madam Yao had not asked her to interfere in the banquet in the residence earlier, Yu Jianjia was good at tending to flowers and plants. She had also brought along the maidservants and old maids in the courtyard to arrange the flowers in the residence.

At the banquet, she received a lot of praise from the madams.

Later on, Second Madam Yao and Old Madam Yu were also very satisfied.

Yu Jianjia forced herself to perk up and smiled. "I know that Grandmother and

Eldest Sister dote on me, but I can't help but feel a little ashamed. Fortunately, Concubine Qiu is pregnant and helped Eldest Sister manage the household, so I'm much more at ease. It's just that there are too many people in the capital, so it's more peaceful to raise flowers in the manor."

Her words were very beautiful, but there was a faint sarcasm in them that only she knew.

After the imperial examination, all the families in the capital were holding banquets. Yu Youyao and Madam Yao attended some of close families that valued etiquette.

The other banquets were all held by Concubine Qiu. She used the excuse that Eldest Madam Yu was seriously ill and Old Madam Yu was too old to attend.

She thought of her mother, the first wife, being locked up in Tranquil Heart Residence. She was a concubine who was not presentable, but she was pregnant and was stepping on her mother's face to call the shots in the Yu Residence!

How dignified and glorious!

Recently, Concubine Qiu preferred sour and spicy. There were rumors in the residence that

"Concubine Qiu's child is definitely a male. Old Madam values Concubine Qiu so much. If Concubine Qiu really gives birth to a boy, she might even be able to become a noble concubine!"

"Although she will still be a concubine, her status is much higher. When the time comes, it'll be more logical for her to manage the family and go out."

"Concubine Qiu's status will be high because of her son. Her glorious days are yet to come..."

"..."

Hearing these rumors, Yu Jianjia made an excuse to visit Yu Shansi and said a few words.

Initially, she had also felt that in the past, Yu Shansi was her father's only son and had obtained all his father's love. Now that there was another person to share her father's attention, no matter who it was, they would probably feel the difference.

Unexpectedly, Yu Shansi said, "Grandmother told me that I'm Father's only legitimate son and the eldest. No one can surpass me. However, as the legitimate son, I should take on the responsibility of prospering the family like Big Brother. I should also show the demeanor of the legitimate wife like Eldest Sister."

Yu Jianjia felt a lump in her throat and understood how powerful Old Madam was.

Her mother was locked up in the Tranquil Heart Residence. It was her father and Old Madam who were raising Yu Shansi.

Yu Shansi had just turned seven years old and was at the age of being influenced. He treated his elders' words as the truth, so it was impossible for him to be on her side anymore.

Yu Shansi thought that Third Sister was worried about him, so he came over to comfort him. "Third Sister, don't worry. No matter if Concubine Qiu's child is a boy or a girl, she's still my sister. I'll also do my job as an elder brother. Don't worry about me. Just take care of yourself."

These words were simply heart-wrenching. Yu Jianjia's expression changed and she said, "In that case, study hard. I won't disturb you anymore."

Since they couldn't be united, she shouldn't embarrass herself in the future.

Fortunately, she and Yu Shansi were from the same mother, so in terms of relationship, they were closer than the others in the residence. As long as Yu Shansi's title as the legitimate son lasted, her future as his sister would not be bad.

In the future, if Yu Shansi became successful, the benefits of being his sister would also come.

However, just the thought of watching a concubine dance and show off in the residence all day made her feel disgusted!!

Yu Jianjia did not want to stay in this disgusting place for a moment.

Since Yu Shansi couldn't be on her side, there was no need for her to stay in the residence anymore.

As she thought about it, Yu Jianjia continued, "Although it's not very appropriate for a young miss like me to always live in the manor, Imperial

Physician Hu said that the younger I am, the easier it is for me to recover from my illness. I thought that since I'm still young, I should quickly recuperate so that the family won't always worry. In the future, when my body recovers, I can often be filial to my elders and share Eldest Sister's burden."

These words were said righteously and well-mannered.

Anyone who heard this would think that she was sensible and considerate.

"Since you've made up your mind, I'll go look for Old Madam later and mention it to her. How to convince her will depend on you."

Seventh Aunt did not persuade her. Her body was hers. How she recuperated depended on herself.

Although she used the title of a clan aunt to take care of Yu Jianjia's daily life and would usually teach her some principles of managing the household and handling matters, she would not interfere with Yu Jianjia's decisions.

Old Madam Yu did not want Yu Jianjia to blame her in the future.

As an aunt who was a few branches away, she was even more unwilling.

Yu Youyao had also heard some rumors about Concubine Qiu in the residence.

This matter concerned children. This matter was neither big nor small. Concubine Qiu had gained power in the residence as a concubine, so it was inevitable that the servants would think they were smart by currying favor.

Yu Youyao thought for a moment before going to An Shou Hall to talk to her grandmother.

When Old Madam Yu heard this, her expression darkened. "I knew it. A concubine is a concubine. If word gets out that a concubine is helping to manage the household, people will think that our family has gone crazy. They would think we would promote a concubine to not be suspected of pampering her and ignoring a wife."

Yu Youyao held her teacup and said nothing. This was the reason why she had mentioned this to her grandmother.

Old Madam Yu turned to look at Nanny Liu and said word by word, "Tell Concubine Qiu that a true aristocratic family doesn't have such messy things as noble concubines and equal wives. Concubines are only capable of helping a family that has lost their morals. Tell her not to use them as a tool to test me anymore.."

Chapter 476: Scheming

This matter might not have anything to do with Concubine Qiu. Since it had reached Yao Yao's ears, she must have heard it too.

If she ignored it, it meant that she had something up her sleeve.

What could a concubine scheme?

She was relying on the fact that she was pregnant and wanted to be a noble concubine second only to the first wife.

Of course, Concubine Qiu was really smart. Even if she had thoughts, she did not test her personally. Instead, she used the servants in the residence to test her.

Even if she failed, the law would not punish anyone. In any case, this matter had nothing to do with her.

Old Madam Yu frowned and added, "Even though she laid a golden egg today, she's still a concubine. If she's more obedient, she'll do her best to raise the child after he's born. In the future, when she's successful, she'll really be able to become a mother because of her son and gain some glory and dignity." At this point, she changed the topic and said, "Get her to copy a Buddhist scripture for Eldest Madam Yang every day from now on to pray for her recovery."

She had asked Lady Qiu to copy Buddhist scriptures for Yang Shuwan not because she really hoped that Yang Shuwan would recover, but to remind Lady Qiu to remember her identity at all times. She could not forget for a moment that her first wife had yet to leave the court.

Nanny Liu went down to settle it.

Old Madam Yu sighed slightly. "Recently, I've asked a matchmaker to find a suitable concubine. I plan to take in another proper concubine for your father, in case Concubine Qiu doesn't know her place after gaining power."

Yu Youyao did not want to care about this lousy matter. She only smiled and did not say anything.

Thinking that she was still young, even if she was in charge of the family, it wouldn't be appropriate for her to say such a vexing thing in front of her. Old Madam Yu didn't mention it again.

Changing the topic, she mentioned Yu Jianjia, "Your third sister plans to return to the manor to continue recuperating in a few days. I originally felt that her health had improved a little, so I didn't plan to let her go to the manor again. It's indeed a little outrageous for her to stay in the manor at such a young age. However, since she has asked, I can't refuse."

If it were anyone else, she would have rejected it cleanly.

However, the key to Yu Jianjia's illness was to recuperate. How she recuperated depended on herself. How could others help her make a decision? If she did something bad out of kindness, wouldn't it delay her recovery?

Yu Youyao was not surprised. "Third Sister's health is more important."

Yu Jianjia was just too smart and thought too much. How could she live happily in the residence?

For the sake of her health, she definitely had to leave.

Moreover, she and Concubine Qiu were in charge of the residence now. Yu

Jianjia was not in good health, so she could not interfere. There was no benefit in staying in the residence.

It was better to stay away from this troublesome place. Her family would still be a little concerned about her.

Old Madam Yu shook her head. "Our family has announced to the public that your third sister was born prematurely and her body is a little weak. There's nothing we can do about it. In the past, your third sister was young, so outsiders couldn't say much. However, ever since your third sister moved into the manor, there have already been rumors in the capital that she has a terrible illness. It's ultimately harmful to her reputation."

Back then, Madam Yang and Eldest Son's matter could only be covered up with the excuse of being born prematurely. After that, Yu Jianjia had been sick. It took a lot of effort for the family to help her.

Who wouldn't feel sorry for her granddaughter, who she had spent so much effort raising?

Even though she was distant from Yu Jianjia, she cared about her granddaughter.

She did not want Yu Jianjia to return to the manor because she wanted to take the opportunity to stop the bad rumors outside.

Yu Youyao smiled faintly. "Grandmother, you don't have to worry too much. Third Sister is still young. After recuperating for a few years, if she goes out, the rumors will stop. If..."

She didn't finish the sentence.

However, Old Madam Yu understood that if she couldn't recover well, she would have to bear the reputation of having a bad illness even if she didn't want to. "There's no choice."

Yu Jianjia had indeed recovered a little after recuperating in the manor for a while. Perhaps she would really recover after recuperating in the manor for a while.

The grandmother and granddaughter discussed some trivial matters together.

Then, Yu Youyao returned to the Jade Courtyard.

At this moment, Concubine Qiu had also received a message from Nanny Liu.

Her gentle face immediately turned pale. Concubine Qiu couldn't care less that she was pregnant. She bent her legs and knelt on the ground.

"My status is low, so I don't dare to have any delusions. I always remember Old Madam's kindness, which is why I'm blessed to serve Eldest Master. Now that I'm able to help Eldest Master share Eldest Miss's burdens, it's already my greatest blessing. I don't dare to have any delusions. I only hope that I can give birth to a child well."

When Nanny Liu heard this, she nodded to herself. "As long as you understand."

She was not stupid. She was not in a hurry to deny the rumors about the residence, nor did she admit anything. However, as a concubine, she expressed her stance on the spot.

Lady Qiu sent Nanny Liu out in fear.

She knew very well that her status was low. The reason why she could have such dignity today was firstly because of Old Madam's kindness, secondly because Eldest Miss was kind, and thirdly, because of the unborn child in her stomach.

Once a concubine, always a concubine.

If she could behave herself, with her current dignity in the residence, she would naturally be able to live a glorious life in the future. If she had other thoughts, it would be common for wealthy families to prioritize the child over the mother.

She had first heard the rumors in the residence.

She ignored them. It wasn't that she really had those restless thoughts, but she wanted to test Old Madam and Eldest Miss's bottom line and knew how to behave.

Even if she angered Old Madam, the law would not punish anyone. This matter was not her fault and had nothing to do with her.

Even if Old Madam was targeting the child in her stomach, she wouldn't really do anything to her.

Indeed!

The reason why Old Madam was willing to give her some respect was—

The family indeed needed someone to handle the matters on the surface. On the other hand, it was for Eldest Miss. She did not want Eldest Miss to be burdened by the matters of the inner residence at such a young age.

As long as it involved Eldest Miss, Old Madam was especially scheming.

As soon as this small commotion in the residence appeared, it was suppressed by Old Madam Yu. The servants also knew Old Madam Yu's attitude and became more cautious in their words and actions. Three days later, Yu Jianjia prepared to return to the manor.

Yu Youyao personally sent Yu Jianjia out of the city.

Yu Jianjia's health was not good, so the carriage moved very slowly. During the bumpy journey, Yu Jianjia was thinking about something. After traveling for an unknown period of time, the carriage suddenly stopped.

After all, they were outside and there were many skilled guards around her. Yu Jianjia still felt flustered and said to Ai Ye, "Ask Tao Da, who's driving the carriage, what happened."

Ai Ye calmed down and quickly leaned over to lift the curtain. "Old Man Tao, why did the carriage stop?"

Tao Da explained, "The road ahead is a little narrow. There's a carriage blocking the way. I think there's a problem with the carriage. I've already ordered someone to go over and ask."

Chapter 477: Prince of Liang

His voice was loud, and he deliberately raised his voice when he spoke.

Sitting in the carriage, Yu Jianjia heard everything clearly and felt a little relieved. However, she still felt that it was inappropriate to park the carriage here, so she couldn't help but panic.

Yu Jianjia sent Ai Ye away. "Get out of the carriage and check on the situation. Find out which family broke their carriage. If there's anything you can help with, get Da Tao to help."

Now that they were in the wilderness, it was naturally better to settle the matter as soon as possible.

Seventh Aunt nodded to herself when she heard this.

Although Third Miss was a little scheming, she was also a smart person. She knew the pros and cons well and would not do anything that was disadvantageous to her.

She was a qualified young lady.

If she recuperated a little more and grew up, she would be able to gain a good reputation in the capital.

With this thought in mind, Seventh Aunt held Yu Jianjia's slightly cold hand and comforted her. "Don't worry, there are soldiers from the Third Battalion of the capital patrolling the main road. All carriages have some status when they travel, so they're naturally from polite families."

The Yu Residence's emblem was hanging on the carriage, so anyone with a little status could recognize it.

When others saw the Yu Residence's carriage, it was not too late for them to back down. Naturally, they did not dare to offend the Yu family's relatives.

Yu Jianjia calmed down.

At this moment!

Ai Ye returned and stood beside the carriage. She gently knocked on the window. “Young Miss, I’ve asked around. The person who has a damaged carriage is Prince Liang of King Ping’s Residence in Zhenliang Prefecture.”

Yu Jianjia thought for a moment and recalled that in April, the seriously injured King Ping of Liangzhou had brought his heir, Liang Jingye, into the capital.

After that, King Ping returned to Liangzhou but Prince Liang stayed in the capital. The emperor had even specially given him a residence.

At first, there were many rumors in the capital because of this, but not long after, they faded into the background. This Prince Liang became an invisible person in the capital.

Indeed, they were keeping to themselves.

Yu Jianjia frowned slightly. Why was Prince Liang suddenly in the suburbs of the capital?

She even bumped into him?

As she was thinking, she heard Ai Ye say, “When Young Master Liang found out that Young Miss was going to the manor, he felt deeply guilty that his carriage had blocked the way. He came over with me to apologize to you.”

According to Ai Ye, Prince Liang was a polite person.

Yu Jianjia pursed her lips and did not answer.

At this moment, a clear male voice came from outside. “I’m Liang Jingye, the heir of King Ping of Zhenliang Prefecture. Is the Third Miss Yu of the Imperial Censor’s family in the carriage?”

When they were outside, they naturally had to be more polite.

Even though he had known in advance that the person in the carriage was

Third Miss Yu, it wasn’t appropriate for him to talk to someone immediately. He still had to personally ask about the other party’s background and get a personal acknowledgement.

Since Prince Liang had personally spoken, Yu Jianjia couldn’t pretend not to hear him anymore. She said gently, “That’s me. Greetings, Prince Liang.”

Liang Jingye heard that Third Miss Yu’s voice was weak and she panted slightly while looking as gentle as water. He heard that she was born with a congenital deficiency and was a little sickly. It was not empty talk.

After putting away his thoughts, Liang Jingye said, “I’ve been practicing martial arts since I was young. After entering the capital, I couldn’t help but feel an itch. Three days ago, I brought two guards with me and went out to the mountains near the suburbs of the capital to hunt. I didn’t expect that on the way back, there would be a problem with the carriage. I couldn’t move for a moment and blocked Third Miss’s path, delaying her journey. I’ll apologize to you.”

Prince Liang’s words were polite. Yu Jianjia couldn’t avoid him, so she could only lift the curtain and look out the window.

Prince Liang was standing at the window. When the curtain was lifted, Yu Jianjia could tell at a glance that he was 16 or 17 years old. He was tall and slender, and looked extraordinary.

He was also born with sharp eyebrows and bright eyes. His peach blossom eyes seemed to be filled with love and laughter. When he looked at people, his eyes were like the peach blossoms in the peach blossom forest after the rain. They were very charming.

As expected of an heir. Just his bearing was already a dragon among men.

Yu Jianjia retracted her gaze and said obediently, "It's inevitable that we'll encounter some accidents when we're outside. You don't have to take it to heart. If there's anything I can help with, feel free to ask."

Liang Jingye also saw Yu Jianjia. She was young and had already grown a little.

She was like a flower bud, beautiful and weak.

Liang Jingye maintained his etiquette and smiled as he cupped his hands. "Among the accompanying guards, there's one who knows how to repair the carriage. I just want to borrow Young Miss's servants to help move the carriage to avoid blocking the way."

Yu Jianjia nodded and instructed Ai Ye, "Get Da Tao to arrange for a few good people to help Crown Prince Liang."

Ai Ye quickly responded.

"Thank you for your generous help, Third Miss." Although Third Miss Yu was young and a little sick, not only was she well-mannered, but she was also thoughtful.

He thought to himself that she was indeed the famous daughter of the Yu family.

Yu Jianjia said politely, "Prince, you're too polite. My body is inconvenient, so please forgive me for being negligent!"

With that, she lowered the window curtain.

Although the weather was cold, she still felt a little suffocated and uncomfortable sitting in the carriage.

Seventh Aunt poured a cup of chrysanthemum wolfberry tea and handed it to Yu Jianjia.

Yu Jianjia smiled and thanked her. She held the teacup with both hands and lowered her eyes. Listening to the commotion outside, she took a sip of tea.

After finishing her cup of tea and not long after she put down her teacup, the curtain of the carriage was lifted, and Ai Ye got into the carriage. "Young Miss, Tao Da brought a few people and helped Young Master Liang move the carriage to an empty space. In order to express his gratitude, Young Master Liang gave us some wild animals he had hunted as a thank-you."

Yu Jianjia nodded. "What wild animals did he give!"

Ai Ye said, "He gave us a lot of pheasants and hares, as well as a big deer." Yu Jianjia understood and asked, "Have you thanked Prince Liang?"

Pheasants and hares were all ordinary wild animals. As long as one wanted to eat them, they could eat them almost every day. Deers were rare items.

Large families had the habit of eating deer to nourish and increase their lifespan in autumn and winter.

Deers were treasures, but wild deers on the mountain were not that easy to hunt. Whether one could hunt them depended on luck.

Prince Liang was indeed very sincere to give her such a big deer.

Ai Ye hurriedly said, "I've already thanked him on your behalf. Prince Liang said that it was originally his fault for blocking your path. After that, he received Young Miss's help and should have come over personally to thank you. However, they've already delayed you for a long time, so it's not good to continue delaying your schedule. Young Miss, you're a young lady. It's not appropriate for you to stay outside too much when you're outside. Please don't take it to heart.."

Chapter 478: Clearing Her Injustice

Not only was he sincere, but his bearing and upbringing were also top-notch. Yu Jianjia's impression of Prince Liang suddenly increased. "Prince Liang is also a polite person."

Seventh Aunt agreed deeply.

It was not good to delay things when they were out. They were afraid that an accident would happen on the way. It would be fine if they met someone polite, but if they met someone ignorant, it would be difficult.

Third Miss Yu was a young lady, so it wasn't good for her to stay outside for too long.

In addition, although the journey to the manor was not long, Yu Jianjia's body was weak, and she had brought a lot of things on this trip. The carriage traveled slowly, and it was late.

Ai Ye continued, "Prince Liang said that before he returned to Liangzhou, King Liang had bought a manor for him in the suburbs of the capital. He was going to the forest of that manor to hunt. Prince Liang said that the location of the manor was coincidentally adjacent to our family's hot spring manor. He also said that if Young Miss encountered anything inconvenient on the manor and couldn't resolve it immediately, she could go to his manor to visit."

Everything at home had been prepared well, and the manor was also meticulous. However, it was inevitable that there would be some things that could not be resolved far away from the residence.

They were neighbors, so it was only natural for them to take care of each other.

This Prince Liang was really considerate.

Yu Jianjia suddenly remembered Song Mingzhao, whom she had met in the residence previously.

The heir of the Song family, who was as glorious as the moon, treated her as if she was nothing. He treated her coldly and did not even hide it.

She could hardly believe that the talented and noble Prince Song in her heart was actually such a rude person.

The Song and Yu families were family friends. Just based on this relationship, Song Mingzhao shouldn't have ignored her existence like this.

At first, she thought that Song Mingzhao was arrogant because of his talent.

However, immediately after, she realized that Heir Song clearly did not treat Yu Youyao like this. It was not that Heir Song did not know how to be polite, but he was only polite to Yu Youyao.

Although Prince Liang was not as famous as Heir Song, he was still magnanimous and extraordinary. Not only were his words and actions noble, but he was also very polite.

Yu Jianjia felt a little comforted. "When we reach the manor, pick some good fruits from the manor and send some to Young Master Liang's manor to express our gratitude."

It was only right for her to be close to her neighbors and give them some ordinary things.

Seventh Aunt reminded, "Prince Liang is too polite."

She was unaccountably solicitous and had to be more avoidant.

However, although she felt that Yu Jianjia shouldn't be involved too much with the heir of the vassal lord from Liangzhou, her actions were understandable, and some things couldn't be said openly.

Yu Jianjia's heart skipped a beat. She said gently, "It's just that if someone respects me, I'll return the favor."

Young Master Liang was too polite, so she couldn't be too rude.

The identity of a vassal king had always been too sensitive. Others avoided it, so she naturally wouldn't really interfere.

However, basic etiquette needed to be maintained. In addition, the heir of the Liang was indeed a dragon and phoenix among men. He was neither far nor close, so he was not harmful to her.

However, there was no need to tell others about this.

Seventh Aunt understood what she meant and understood that Yu Jianjia was not ignorant. "It's only right."

The situation in Shandong had stabilized, and there had been new developments in King You's case.

As the three divisions interrogation advanced, many officials were involved in the court, including two old cabinet ministers.

The real cause of King You's death could no longer be hidden.

Youzhou was located in the north, so it could help the capital and resist external enemies. Therefore, the generals guarding Youzhou often changed. This way, it was inevitable that the generals guarding Youzhou would not have a strong foundation and would be controlled by the nobles in the north and the officials who colluded with them.

The officials who were stationed in Youzhou had joined forces with the nobles who had taken root in the north for generations. They controlled most of the supplies in the north and obtained huge profits. As a result, after King You guarded Youzhou, he was often overstretched because of the lack of troops and was controlled by the officials and nobles of the north.

It wasn't that King You didn't want to get rid of them, but a strong dragon couldn't suppress an earth dragon snake. These monsters had colluded to form a considerable force. It was really difficult to guard against.

Later on, the Di people invaded wantonly. Due to the lack of supplies, the North was caught off guard, causing them to lose three cities in a row.

In order to understand the urgent situation in the north, the heir, Yin Huaixi, had no choice but to ask the officials and nobles of the north to help. However, these people planned to escape from the north with their supplies.

This angered Yin Huaixi.

Yin Huaixi had captured these officials and nobles, raided their houses, and opened their grain cellars. There were mountains of money and rice that was mostly moldy.

Due to the lack of supplies in the north, they were in a difficult situation. The commoners were suffering unspeakably, but all of them were so rich that they did not want to support them in battle. They were actually so rich but they wanted to escape with the supplies. Their deaths were really not worth pitying.

The war in the north was tense. All the officials and nobles were like this. It could be said that there were internal and external troubles. If they couldn't intimidate the rear, their backyard would probably catch fire again before the war was over.

Prince Yin had no choice but to kill some wealthy and heartless nobles, as well as some cowardly officials to warn the others.

In the eyes of others, not only were Prince Yin's actions not wrong, but they were also meritorious.

Unexpectedly, his actions had directly poked a hornet's nest.

This was why the Marquis of Changxing had colluded with the officials and nobles of the north to steal the military power of Youzhou. He had joined forces with the Imperial Court and reported a series of crimes such as King You's rampage in the north.

The emperor was already furious because of the war in the north. When he received the report, he was even more furious.

The two old court officials in the cabinet, led by Elder Tian, were already colluding with the officials and nobles of the north. They took this opportunity to encourage the court officials to ask the emperor to summon King You into the capital.

The reason was that the Marquis of Weining and the Marquis of Changxing were in charge of the war ahead. King You should enter the capital and clarify that the war in the north had failed, that he was domineering, and that he had allowed his son to commit murder.

No one knew that this was actually a scheme by the cabinet, the Marquis of

Changxing, the officials and nobles of the north against the King You's Residence.

Not long after King You entered the capital, the Marquis of Changxing ambushed Yin Huaixi on the battlefield.

Yin Huaixi had been shot off his horse. Everyone thought that he had already been trampled into mud by the horse, but they did not know that the guards beside Yin Huaixi had used their bodies to block the chaotic trampling of the horses.

Even so, Prince Yin was still seriously injured and almost lost his life.

Before the news of Prince Yin's "death" spread, the officials and nobles of the north simply went all out and joined forces with the Marquis of Changxing to forge "evidence" that King You had colluded with the enemy to betray the country.

Using this as an excuse, they sent 10,000 elite troops to besiege the King You's Residence, intending to enter and search it..

Chapter 479: A Dance of Demons

When King You entered the capital and his heir, Yin Huaixi, "died", most of the guards in the residence followed their masters to the battlefield. Only a mere 2,000 people were left in the You Residence.

Just as the two thousand people were fearless and fighting the Marquis of Changxing's men, Consort You ordered her servants to splash oil all over the residence and light fires everywhere

By the time Marquis of Changxing and the others reacted, the fire had already covered the entire residence

Only then did they know fear.

Originally, they wanted to accuse King You of treason and plotting a rebellion. In this way, it would make sense for them to barge into the King's Residence today, and the emperor would not blame them.

However, the fire prevented King You's Residence from being "searched". There was still no seal of the King You's Residence, so there was no way to naturally pin the crime on it.

Being persecuted as a royal family was a monstrous crime that would exterminate all family members. At this point, the Marquis of Changxing, as well as all the officials and nobles in the north, could only announce to the public that Princess Consort You had committed suicide out of fear of punishment.

Unexpectedly, as soon as the news spread to the capital, King You committed suicide in the golden hall without being tried. The two elders were worried that the emperor would pursue the matter, so they joined forces with the court officials to encourage the emperor to "close the case" as soon as possible.

The emperor was deceived by the two elders, the Marquis of Changxing, and the officials and nobles in the Northern Territory. In the end, he could only close the case hurriedly to prevent this case from implicating too many people and being even more disadvantageous to King You.

However, he did not know that these people were too detestable. They had used the emperor's "concern for his brother" to control the emperor. He could not bear to implicate him too much and would rashly settle the case to help him escape punishment.

However, the net of justice was long and narrow.

Three years later, the heir, Yin Huaixi, brought his crippled body into the capital to plead for his father. In the end, the crimes that these people had covered up were exposed to the world.

The cruel truth made the emperor furious and even fainted.

There was also an uproar in the capital.

They all knew that King You had died an unjust death, but they did not know that he had actually been persecuted to this extent. For a moment, scholars everywhere jointly requested that these corrupt officials be severely punished and that King You be given justice.

The commotion was even greater after the heir defeated the enemy in Shandong.

However, Yu Youyao only felt that it was ironic. “In order to protect the emperor’s reputation, the court officials have really put in a lot of effort. They didn’t hesitate to distort the truth and remind the emperor that he was someone’s brother. It’s really ridiculous.”

The memorial of King You’s case was jointly drawn up by the three divisions. After Xia Yansheng reviewed it, the ministers passed it on to the emperor. After the emperor read it and confirmed that there were no problems, it was announced.

Every word was really a gem to whitewash crimes in the name of peace.

King You had died unjustly. The emperor had only been deceived by the treacherous officials. It was also those traitors who were too detestable. They had used the emperor’s brotherly relationship with King You to cover up their crimes.

From the beginning to the end, not only had the emperor made a mistake, but he had also become a victim of being “blinded” and “used” by traitors.

Who else would think that the emperor had accidentally killed a meritorious general and harmed his sibling?

Even a historian wouldn’t dare to write this.

The memorial was recorded in history books. Who could say for sure in the future?

Chang An also looked resentful. “They’re simply too shameless.”

Yu Youyao only felt disgusted. After taking a deep breath, she calmed down. “No matter what, King You’s grievances have finally been cleared. He can rest in peace in the netherworld. Cousin has also resolved a problem and can live openly in the future.”

Although she said that, she did not feel very happy.

She had completely seen through King You’s case. The Great Zhou Dynasty was already rotten to the core.

Xia Yansheng, who she had always thought was a pure minister, was not that pure anymore.

From the beginning to the end, Xia Yansheng had said that he was sick in the residence and had not participated in King You’s matter. However, it was also a fact that he was covering up for his henchmen.

Most importantly, he understood that the emperor wanted to kill King You. He knew that King You was innocent, but he did not do his job as a minister. He was unwilling to get involved in this mess and chose to watch coldly.

Yu Youyao felt suffocated and muttered, “It’s a dance of demons. When will the world be clear of sin?”

Even Xia Yansheng, the head of the officials, was nothing much. How many people in the court were clean?

Ever since the Marquis of Changxing was escorted into the capital, the emperor's butcher knife had been killing all the way from Youzhou in the north to the capital. He had really killed until blood flowed like a river. That was why it had stopped for a few months because of the three divisions' interrogation.

How many of those people were scapegoats pushed out by these powerful ministers?

Now that the matter had been exposed, Elder Tian and the others were so lawless and disregarded the authority of the Tian family. This was no longer just persecuting the royal family, but openly provoking the dignity of the emperor.

It seemed that after her cousin returned to the capital, there would be another bloodbath.

Yu Youyao sighed in her heart. She couldn't even eat the fat and juicy peaches anymore. Chun Xiao brought over a copper basin and helped Yu Youyao wash her hands. Then, she took some ointment and moistened her hands.

At this moment, Xia Tao rushed into the house without even panting. 'Young Miss, Old Madam wants you to go over.'

Yu Youyao stood up, tidied her clothes, and asked Xia Tao to bring over the ginseng nourishing pill. She then went to An Shou Hall.

Autumn was good for nourishment. The method of using a ginseng nourishing pill was a little different from ordinary prescriptions. Ten year wild ginseng and various medicinal herbs were used. The medicinal properties were gentler than ordinary prescriptions and had the effect of nourishing the blood and soul.

It was originally made in autumn for Grandmother to nourish her body.

She had also made some ginseng nourishing pills with 20 -year-old wild ginseng for her cousin.

When she arrived at An Shou Hall, Yu Youyao saw her grandmother sitting on the couch with her body tilted to rest. Yu Zongzheng, who should be in the government office at this time, was actually sitting in the hall and drinking tea.

Yu Youyao stepped forward to greet him. "Greetings, Grandmother and Father."

Yu Zongzheng nodded.

Old Madam Yu looked at Chun Xiao's hands and smiled so widely that her eyes couldn't be seen. "Look at this girl. She lives in the same house, but every time she comes over, it's as if she's a guest. She doesn't come empty handed. Every time she brings something over, it's not just anything. It's something that she personally made."

It seemed to be a casual remark, but there was a deeper meaning to it.

Old Madam Yu had contributed greatly to Yu Zongzheng's sudden change in opinion of his daughter.

Every time Yu Zongzheng came over to greet her, Old Madam would pretend to mention how Yu Youyao improved and that she knew how to be filial and promising.

The more he heard these words, the more he would think highly of her.

Unknowingly, it had instilled in Yu Zongzheng a feeling that his eldest daughter was still young but had the demeanor of a legitimate elder.

An old person's wisdom was accumulated from a young age.

Madam Yang's pretense of fooling others was just a moment of emotion, but

Old Madam could really control someone's mind..

Chapter 480: Disaster

When Yu Zongzheng heard this, he didn't think that there was anything wrong. Instead, he agreed very much. "Yao Yao is so filial to Mother that even

I, as her father, am a little jealous."

Of course, this was just a casual remark.

A man should care about the world and aspire to achieve success in the royal court. The elders in the family had to rely on their wives and children to take care of them. Only when Yao Yao took good care of his mother could he feel at ease in the royal court.

Old Madam Yu smiled until her eyes narrowed. She did not say anything else and turned to look at her granddaughter. "Quick, show me what good things you've brought me this time."

Her tone was clearly showing off.

Yu Zongzheng was amused.

Yu Youyao took the box from Chun Xiao's hand and handed it to her grandmother. "It's good to nourish the body with warmth in autumn. I've made a ginseng nourishing pill to nourish the Qi and blood. It's very effective in nourishing the mind. This recipe is more suitable for an old person with weak health. I didn't prepare it for Father."

Yu Zongzheng did not care about this. "Mother is old, so she deserves more nourishment."

During this period of time, he had also eaten a lot of medicinal cuisine. How could he compete with his mother for the medicinal tea and medicinal fragrance that Yu Youyao had sent over?

Old Madam Yu couldn't stop smiling. "I think you've spent a lot of effort again.

In the past, I didn't know how to mix incense and medicine. It isn't easy either. I just thought that it would be done as soon as I followed the recipes. Later, I asked Nanny Xu and found out that this consumes a lot of energy. You're still young, so you have to be more careful."

Yu Zongzheng was also a little surprised. He did not expect that this incense medicine would not be easy to make.

Yu Youyao pursed her lips and chuckled. "The Ginseng Nourishment Pill isn't difficult to make, and it doesn't take much effort. Grandmother, don't worry."

With that, she asked Bai Kui to pour some warm water and personally took a pill to serve Old Madam Yu. Then, she instructed, "One pill a day is enough."

After the two of them finished chatting, it was time to talk about serious matters.

Yu Youyao sat beside her grandmother.

Yu Zongzheng said, "This morning, at the court meeting, the Marquis of Ningyuan suddenly participated in the memorial. He's currently in charge of the capital of Zhejiang and has the general position. He's in charge of Song Xiuwen, the general of the coastal war in Ningbo, Shaoxing, and Taizhou Prefectures."

Yu Youyao was stunned when she heard this. Only then did she realize that the small booklet that her grandmother had shown her previously recorded all the influential people in the Song family.

Song Xiuwen was at the front.

Song Xiuwen had previously presided over the war along the coast of Shandong. Later, when the pirates in Zhejiang became a problem, he was transferred to Zhejiang.

Song Xiuwen was a direct descendant of the Song family and held military power. He was a third-grade feudal official.

Old Madam Yu frowned. "What crimes were reported?"

The Marquis of Ningyuan was not a coward. He was bold enough to instruct the Marquis of Changxing to persecute the royal family and it was obvious how ambitious he was.

Even though the Marquis of Changxing had been implicated and demoted, and the emperor was dissatisfied with his refusal to fight in the court, King You's case had implicated so many people. As the true culprit, he could still sit steadily in the royal court.

It was true that the emperor wanted to protect him, but wasn't it also because he had his own methods and hadn't really been caught red-handed?

Since he had brazenly participated in Song Xiuwen's memorial, the crime he had participated in was not groundless.

Yu Zongzheng said, "There were seven to eight crimes. He colluded with bandits at sea and plundered merchant ships to obtain huge profits. He risked killing commoners and became a pirate to ask the Imperial Court for merits.

He accepted bribes from local officials and nobles and filled his own pockets.

What he said made sense. The Marquis of Zhenguo even quarreled with the Marquis of Ningyuan."

Old Madam Yu gasped. "This is not a light crime. Many crimes are linked to the Marquis of Changxing. How did the emperor react?"

Song Xiuwen was not an unknown figure. Instead, he was a border official with a large army. As he was good at water battles, he fought with the pirates all year round and accumulated a lot of prestige and reputation for the Zhenguo Marquis Residence.

It seemed that this time, the Zhenguo Marquis Residence was going to suffer a huge setback.

Yu Zongzheng's expression did not look too good either. "The emperor was furious and appointed the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs as the imperial envoy. The Ministry of War and the Imperial Court sent officials to accompany him and help investigate this case thoroughly. The emperor appointed me."

Old Madam Yu was stunned for a moment when she heard this. Her expression was solemn. "It's not easy to get involved in the muddy waters of Zhejiang. As a person in the royal court, one can't make a mistake. The more crimes one commits, the greater the number of people involved, and the greater the stakes. Jiangnan has always been a wealthy place with heavy taxes. I'm afraid the implication of Song Xiuwen's case is even worse than King You's. I'm afraid it's a blessing or a curse for the emperor to let you participate in this case."

Yu Zongzheng thought the same. Therefore, after the court session, he did not even go to the government office. Instead, he returned to the residence and discussed this matter with his mother.

However, Yu Youyao, who was listening from the side, did not think so. The first thing she thought of was that he was very involved in King You's case and there were many vacancies in the court.

Yu Zongzheng had originally been a fifth-grade officer in the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs. Although he had not made much progress, he had not done anything wrong. Later on, when he was transferred to the Imperial Court, it was also because the Xie family was unhappy with his mother's death and secretly operated.

It could be said that he had ascended openly and fallen secretly.

Of course, everyone in the Yu Residence knew this very well.

However, no one dared to say anything.

This time, Yu Zongzheng's performance in the trial of King You was commendable. He had received a reward from the emperor, so he was entrusted with an important task to help the imperial envoy with the case.

It seemed that if he could satisfy the emperor this time, Yu Zongzheng might very well be transferred to the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs!

The Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs was the head of the six ministries.

Yu Zongzheng's status had not only increased, but he had also become a true official.

Her previous guess was right. The emperor indeed had the intention to support the Yu Clan and place them in an important position.

At the same time, Yu Youyao also understood that Song Xiuwen would most likely die.

As she was thinking, Old Madam Yu sighed slightly. "It seems that Song Xiuwen can't be saved anymore. Help the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs handle the case as well as possible..."

King You's case made the emperor extremely distrustful of the court officials.

Song Xiuwen's case also concerned the emperor's money bag.

Cultivation, alchemy, sacrificial offerings, and training halls all required money. The war along the coast directly affected the emperor's interests. Even the Zhenguo Marquis Residence did not dare to interfere in this case, lest they angered the emperor.

Yu Zongzheng thought so too, but he said, “I understand this, but as for the Marquis of Zhenguo...”

Yu Zongzheng thought so too, but he said, “I understand this, but as for the Marquis of Zhenguo...”

Her father had looked for her grandmother for a meeting, but her grandmother had called her over directly. Even for such a big matter, her grandmother and father did not exclude her.

Yu Youyao thought for a moment and said, “Father, haven’t you thought about why the emperor wants you to participate in Song Xiuwen’s case when you’re just a civil servant? You just said that the official handling this case is the Minister of Personnel who’s also the imperial envoy?”