

All Hail 541

Chapter 541: Bright at Night

Yu Youyao's heart skipped a beat. "There are detailed records about cutting and planting in the Essentials of the Qi People and the Records of Agriculture. Sweet potatoes have a strong vitality. Perhaps we can try cutting and increasing the planting."

Cutting some vines did not affect the growth of the sweet potatoes.

Nanny Yue was a little surprised, but she nodded and said, "That's possible. The sweet potato vine will definitely live if it's inserted into the soil. Even if it doesn't bear fruit, we can plant something in the ground and nourish it.

Otherwise, if the ground is idle for too long, the quality of the soil will worsen. Moreover, the tender leaves of the sweet potato vine can also be eaten. The old leaves can be fed to poultry, pigs, and cows, and they won't be wasted."

Last June, they made a discovery in the manor. Broken sweet potato vines could also live when planted in the ground. The vines grew well, but the roots were thin and old, and the taste was not good.

Although there were many trees, flowers, trees and fruits that could be propagated from cuttings, they were harvested every year and the success rate was low.

Rice could not be propagated from cuttings. It could only be considered to be transplanted from the roots.

No one had thought of propagation, nor had they mentioned this to Young Miss. They did not expect Young Miss to have such an idea.

There were many poultry, pigs, and cows raised in the manor, and they had to feed them a lot of grass every year. Young Miss's suggestion was feasible.

Yu Youyao smiled. "Since it can be planted and it's not a waste, plant them all the idle land."

Nanny Yue nodded. "The sweet potatoes will have to be planted in the ground in mid-March at the latest. In April and May, when the vines grow, you can try to cut them and insert them into the soil to try planting them."

Yu Youyao's train of thought also started. "In the past two years, the weather hasn't been good, and some of the land in the manor with bad soil has become quite empty. It's also easy to plant sweet potatoes, and it's not difficult to plant them. Many farmers are also idle at home because the weather isn't good. We can hire people to work here. With an income, it's easier for them to live. They can plant as many as they can."

There was nothing to do on the ground, and the agricultural work was ready-made. The sweet potato vines were not completely useless, so there was no reason not to plant them on a large scale.

Nanny Yue nodded in agreement. "Alright, I'll arrange it when I go back."

Yu Youyao smiled. "Thank you again, Nanny."

At this moment, Yu Yao did not know that she had unknowingly found the best way to plant the sweet potatoes. It had greatly increased the production of the sweet potatoes. She had single-handedly pushed for the promotion of the planting of the sweet potatoes and saved countless poor citizens who had suffered from natural and man-made disasters.

As soon as Nanny Yue left, Chun Xiao came over. ‘Young Miss, Matriarch wants you to go over.’

After Yu Youyao tidied her clothes, she brought Chun Xiao to An Shou Hall. Just as she walked into the house, she heard a cry from the inner room.

The crying continued, accompanied by sobbing. It was so heart-wrenching.

Yu Youyao quickly lifted the curtain. ‘Brother Ming, why are you crying so hard?’

When Old Madam Yu saw her enter, she also looked helpless. ‘He was fine just now, but he suddenly cried. He didn’t pee or poop, and he only had some sheep’s milk. He doesn’t seem to be hungry. I can’t coax him no matter what. Why don’t you come over and coax him? Brother Ming has been close to you since he was young. Every time he is close to you, his concubine can’t carry him away.’

In April two years ago, Concubine He had successfully had a son.

Nine years later, Yu Zongzheng had another son. Although he was only a Concubine’s son, he attached great importance to him. He sent his name choices early in the morning to the clan, and asked the respected elders in the clan to help him choose a suitable name..

The elder also knew that the first branch of the Yu Residence did not have many children. Even if he was the son of a concubine, he should indeed be In the end, he circled the word ‘Ming’ and wrote, ‘The night is bright!’ He pointed out the origin of the word ‘Ming’.

After Old Madam Yu saw this, she sighed slowly. ‘It’s not only mean bright, but also wise.’

The Yu Residence looked dignified with the title of ‘Duke Zhonglie.’ In the royal court, even the political enemies had to give in because the meaning behind this name was loyalty.

The descendants of aristocratic families had to inherit the virtue of their ancestors and follow their legacy.

With an ancestor who had committed ‘regicide’, others were also worried that this descendant of the same bloodline might go crazy. Who knew what he would do?

All these years, Second Brother and Eldest Son’s life in the court had been smooth sailing.

Since ancient times, loyalty and righteousness had always been a dilemma. Other than leaving a legacy of regicide and building a good reputation for them, what else was important?

Only by suffering would one know that lotus seeds were bitter.

Emperor Gaozu admired Duke Zhonglie and his loyalty. However, a big reason was because when Duke Zhonglie was the prime minister of the previous dynasty. He blessed all the people in the world and gained the hearts of the people.

Duke Zhonglie had been conferred the title to win over the hearts of the people, and also to appease the scholars in the world.

Later on, the great ancestors placed the Yu Clan in an important position and left behind a will, hoping that his descendants would treat the Yu Clan well.

However, there was nothing good about “regicide.”

When they met the magnanimous emperor, the Yu Clan could still have a seat in the court.

It was already not bad not to suppress the emperor who had ill intentions.

After so many years, the Yu Clan was still in decline. The scholarly aristocratic family in the past had already fallen.

Even the emperor of this dynasty was originally willing to put Second Brother in an important position because the Yu Clan’s foundation was shallow and they needed to rely on the emperor. They had also written an ancient book like the “Sea Map Strategy” and had a large but empty treasury.

Now, the emperor wanted to put the Yu Clan in an important position. Not only had Second Brother been promoted to the Minister of Revenue, but Eldest Son had also been transferred to the Minister of Official Personnel Affairs. Yu

Shande chose a family member to enter the Hanlin Academy.

The other three were not forgotten either. They were all sent to good positions.

Last autumn, Yu Shanyan, who was only 16 years old, participated in the Fall Quarter Examinations and took the top three place.

This result shocked the entire Yu Residence. Everyone in the family knew that Yu Shanyan was good at studying and could guess that he would definitely be able to enter the rankings this time. His results would also be very high. However, Yu Shanyan was smart and a little insensible. When he competed with Yu Shande, it would be difficult for him to be outstanding.

He did not expect him to get third place.

At first, the family thought that the emperor wanted to place the Yu Residence in an important position. The officials in charge of the examination more or less had some holy will.

After reading Yu Shanyan’s article, even Second Brother was shocked.

Yu Shanyan said bluntly, “It’s also thanks to Cousin Zhou’s guidance that I was able to get third place this time.”

Yu Zongshen recalled that even his clueless son, who had always been useless, knew that he was diligent and motivated under Zhou Linghuai’s guidance. He had even been admitted as a student. Although his ranking was slightly lower, he had still passed. Even if he did not have much future in the imperial examination in the future, it would not be a disgrace to the reputation of the Yu Residence. In the future, it would not be bad for him to take the path of a general.

At the thought of this, she did not find it strange.

This time, the scholar who was the Top Scorer in the examination was almost 30 years old.

The person in second place was also over 20 years old.

Although Yu Shanyan was not known as the Top Scorer, he still shocked the world. After Song Mingzhao, he caught twice the attention as one of the genius students in the capital.

All of this meant that the Yu Clan's future was bright and his ancestral career was in sight.

This was also what the Yu Clan had been looking forward to the most for many years.

However, in the past few years, the court had not been peaceful. The Yu

Residence had been placed in an important position and was in the limelight. At this time, they needed to protect themselves.

The clean elder used this name to remind the Yu Residence of the capital.

After that, Old Madam Yu said, "His full name is Yu Shanming, and his courtesy name is Jiming. I won't make it public for the time being. I'll mention it when he grows up."

It was obvious that although he was only a concubine's son, the family still had high hopes for him..

Chapter 542: Precious

Yu Youyao recalled what had happened at home in the past two years. She smiled and took him from her grandmother. Yu Shanming was only a year old and not even two years old.

Miraculously, when Yu Shanming, who had been crying non-stop, entered Yu

Youyao's arms, it was as if he could smell it. His chubby little hands immediately grabbed Yu Youyao's lapel.

The round little person grinned and laughed at Yu Youyao.

His bright black eyes that were big and bright were as beautiful as onyx because he had cried just now.

Even Yu Youyao's heart softened. She took out a soft handkerchief from Yu Shanming's lapel and gently wiped the remaining tears off his face.

Old Madam Yu smiled knowingly. "As expected, Brother Ming is the closest to you in the entire residence. The two of you are also fated. You both have birthdays in April. He was born at the beginning of April, and you were born in the middle of April. Even Brother Ming, who was one year old before him, caught the 'curse' that you had learned previously."

Her granddaughter was a magnanimous person. Even if she was not close to her siblings in the residence, she was usually willing to take good care of them.

Yu Shansi, who had not had a good relationship with her in the past, now respected his big sister very much.

Last year, on her granddaughter's 12th birthday, Yu Shansi had prepared a wooden ornament that he had personally carved and given it to his big sister.

The reason why he had given her wood carvings was because he had heard that Eldest Sister liked these exquisite carvings. Coincidentally, his teacher knew a little about carving, so he had learned from him.

They had a respectful relationship.

However, Matriarch Yu kept feeling that her granddaughter's affinity with her siblings was a little shallow, and she often felt that it was a pity. Old Madam Yu was very happy that Yu Shanming was close to her.

She became more concerned about Yu Shanming's upbringing.

Although Yu Shanming was raised in Concubine Qiu's courtyard. He was usually taken care of by the clan aunt and nanny, Concubine Qiu could only help out sometimes.

Even Concubine Qiu did not think that it was too much. When Brother Ming grew up by her side, he did not have a good character. The children in the family who were valued would not be raised by the concubine, but by the first wife.

The clan aunt beside her was also the daughter of a good first wife.

Now that he was older and had knowledge and experience, he was many times better than when he was in the hands of the first wife.

Fortunately, Madam Yang had entered the Tranquil Heart Residence. She saw how petty Madam Yang was and she almost raised her son badly. How could she raise her son to have good character?

Although Matriarch did not allow her to interfere in Brother Ming's upbringing, she did not forbid her from visiting him.

Yu Youyao pouted. "I thought Grandmother would say that Brother Ming is as chubby as I was in the past."

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she shook her head. "When you were young, you weren't as round as your younger brother, Ming. You were half-grown and a little thin, like a little kitten."

She was so small and thin. She was always worried that she would be gone in the blink of an eye.

It was also because of this that she had fattened up her granddaughter.

She kept feeling that it was better for some people to gain weight so that they could be nurtured for a long time.

When her granddaughter was eight or nine years old, she was also round. As long as a child was not fat and had a good foundation, they would grow well.

For someone like Yu Jianjia, she could still be nurtured if she was younger. However, if she was older, her bones would still suffer.

With Yu Jianjia as a comparison, she also felt that it was better to be rounder. In any case, when she grew a little older, she would slowly eat less food and lose weight.

Madam Xie and Eldest Son were not fat people, so her granddaughter definitely wouldn't gain weight.

Thinking of the past, Old Madam Yu couldn't help but feel a little sad. Then, she looked at her granddaughter. Now, she was like a new willow tree, fresh and slender.

Her face was tender, and her appearance was even more delicate than Madam Xie's. There was no need to mention her figure. Nanny Xu had raised her to be slender. She was not even 13 years old,

but her chest was already bulging with a small bag. Her waist was like a willow branch. When she walked, it swayed gently and looked indescribably beautiful and elegant.

She was neither seductive nor charming, but she was gentle and extremely beautiful.

She had a little beauty at home.

She was born delicate.

Yu Jianjia was delicate, but she was also weaker than her.

Old Madam Yu felt happy again. She couldn't help but feel proud and emotional. "In the blink of an eye, our Yao Yao has become a big girl. She's good-looking. Not to mention the capital, there aren't many in the world."

What was more outstanding than her appearance was her character and virtue.

Yao Yao had just turned eleven when someone she knew came over to ask about her.

She said bluntly, "In recent years, the court hasn't been peaceful either. My little sweetheart, who has been raised in front of me since she was young, doesn't plan to marry someone early. She just hopes that the world will be

peaceful and everything will be fine."

They were all familiar with each other, so they should know what she meant.

However, there were still many reputable families asking about Yao Yao, both openly and secretly.

As Yu Youyao teased Yu Shanming, she smiled. "Children are the best. Tell me quickly, why did you specially call me over?"

In her grandmother's eyes, she was good in every way. No one could compare to her.

Old Madam Yu glanced at her from the corner of her eye, but she still said, "Yesterday, your father suggested to me that I adopt Brother Ming under your mother's name. Your mother will have a son and can also enjoy the worship of the descendants of the clan in the future."

Xie Roujia had married into the Yu Residence and given birth to a daughter. She was listed in the ancestral records, but she did not have any children. She only left her name and did not enjoy the worship of the descendants of the clan.

Madam Yang was still living well. Yu Shanming had a proper mother. Although the first wife was older than the second wife and passed on Yu Shanming to the first wife, the rules were lacking.

On the whole, it was still passable.

Xie Roujia had only married into the Yu Residence for a few years, but she was still filial to her mother-in-law and could manage the family. She was a rare filial daughter-in-law.

As long as she nodded and asked the elders of the clan to step in, this matter would definitely succeed.

Yu Zongzheng had made this suggestion probably because in the past few years, without Yang Shuwan whispering in his ear, he wanted to make it up to Madam Xie.

To a married woman, it was also a dignified glory to be able to help her husband's family spread their roots and enter the ancestral tree to enjoy the continuous worship of their descendants.

Yu Youyao lowered her head and smiled.

Seeing that she was silent, Old Madam Yu asked, "What do you think?"

She also liked Xie Roujia very much. Even the merchants had no intention of looking down on her.

However, when it came to marriage between aristocratic families, they all had to be of equal social status. It was also because of her selfishness that she had lost her life. Naturally, she was happy to see Eldest Son's suggestion.

However, she was Yao Yao's biological mother after all. They had to listen to her.

When she looked up again, Yu Youyao's expression had already changed, and her tone inevitably became a little calmer. "When a person dies, it's like a lamp going out. Mother has passed away for many years, so I won't disturb her peace anymore.."

Chapter 543: Adoption

At this point, she was unwilling to say this anymore. She changed the topic. "Grandmother, if you want, you can adopt Brother Ming under Madam Yang's name. Father doesn't have many children, and there are very few people in the first branch. With the status of a legitimate son, Brother Ming's future will be easier."

Yu Zongzheng's suggestion was really to compensate her mother.

However, after all, didn't he want to give this hard-won son of a concubine a more legitimate identity?

Yu Shanyan had been delayed by Madam Yang for a few years, and his future was not bright.

Yu Zongzheng definitely had to put in more effort to nurture Yu Shanming well. Naturally, he had to give Yu Shanming a more legitimate identity. He did not have many children, so this matter was not too much.

However, Yu Zongzheng hated Madam Yang.

He did not care about Madam Yang's identity as a concubine's daughter, so he was unwilling to adopt this hard-won son under Madam Yang's name.

When it came to Yu Shansi, he had no choice. After all, she was his biological mother.

Yu Shanming could pass him on to his first wife.

Although Xie Roujia was a businesswoman, back then, when Yu Zongshen wrote the "Sea Map", the Xie family had contributed and was also praised by the emperor.

Later on, the Imperial Court opened maritime transportation widely and could not operate without the Xie family's help.

Back then, the Xie Residence was also extremely famous, so no one looked down on Xie Roujia's background. Instead, many families in the capital targeted the huge profits from sea transport and took the initiative to befriend Madam Xie.

Madam Xie was shrewd and generous, and she had a good reputation in the capital.

If Yu Shanming was adopted under Xie Roujia's name, it naturally wouldn't be bad for him.

Yu Zongzheng's scheme was not limited to this!

The Xie Residence had connections, channels, and money. When Yu Shanming was adopted into the Xie Residence, the Xie Residence would be his external family. In the future, even if Yu Youyao married out, the Xie Residence and the Yu Residence would still have a strong relationship.

In the future, when Yu Shanming embarked on an official career, the Xie family would also spend money and effort to pave the way for him on account that he was Xie Roujia's son.

With the Xie family's help, Yu Shanming's future would definitely be stronger than Yu Shansi's.

After all, because of Yang Shuwan, it was impossible for the Xie Residence to help Yu Shansi. This was equivalent to the Yu Residence cutting off their powerful backer, the Xie Residence, when Yu Youyao married out.

Adoption was not a small matter, nor could it be a hot topic for the Yu Residence. They had to get the Xie Residence's approval.

The reason why Yu Zongzheng had made this suggestion was also because of Yu Youyao. She liked her younger brother, Yu Shanming, very much.

As long as Yu Youyao agreed, the Xie family had no reason to refuse.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but feel a little sick because of it, but she also understood that the Xie family's in-laws were useful connections. Whether it was the Yu Residence or the clan far away in Tongzhou, there was no reason to give up easily.

She would get married sooner or later.

At that time, the in-law relationship between the Yu and Xie Residences would only exist in name.

As the eldest son of the first branch, it was inevitable that Yu Zongzheng would consider this. His grandmother was also happy to see it happen. However, due to her guilt towards her mother, it was not appropriate for her to make decisions on her own, so she asked for her opinion.

Most of the aristocratic families were like this.

Some families in the capital would even marry the concubine's sister in order to maintain their relationship with the first wife's maiden family after her early death.

If she wasn't of the right age, she would still go to the first wife's family and choose a younger sister of the same age to marry into the family as a second wife.

In ancient times, there were sisters that served the same husband.

Such a situation was common in every dynasty.

Old Madam Yu felt a little regretful about Yu Youyao's rejection, but she did not say anything else.

"Do you think it's appropriate to adopt Brother Ming under

Madam Yang's name?"

Yu Youyao said calmly, "It's just borrowing an identity. It won't affect anything. It's more logical for Brother Ming to be adopted under her name."

She indeed liked her younger brother, Yu Shanming, very much. Naturally, she hoped that he would not have to use the title of a concubine's son in the future and have a good future.

Madam Yang's background was a little low, and her character was not good, but she was still the first wife after all.

Old Madam Yu frowned. "I'll discuss this with your father again."

Yu Youyao nodded. "The relationship between the aristocratic families is important. Old generations of family friendships have to be maintained. I know that Grandmother and Father want to maintain their long-standing in-law relationship with the Xie family, but Father has been estranged from the Xie family for many years. Even if I agree to this matter, the reconciliation might not succeed. After all, I'm just a junior. I'm sandwiched between an external family and internal family. It's inevitable that I'll be troubled, and it'll really ruin the relationship between the two families."

As soon as these words were spoken, Old Madam Yu sighed. "It's my fault for not thinking it through. I forgot that you're an unmarried young lady. You shouldn't have gotten involved in this matter."

This matter was adult's business to begin with. Even if Yao Yao was in charge of the family, she shouldn't get involved in this matter.

If Yao Yao really agreed, she would be ignorant.

The Xie Residence was already brooding over Xie Roujia's death. All these years, they had been distant from the Yu Residence because of their grandchild, Yu Youyao.

If Yao Yao agreed to this, the Xie Residence would misunderstand that it was the Yu Residence who had instigated Yu Youyao.

To put it simply, it was called profit-seeking.

At the very least, they would be extremely shameless and disregarded etiquette.

Not only would it make things difficult for Yao Yao, but the Yu Residence couldn't afford to lose face either. The Xie Residence would also be even more dissatisfied with the Yu Residence.

After thinking this through, Old Madam Yu's expression tightened. "Don't interfere in this matter anymore. I'll explain it to your father and let him forget about it."

In addition, Yu Youyao was only focused on helping the Yu Residence and the Xie Residence to please them. As the daughter of the Yu Residence, it made sense, but it was a little unreasonable emotionally.

It was hard to guarantee that the Xie Residence wouldn't take this to heart.

The meager relationship between the Yu and Xie families would also be in danger.

At this point, Yu Youyao also expressed her stance. "No matter what, my relationship with the Xie family is endless. As the eldest sister, it's only right for me to help my siblings in the family. As a

daughter, it's only right and proper for me to help my maiden family. As a daughter of the Yu Clan, it's naturally only when the family prospers that my future will be good."

These words were considered her stance. The Xie family was her external family. She had benefited from the Xie family. Could it be that she was worried that she wouldn't help her siblings, family and clan?

One had to know that not only did a woman have to have a powerful external family, but she also had to have a reliable family.

Old Madam Yu had a complicated expression. "Your father, he..."

When Eldest Son mentioned this this morning, she did not think of it like this. She only thought that Eldest Son felt guilty towards Madam Xie and was happy to see it.

Now that Yao Yao had vaguely expressed her stance, she suddenly understood that Eldest Son wanted to adopt Yu Shanming as Madam Xie's heir. He actually wanted to use Yu Shanming and obtain benefits from the Xie family.

If it were anyone else who had such thoughts, she would not think much of this scheme.

But what right did he have to scheme like this?

Chapter 544: No Conscience

Had he forgotten how Madam Xie had died?

Could it be that he had forgotten that after being a "kind father" for a few years, he really thought that he was a "kind father" all along and had forgotten how he treated Yao Yao badly back then?

Or had he lost his conscience when he became an official?

He was really old and his brain was not as good as when he was young. When his heart softened, he always thought well of himself.

In addition, in the past few years, Eldest Son was indeed not as bad as before. It was also a good thing for the family, so she did not think too much about it.

To think that she had lived for most of her life, but she was not as insightful as her granddaughter.

It was obvious how angry Old Madam Yu was.

Yu Youyao shook her head. "Father is the eldest son of the first wife, so he has to care more about the family's future. It's also a good thing as a daughter depends on her father's status. It's just that this matter isn't appropriate, so I'm telling this to Grandmother and asking you to persuade Father so that he won't have unnecessary misunderstandings with me."

Old Madam Yu's face was filled with anger, and her voice deepened. "Alright, I've seen through what your father is. The bigger the official title, the more ambitious he is. Don't speak up for your father anymore." At this point, she knew that she was dizzy with anger, so she quickly changed the topic. "Brother Ming, are you asleep?"

Just now, she was also furious. She did not hide the dissatisfaction and anger in her heart in front of her granddaughter.

The older she was, the more arrogant she became.

Yu Youyao nodded. "Perhaps he's a little tired from crying. When it comes to me, he falls asleep quickly."

Old Madam Yu forced a smile. "You've also been hugging him for a long time. I think your hands are sore, so let Nanny carry him back to the Rain Autumn

Courtyard."

With that, she asked Nanny Liu to go to the side room to call the nanny.

The nanny came quickly and quickly took Yu Shanming from Yu Youyao's arms. She smiled and said, "Eldest Miss's posture of carrying a child is more stable than us, who are used to raising children. Every time Seventh Young Master returns to you, he'll be more peaceful than anyone else."

This was not a compliment. The child's reaction did not lie.

Yu Youyao smiled. "Children are tender. If I don't hold them firmly, they'll definitely moan and feel uncomfortable."

Nanny smiled too.

This was it. Only when you were with someone sincerely would you think about whether they were comfortable.

As soon as Yu Youyao left, Old Madam Yu couldn't suppress her anger. She reached out and swept the cups and plates on the table to the ground.

Old Madam Yu said in a low voice, "As the eldest son of the first wife, it's fine for Eldest Son to scheme more for the family, but this scheme should be calculated more clearly. To think that he can think of such a thing that harms others without benefiting himself."

Anyone who was well-mannered should know that they had to help their maiden family. Only when their maiden family was stable could the children marry well and her status as a wife in her husband's family be stable.

Yao Yao wasn't a fool.

Which brother and sister in the family had never been taken care of by her?

With Yao Yao's relationship with the Xie family, did he still need to scheme for this relationship?

With Yao Yao's character and talent, was he worried that she would benefit from the Xie family and not help the family?

She really didn't know if she should call him stupid or arrogant.

Nanny Liu lowered her head, wishing she could cover her ears too.

When Master mentioned this in the morning, she felt that it was inappropriate, but she did not think too much about it. Seeing that Matriarch was happy to see it happen, she did not say anything else.

Who knew...

As soon as Yu Youyao left the north courtyard, she bumped into Concubine Jiang, who had come to greet the Old Madam.

The autumn-colored dress made her look beautiful. Although her figure was not as thin as Concubine Qiu's, her every move was a little delicate and she did not look frivolous or tacky. Instead, she looked elegant. It was obvious that she had been raised well.

Concubine Jiang was a newcomer who had only been accepted into the residence two years ago.

At that time, Concubine Qiu had been pregnant for seven to eight months and her body had become heavier. Matriarch He made the decision to send Concubine He to the manor, planning to take in a concubine for Yu Zongzheng seriously.

Concubine Jiang was the third daughter of the Imperial College's Registrar

Jiang's family. Second Aunt had recommended her using her maiden family.

Although the official registrar was only a sixth-grade official, his family also had farmers and scholars. His family had a small fortune and had been studying agriculture for generations. He could be considered to have passed down poetry and books.

Official Jiang was also a proper scholar. He was much more particular about poetry, books, and etiquette than ordinary families.

Concubine Jiang was still the legitimate daughter of the first wife. Just based on her status, she had to be valued.

Yu Zongzheng was also very satisfied with this concubine with a good background and upbringing. He gave her some respect, and Concubine Qiu could not surpass her.

Concubine Jiang was indeed talented and knowledgeable.

After arriving at the Yu Residence, she could show filial piety to her elders and help manage the inner residence. She was even better than Concubine Qiu.

Old Madam Yu was also very satisfied and relied on her a lot. Most of the family matters were handled by her and Concubine Qiu.

This way, the family was stable.

Yu Youyao did not spend too much time in the inner residence. Concubine Jiang and Concubine Qiu were also tactful. If they could not make up their minds, they would discuss it with Nanny Liu and Nanny Xu before coming over to ask.

When Concubine Jiang saw Yu Youyao, she quickened her pace and walked forward. She bowed to Yu Youyao. "Eldest Miss, you've just come out of

Matriarch's residence."

Yu Youyao also smiled and nodded. "I've disturbed her for a long time just now. I think she's tired. Concubine Jiang, why don't you go over tomorrow to greet her?"

Her grandmother was so angry with Yu Zongzheng's unintentional scheme that she probably wasn't in the mood to see Concubine Jiang anymore.

As Concubine Jiang was from a good family and was the daughter of the first wife, she was even more respected than Concubine Qiu in front of her grandmother.

Madam Yang was still sick, so she couldn't be filial in front of Matriarch. Yu Zongzheng had to instruct her to go to Matriarch Yang's residence more often.

Naturally, Concubine Jiang had to do as she was told.

Seeing that she was sensible, her grandmother tacitly agreed.

She wasn't a noble concubine but she was even better.

Concubine Jiang's gaze shifted slightly, and she smiled. "Matriarch is old, so it's time for her to rest more." At this point, she changed the topic and smiled. "My hometown is in Jiangxi Province, where a type of pineapple is produced. It's sour, sweet, and refreshing. It's fragrant, juicy, and dry in spring. It's very appetizing. A few days ago, my hometown sent some into the capital. My mother ordered someone to send a few over, wanting to give them to Matriarch to try. Since Matriarch is resting, I won't disturb her."

This pineapple was originally also wild. Her family had tried to improve it, but they did not expect it to taste so good. It was just that there was too little production and it was not big. It did not look dignified.

Usually, it was eaten by their own family and was not brought out.

This spring, there were few fruits in the capital, so pineapples were rare.

Yu Youyao smiled. "You're too kind."

As long as the Yu Residence did not give up on Yu Shansi, the legitimate son of the first wife, Eldest Son could not divorce Madam Yang. Divorcing a wife had to be done carefully. If one violated the rules, it would be called "offending a wife."

As the legitimate son of the first wife, Yu Shansi could not have a mother who had violated her.

Otherwise, it would ruin his future..

Chapter 545: Unscrupulous

However, Madam Yang could not abandon her. There were many things that a young lady like her, who had yet to get married, could not do.

All wealthy families valued dignity, so Concubine Qiu's background was still a little low.

That was why Concubine Jiang had entered the family.

Concubine Jiang's smile deepened. "It's not anything rare. It's just something new, so I gave a few to Eldest Miss. Eldest Miss is usually used to seeing good things. Don't mind it."

It wasn't a rare item, nor was it presentable, but she had still taken it out as a gift. It was obvious that she was sincere. Even if it wasn't presentable, it was still a matter of courtesy and friendship.

The rest of her words were filled with undisguised flattery and goodwill, but she also said it openly.

Yu Youyao smiled and thanked her. "Thank you, Concubine Jiang."

Concubine Jiang smiled beautifully. It wasn't good for her to keep blocking the way and disturbing this Eldest Miss. She tactfully moved aside and watched Yu Youyao leave.

As soon as Yu Youyao returned to the Jade Courtyard, Nanny Xu brought over a plate of pineapple that had been cut into small pieces. "Concubine Jiang sent them over just now. They taste a little sour. I soaked them in salt water for a while. They're sour, sweet and refreshing. Try them."

Yu Youyao inserted a small piece and bit it gently. The sour, sweet, and refreshing juice burst into her mouth. "It tastes good. Prepare a small plate and

I'll send it to Cousin."

Although her cousin couldn't eat sweet and sour food, pineapple was new. It wasn't bad to try them.

Nanny Xu smiled and nodded. "When Concubine Jiang sent someone to deliver the pineapple, she mentioned that her monthly period was not regular and asked Eldest Miss for a prescription to nourish her body."

She knew immediately that this was just an excuse.

Grandmother had naturally asked around about Concubine Jiang's health when she wanted to marry into the family. She was in good health, but she still wanted nourishment?

Yu Youyao smiled. "Pick a few good recipes and send them over!"

Smart people always spoke without revealing anything.

Concubine Jiang had also heard that Yu Zongzheng wanted to adopt Yu Shanming into the first wife's name. Thinking that it had been more than a year since she had taken him in and there had been no movement in her stomach, she heard that Concubine Qiu was pregnant back then and had also eaten the medicinal cuisine she had prepared to nourish her body. She also wanted to ask her for a prescription to nourish her body.

However, Concubine Jiang was well-mannered and knew that it wasn't good to tell Yu Youyao, who hadn't married yet, about this. She took the opportunity to mention this to Nanny Xu.

She was also worried that others would think that she was eager to have a child and say something bad, so she made an excuse and said that her period was not regular.

An irregular period was common. Many women had this problem. There was nothing wrong with having irregular periods while they were young.

Nanny Xu also smiled. "As a concubine, who doesn't want their son to be a proper legitimate son? Even Concubine Qiu's son can obtain such dignity. As a proper concubine, she naturally wants to have such dignity and make plans early."

Yu Zongzheng had taken in three concubines. Concubine He had been taken in by the late Eldest Madam Xie and was like a thin horse that had been trained. Yu Zongzheng had also fallen for Concubine He's tricks, and Madam Yang had suffered a lot.

This skinny horse that had been taught well but her brain had also been led astray by her mentor. She only wanted to compete for favors and please a man. If she had spent more effort on her daughter's upbringing, she wouldn't have been taken advantage of by Madam Yang. In the end, she was implicated by her daughter and lost all her favor. Now that she was sent to the manor, she had even lost her status.

Concubine Qiu was intriguing.

Old Madam Yu had specially chosen her according to Yu Zongzheng's preferences. Her background wasn't good, but she was from a clean family. Apparently, her ancestors had produced a High Scholar. However, she couldn't be taken seriously. Her status was too low, and she had humiliated Yu

Zongzheng. To put it bluntly, it was Old Madam Yu who was restraining Madam Yang.

On the other hand, Concubine Jiang was the one who had been seriously accepted into the family. Although she was also a concubine, there was a fundamental difference between her and the others.

After eating a few pineapple pieces in a row, Nanny Xu quickly said, "The fruit pieces are sour. You can't eat too many at once."

This was also Yu Youyao's first time eating pineapple. She felt that it was fresh and delicious, so she felt a little unsatisfied.

At this moment, Chun Xiao brought a plate of pineapples into the house.

Yu Youyao's eyes lit up. She quickly took the fruit plate from Chun Xiao's hand. "I'll send the pineapples to Cousin."

Nanny Xu smiled and shook her head. She was already so old, but she was still so greedy. If it were anyone else in the family, her elders would have taught her a lesson. "Men are loud mouthed, but women are greedy."

However, no one in the Yu Residence cared about this.

Old Madam opened her mouth and shut it. "It's a blessing to be able to eat. Only with a good appetite can her body recover fast. As a woman, she will have to put in a lot of effort in the future. If she saves up more strength, I guarantee that she'll be safe in the future."

There was no need to mention Young Master Zhou. He was a resourceful person to begin with. He flew in the sky, swam in the water, and scaled the mountains. As long as there was something rare, it had to be gathered and given to Yu Youyao.

In order to prevent her from gaining weight, Yu Youyao also added an hour of the Flexible Body Technique every morning.

At this time, her cousin was most likely in the study. Yu Youyao ran to the study but did not see him. Instead, she bumped into Chang An, who was helping him organize his books.

Chang An shook his head when he saw her. "Uncle Sun is helping Young Master with acupuncture in the pharmacy."

Yu Youyao nodded and quickly ran to the study.

In the past two years, the happiest thing was that after two years of treatment and recuperation, her cousin's health had finally improved.

Uncle Sun was already using the method of clearing the internal acupuncture points to treat his cousin's legs.

Uncle Sun said that the internal acupuncture points needed to be treated every seven days for 49 days. After a total of seven treatments, her cousin's legs would recover.

Now, he had already undergone three treatments. Today was the fourth treatment.

In another three, seven, and twenty-one days, her cousin's legs would recover.

Yu Youyao went to Uncle Sun's pharmacy. Worried that she would alarm him if she entered rashly, she knocked lightly on the door. "Cousin, can I come in?"

Zhou Linghuai's lips curled up slightly. "Uncle Sun hasn't started yet. Come in!

When Uncle Sun, who was sitting at the side, heard this, he looked up at Zhou Linghuai.

He was only wearing a pair of shorts as he leaned against the couch and snorted. "You're not shy at all. You've wasted more than ten years of etiquette, integrity, and shame classes-"

Zhou Linghuai smiled and did not refute. "If I don't let her see it with her own eyes, she won't feel at ease."

Uncle Sun scoffed. "Just like your father, he's as scheming as a sieve. If he takes a fancy to something, he has to get it done even if he has to be unscrupulous."

Back then, Wen Ruqin had enjoyed a reputation as the number one beauty in the capital. She was even better than the current Yu Youyao..

Chapter 546: What Sort of Tea Is Green Tea?

There was an old saying that went, "I'm not afraid of thieves stealing, but I'm afraid of thieves thinking about me."

Such a talented and virtuous great beauty was actually remembered by a good-for-nothing like Yin Lixing.

This kid was shameless. He kept pestering Wen Ruqin. When Wen Ruqin was at home, he kept getting someone to send things to the Wen Residence.

It did not matter if she returned it.

He had sent someone to keep an eye on the Wen Residence all day. As soon as Wen Ruqin went out, she could always see him wearing clothes similar to Wen Ruqin's style and solicitously approaching her.

As time passed, it was inevitable that rumors would spread in the capital.

This kid was also capable. Although his methods were a little despicable, Wen Ruqin's reputation was not really ruined. Instead, he really coaxed her into his hands.

It had even become a legend.

Later on, when everyone mentioned Wen Ruqin, it was inevitable that they would say that she had good taste.

Of course, Yin Huaixi was not as shameless as his father, but he was much more sinister.

Using the excuse of being her "cousin" and taking advantage of the fact that Little Miss Yu was young and ignorant, he seduced her bit by bit until he surpassed his closeness as a "cousin".

The culture of men and women in the Great Zhou Dynasty was more open to begin with.

However, it wasn't like what was written in the Tang poem, "Hiding From Male Relatives at Age Fourteen"

Only when a woman was 14 years old would she pay attention to the rules of men and women. She would hide in her room to avoid seeing her, and even her closest family had to avoid them.

However, when the men and women of the Great Zhou Dynasty were younger, the rules were not that strict.

Of course, there were also precautions for men and women. They had to abide by the rules when facing outsiders. Between siblings in the family, they were more casual, so it was common for them to play together.

When a woman turned 12 years old, she had to maintain a certain distance from men. It was impossible for her to interact with them like before.

However, when it came to this pair of "cousins", these rules were useless. When outsiders were present, the rules and the etiquette were followed.

However, it was as if nothing had happened when they were holding hands and feeding each other in private.

Was it because Eldest Miss Yu did not know etiquette and did not know how to guard against men and women?

Of course not— But!

No matter how well-mannered she was and how good her etiquette and rules were, it was difficult to resist Yin Huaixi's deliberate guidance, let alone the habits that the two of them had already developed after interacting for so many years.

Habit was a terrifying thing.

It turned many unreasonable things into essential things like eating, drinking, and breathing day by day.

At first, Yu Youyao tried to keep some distance from her cousin.

But this kid was sinister!

His legs hurt and he fell sick at the slightest disagreement. As soon as Little Miss Yu's thoughts of being wary of men and women appeared, she was already defeated by her worry for her cousin before she could take action. Not only was this kid sinister, but he also knew how to play the game!

So what if he was acting like a green tea b*tch?

This kid was the top-notch tea among green tea!!

Every time the little girl tried to avoid him, it was as if he had drunk a bucket of green tea. "Didn't Cousin say that she had to treat me well for the rest of her life? Why are you starting to distance yourself from me now? Could it be that I've done something wrong and made Cousin unhappy?"

"Master said that my fate is lonely and my six relatives are punished. I'm a destined Asura and a jinx. I'm destined to have shallow affinity in this life."

Cousin, you should indeed keep a distance from me. Otherwise, you might be implicated by me one day...”

Tsk tsk, even an old man like him would have goosebumps when he heard this.

To think that Little Miss Yu really fell for this. How could she have listened to him? She couldn't even comfort her cousin. Why would she care about men and women?

Uncle Sun had watched helplessly as this kid broke Little Miss Yu's deep-rooted etiquette teachings step by step.

At the thought of this, Uncle Sun shook his head.

When the most brilliant hunters encountered prey that they were interested in, they often knew how to show weakness and disguise themselves when they weren't sure if they could hit it in one strike. They removed the prey's guard step by step and quietly set up an inescapable net. By the time they discovered it, it was already too late and they had nowhere to escape.

Zhou Linghuai took a thin blanket and draped it over his body.

Yu Youyao also lifted the curtain and entered the inner room. When she saw

Uncle Sun sitting at the side and drinking tea, she asked, “Didn't you say that Uncle Sun was giving Cousin acupuncture?”

In the past three sessions, her cousin had always avoided her.

According to Uncle Sun, the initial treatment of the internal acupuncture points was very painful. Her cousin did not want her to see him in pain, nor did he want her to worry, so he did not allow her to be present.

She could understand.

However, if she didn't see it with her own eyes, she couldn't feel at ease.

Zhou Linghuai explained, “Before acupuncture, Uncle Sun has to use the Hot Moxibustion method first. He will need to use the acupuncture points to achieve the effect of warm circulation and qi dissipation. This way, the effect of the acupuncture treatment will be better.”

Yu Youyao looked enlightened. “I've heard Uncle Sun mention it before.”

If Uncle Sun wanted to treat his cousin's leg, even if she couldn't watch from the side, she had to clearly understand his leg treatment.

Uncle Sun said that he was going to use the Hot Moxibustion method.

Previously, she had specially asked what was going on with the Hot

Moxibustion method. After Uncle Sun's explanation, she realized that this was a more brilliant method of moxibustion.

They burned the acupuncture points of the human body with a medicinal pill to achieve the healing effect.

The medicinal pills were evenly mixed with sulfur, cinnabar, realgar, and so on, and were cooled.

The formulation was made according to the illness. It was a mix of suitable medicinal herbs, mixed with honey, made into a paste, and rubbed into a

“concave” shape.

The formulation was used to stick to the acupuncture points and the medicinal pill was burned. The medicinal properties could burn faster and more effectively seep into the acupuncture points to achieve the healing effect.

After turning off the fire, he flattened the base and fixed it to the acupuncture points. It would take at least four hours to remove it.

This kind of heat-through moxibustion method was neither difficult nor simple at all.

If the medicinal pill was not matched appropriately, it was easy to burn the human body during the heat treatment. Unless one was an experienced and brilliant doctor, they would not dare to try it.

After finishing his tea, Uncle Sun looked up and glanced at Yu Youyao. “The hot pill moxibustion is done. It’s time for acupuncture.”

Yu Youyao sat on the small stool and did not move, pretending not to hear Uncle Sun’s words.

“Cousin, Concubine Jiang gave me a few pineapples just now. They’re very rare and fresh. I brought a plate over. I heard that you were performing acupuncture, so I asked Chang An to hang them in the well. You have to try them after you’re done.”

Previously, Uncle Sun had always treated her cousin’s legs at night. Even if she wanted to take a look secretly, she had no choice. Today, she finally bumped into him. No matter what, she couldn’t leave.

Zhou Linghuai’s expression darkened. “Cousin, I’m not properly dressed...’

Uncle Sun, who had poured a small bowl of strong wine and was wiping the golden needles, almost pricked his hand when he heard this..

Chapter 547: Unlucky Child

If he really cared about etiquette and rules, he might as well do it every night like before.

Why had the acupuncture session been changed to the morning as soon as the third session was over?

Wasn’t this deliberately giving Little Miss Yu a chance to take advantage of the situation?

If he really cared about his clothes, wouldn’t it be fine if he didn’t let anyone into the residence?

If a thin blanket covered his body, wouldn’t his clothes not be messy?

Could he hide the fact that he was only wearing a pair of pants?

Little Miss Yu was already sitting in the room. Wasn’t it a little too late to say that his clothes were disheveled?

Wasn’t this deliberately baiting the “fish”?

In the past two years, Uncle Sun had watched helplessly as Yin Huaixi dug one pit after another like today, waiting for Little Miss Yu to jump in.

Old Sun had lived for most of his life, but he had never seen such a sinister and shameless person.

Why did Little Miss Yu, who was usually quite smart, become a fool in front of her “cousin”?

The girl that was raised well was already being influenced by Yin Huaixi. She could forget about escaping for the rest of her life. This unlucky child.

Uncle Sun glanced at Yu Youyao with an indescribable expression.

Yu Youyao’s attention was all on her cousin, so how could she see Uncle Sun? “I just want to see how Uncle Sun treats Cousin’s leg. Cousin’s health is more important. As for etiquette, there are always exceptions to everything. Besides, isn’t Uncle Sun here too? You’re an elder. It doesn’t matter if there’s an elder by his side.”

In her heart, there was nothing more important than her cousin’s recovery.

Her cousin was being treated specially. Even if it was a little inappropriate, it was not a big deal, so there was no need to be too calculative.

Besides, her cousin was not an outsider. She did not need those rules in front of him.

Her cousin had also said that the people in the North were more valiant and did not care about small details. Although there were also older daughters who were more wary, as long as a woman respected herself, it was acceptable for her to show her face.

Although she was not born in the North, her cousin was born and raised in the North.

She often heard her cousin mention the customs of the people in the North, and she took them to heart. As time passed, she naturally did not feel as restrained as in the capital.

Yu Youyao, who had been brainwashed by the North, did not think that there was anything wrong with this.

Oh my, she now treated him as an elder?!

Uncle Sun rolled his eyes. Which elder would let an unmarried girl share a room with a man in disheveled clothes?

At this moment, he was even wearing a thin blanket. When the blanket was lifted later!

That would damage her reputation.

If a woman’s reputation was damaged, she could still live. If her reputation was ruined, she would only die.

Even so, Little Miss Yu was not afraid.

Zhou Linghuai seemed to hesitate. “It will be harmful to Cousin’s reputation.” At this point, he pursed his lips slightly and advised, “Reputation is really important to a woman. Cousin, it’s better for you to avoid me.”

There it was again. Uncle Sun couldn’t even be bothered to roll his eyes at the tea-scented words.

At the mention of “fame”, Yu Youyao more or less had some reservations and was a little hesitant.

She wondered if she should retreat to the outer room and wait. Although she couldn't see Uncle Sun treat her cousin's leg with her own eyes, she still felt a little regretful.

However, she was in the outer room and could know the situation in the residence at any time.

Seeing her hesitation, Zhou Linghuai continued to persuade her, "Although the treatment of the internal acupuncture is more painful, this is already the fourth treatment. I'm used to performing acupuncture every day, so I'm not as uncomfortable as before. Cousin, don't worry too much. Why don't you wait outside? The acupuncture will be over in about the time it takes to burn three incense sticks."

Hearing her cousin's "persuasion", not only was Yu Youyao not really relieved, but she was even more worried.

Previously, she had heard from Uncle Sun that the treatment of the internal acupuncture was very painful. She could most likely guess that the more serious her cousin's leg illness was, the more painful the treatment process would be. That was why she had been worried.

Now that she heard her cousin say casually—

He was saying comforting words like he was "used to it", it was "not so uncomfortable", and she did not have "to worry too much."

Yu Youyao's heart ached. Her eyes welled up, and her nose felt sore. Tears almost rushed out of her eyes.

She blinked hard before forcing her eyes back. She couldn't care less about reputation. Yu Youyao held her cousin's hand and said firmly, "Cousin, I'll accompany you.

Her voice trembled slightly, and her tone was a little hoarse.

She should have been with her cousin long ago

Now it was Zhou Linghuai's turn to hesitate.

Yu Youyao looked at her cousin and said unquestionably, "Uncle Sun is the only one in the room. He won't spread it around. No one knows if it will damage my reputation. Besides, I'm just worried about Cousin's health. I didn't really do anything to ruin his reputation. The innocent will know what's good for them. I know what I'm doing."

Oh, in Little Miss Yu's eyes, he was the only "outsider"!

Uncle Sun was helpless. He couldn't help but look up and roll his eyes at Zhou Linghuai. Didn't his conscience hurt after lying to a little girl like this?

What a

Uncle Sun did not know that Zhou Linghuai's conscience did not hurt.

However, Yu Youyao's conscience really hurt.

She regretted not caring about men and women and letting her cousin suffer alone.

"You." Zhou Linghuai couldn't dissuade her, so he nodded helplessly and agreed.

"Forget it. If you want to stay, stay. There are still three treatment sessions later. You can't feel at ease without me letting you watch from the side."

Uncle Sun gritted his teeth at his dignified words. Seeing that the “cousins” had reached a consensus, he lifted the thin blanket on Zhou Linghuai.

This unexpected action shocked Yu Youyao. As soon as she saw the thin blanket rise, she closed her eyes in shock. Even her long swan neck shrank.

Uncle Sun was amused when he saw this. She looked like a quail that had shrunk its head.

To think that he had thought that this Little Miss Yu did not even care about her reputation for her cousin. How bold was she? He did not expect her to be so shocked.

Zhou Linghuai couldn't help but laugh. He didn't care if she closed her eyes or not.

After closing her eyes, Yu Youyao realized that she had overreacted. Since her cousin had asked her to stay, he definitely wouldn't be wearing nothing.

She quietly opened her right eye a crack and saw that her cousin was wrapped in a lot of white cotton cloth.

At this moment, Uncle Sun was helping his cousin remove the cotton cloth on his body.

Yu Youyao's eyes widened in curiosity when she saw the black brace bandaged under the cotton cloth.

Uncle Sun took off the alchemy braces one by one. There was red skin under them..

Chapter 548: Heartache

Her cousin's skin was cold and fair, as white as Chinese white stone, making this redness especially eye-catching.

Yu Youyao's heart tightened. Her cousin's leg had already regained feeling. If Uncle Sun accidentally burned her cousin's flesh, how painful would it be?!

With this in mind, she glanced at Uncle Sun resentfully.

Uncle Sun was old and experienced so he was more sensitive.

Uncle Sun sensed Yu Youyao's gaze. She looked up and was a little confused, so he simply ignored her.

Yu Youyao couldn't help but ask tactfully, “Uncle Sun, will the method to refine the pill...”

Before she could finish speaking, Uncle Sun realized what was going on. He glared at her with his beady eyes. ‘You, who are you looking down on? I've been practicing medicine for most of my life. How can I make such a mistake? You should stay aside so that you won't be an eyesore.’

Yu Youyao pouted. She did not doubt Uncle Sun's medical skills, but it was inevitable that a person would make mistakes. She was just asking a reasonable question!

Was it wrong to worry about her cousin?

Zhou Linghuai's lips curled up. “After the medicinal pill was ignited, Uncle Sun has been guarding at the side and watching. Once the alchemy tablet is burned, the fire will be extinguished in time. It won't really burn the flesh.”

With this explanation, Yu Youyao felt much more at ease.

Only then did she notice that her cousin was only wearing a pair of shorts. Yu Youyao was shocked again. She quickly darted her eyes and looked around the room. She lowered her head and stared at the tips of her shoes that were exposed outside her dress. Her ears were a little hot.

However, not long after, Yu Youyao recalled that she had caught a glimpse of her cousin's thin figure just now. Her heart couldn't help but ache.

Her cousin was sick and weak all year round, and he was tortured by his leg disease. He usually did not have a good appetite.

It wasn't easy for him to recuperate for two to three years before she recovered a little. However, even so, her cousin still looked much thinner than ordinary people.

Yu Youyao looked up at her cousin again. Now, she suppressed her shyness and did not avoid her eyes.

Although her cousin was very thin, his body was long and slender, and his flesh was cold and white. He looked like a hard white stone, and his bones were rugged. He did not look like a sick young master, but like an isolated cliff that had been weathered by the wind, rain, snow, and frost.

He was firm and sharp.

That's right!

How could her cousin be a weak scholar?

The torture of his illness had honed him to be indestructible.

His legs were not good enough for him to walk, so he was unwilling to be a piece of trash lying on the bed who only knew how to receive help.

Even though there were all kinds of inconveniences in his life, he gritted his teeth and endured them one by one.

He practiced his arm strength and waist strength every day. He used his waist arms to replace his legs so that he did not have to rely on others to live on his own.

Every day, he carved and exercised his hands and eyes. What he couldn't do with his legs, he took another path and tried his best to do it with as flexible and agile hands as possible. He even did it better than everyone else.

Such a cousin was admirable.

But what he did would only make her heart ache uncontrollably. How could she be distant just because of the excuse of being wary of men and women?

Perhaps she was not a qualified young lady.

She yearned for the unrestrained life in the North that her cousin had mentioned and wanted to take a look herself.

She yearned to break free from the cage that imprisoned her and yearned for more freedom.

Perhaps she was born unorthodox.

In the first few years when Ms. Ye had just entered the residence, the classes she taught every day could not do without the various teachings of women. She did not like to listen to them, so she often used excuses to skip class. Even if she was punished, she gritted her teeth and admitted it.

She had known since she was young that these so-called teachings were a restraint on women.

She thought that by skipping class, she could escape.

It was only after being seriously ill and being slapped by Yu Zongzheng that she suddenly understood that the so-called teachings were just protective measures.

After learning it, she could protect herself.

She tried her best to appear gentle and magnanimous. Her words and actions were thorough and appropriate, and no one could find fault with her. However, her deviant ways were still deeply hidden.

Her cousin should know that he had taught her the Four Books and Five Classics, the Records of the Historian, and Zizhi Tongjian. He had never restricted her regarding what books she could and shouldn't read.

Her cousin would even tell her about the local customs of various places. He had never thought that as a woman, she should stay obediently in the inner residence.

In her heart, her cousin did not only dote on her as her cousin.

He was also her confidant.

Uncle Sun snorted angrily. He pinched a slender golden needle and stabbed

Zhou Linghuai's vital acupuncture points. A few of them were fatal acupuncture points.

Yu Youyao was shocked and panicked, but she did not dare to make a sound to disturb him. She did not even blink. It was not a bad idea to make a mistake, and her eyes were fixed on Uncle Sun's every move.

Uncle Sun's expression did not change. Although his hand was wrinkled, it was as stable as a rock.

Her cousin was also leaning against the couch as if he was fine. Clearly, he had been treated the same way for the previous three treatment sessions for 21 days. There shouldn't be any problems. Yu Youyao's face turned a little pale. Only then did she realize that not only was the treatment of the internal acupuncture point painful, but it was also extremely dangerous.

If he had missed by a hair, he would have lost his life!

No wonder her cousin had never allowed her to be present. Even he and Uncle Sun were probably not 100% confident.

It was also after three treatments that her cousin's health was stable and Uncle Sun became more confident. That was why her cousin agreed so easily and let her watch from the side.

After the acupuncture, Uncle Sun finally heaved a sigh of relief.

Yu Youyao handed him a gray handkerchief. "That's it?"

“This is only the first step. Next, I have to use internal force to break through the acupuncture points.”

Uncle Sun took the handkerchief and wiped the sweat off his forehead. It wasn't until the handkerchief was taken off and the gray color darkened that he realized in a daze that he had sweated a lot when he was performing the acupuncture just now.

He threw the handkerchief aside and twirled the ends of the needles one by one. Dozens of golden needles trembled in unison.

Yu Youyao also noticed that her cousin's expression had gradually changed from calm to forbearance. Soon, his forehead was covered in a layer of sweat.

Yu Youyao immediately became nervous. “Uncle Sun, why are the golden needles trembling?

Uncle Sun was so tired that he panted. “By using the golden needles as a medium, you can use your Qi to attack the acupuncture points. That's why it's called Qi Breaking the Inner Acupuncture Point. Don't worry. After three incense sticks of time, the golden needles won't move anymore, and I can take them out.”

Yu Youyao handed Uncle Sun a cup of tea. Seeing that her cousin's expression was getting worse, she was very worried. “But Cousin seems to...”

It was an extraordinary pain!

Previously, when her cousin's leg disease acted up, it did not seem to be so unbearable.

Uncle Sun waved his hand and lowered his head to drink his tea.

The corners of Zhou Linghuai's lips twitched slightly. “Don't worry. The Qi rushing to the internal acupuncture points has stimulated the meridians in the legs. It will dissolve the blood clots and there will be a violent soreness and pain. I'll bear with it for a while..”

Chapter 549: Pain in Her Heart

However, it was as if thousands of ants were biting his legs. This feeling was indescribable and unbearable.

About ten minutes later, Zhou Linghuai's legs began to twitch. He leaned against the couch, as if he had just been fished out of the water. Even his breathing became rapid.

However, he gritted his teeth and did not make a sound.

Yu Youyao, who had been a little shy just now, couldn't care less about his clothes. She sat beside her cousin and took a handkerchief to wipe his sweat.

She had underestimated the pain of the Qi rushing to his inner acupoints.

At the thought that her cousin had also suffered like this for the past 21 days, Yu Youyao's heart felt like it was being stabbed by a knife, and she felt a suffocating pain.

She really felt what it meant to be in pain!

Yu Youyao felt terrible. Her eyes were sore and dry, and her nose was red, but she tried her best not to cry. She only kept comforting her cousin. "Cousin, it's fine. It's already past the time it takes to burn a clueless incense stick. In another incense stick, it'll be over. Hold on for a little longer. I'll accompany you."

She knew that her cousin could withstand even greater pain.

Her cousin did not need her weak comfort.

However, she did not want to watch her cousin suffer helplessly. If she said something, she might be able to divert his attention. Perhaps he would not be in so much pain?

Yu Youyao thought uncertainly.

"You, why are you more nervous than me?" Zhou Linghuai was actually already a little dazed. He tilted his head and looked at Yu Youyao, who was sitting beside him.

The little girl had grown up a little. The single conch on her head had already been combed into a bun, and her hair was divided into two buns on the top of her head. It was tied into two rings, revealing her smooth forehead. A strand of hair hung down from each side of her buns. Her black hair contrasted with her oval face that was like white jade. Her palm-sized face looked small and exquisite. She looked immortal, generous, delicate, and elegant.

On the hair ring, there was a tassel hairpin that tied her hair up. The ruby tassel pendants that had been polished into pomegranate seeds were crystal clear and pure. They swayed on her buns.

This was the hairstyle of a young girl who had yet to marry in the Great Zhou Dynasty.

The positions of the hair rings were different, and their sizes varied. With different accessories, she could have different styles.

There were all kinds of people with different hair styles.

The little girl liked the Feixian buns the most because she did not need to have bangs or have hair on the back of her chest. Her hair was tied up behind her head, and she looked refreshed.

However, in fact, the unmarried women of the Great Zhou Dynasty did not like the Feixian buns.

It wasn't that the Feixian buns weren't beautiful. On the contrary, the buns were too beautiful. They made people stop in their tracks. Anyone who wasn't extremely confident in their appearance wouldn't dare to try this hairstyle.

The Feixian buns was a huge test for the shape of a woman's face, forehead, and hairline. Very few people had such a head shape that emitted an immortal's aura.

Their faces would be too big or small.

Their foreheads were too wide or narrow. Her forehead was wider and narrower.

Their hairlines were too high or low.

The shapes of their faces were too thin, fat, round, square, and flat...

The Feixian buns revealed true beauty. Her bangs were combed up, revealing her entire face. It was obvious at a glance if she was beautiful or ugly.

Most young ladies more or less had some unsatisfactory traits and were unwilling to try this hairstyle.

Yu Youyao had a flawless oval face, and her facial features were also delicate and generous. She was bright and elegant. After combing her hair up, she looked very beautiful.

Zhou Linghuai realized that he was staring at the little girl's hair and thinking so much. He couldn't help but laugh. Even the pain in his leg seemed to be bearable.

He suddenly reached out and held the little girl's hand. "Don't, don't worry. I feel much better."

The hand in her palm was soft and smooth.

Suddenly, he did not want to let go.

In the past two years, it was common for him to hold hands with Yu Youyao. Under his subtle guidance, Yu Youyao would not resist and get close to him.

However, in the past, he had always felt that since she was still young, he should be more patient and not be too unrestrained. He would offend and scare her.

Therefore, he always endured and restrained himself, often withdrawing quickly.

However, today, he was not satisfied with such close contact.

He thought that Yu Youyao was already twelve years old. In a month or so, she would be thirteen years old. There were already people who had gotten married.

He probably wouldn't offend her!

Moreover, he was performing acupuncture at this moment. Due to a moment of pain, he had done some bold actions.

It probably wouldn't scare her!

In the past two years, he had watched the little girl grow up day by day. Every day, he had weighed and grasped the limits of his interactions with her.

Uncle Sun only saw him deceive Yu Youyao unscrupulously.

Yu Youyao was already older and had to start to guard against men and women. She had to keep a distance from men. Bit by bit, she abandoned etiquette and rules, and even her reputation was damaged.

However, Uncle Sun did not know!

At every moment when he was with Yu Youyao, he was careful to know when to advance and when to retreat. He did not dare to cross the line when they were close.

Yu Youyao was a girl he treated as a treasure.

He did not want Yu Youyao to be hurt because of him.

Her cousin's palms were covered in sweat. Yu Youyao only felt her heart ache. She held her cousin's hand instead. "Don't speak and listen to me. In the future, I'll accompany you every day when you perform acupuncture. If you feel uncomfortable, hold my hand. I'll tell you whatever you want to hear. The time it takes to burn three incense sticks will pass quickly..."

As she spoke, Yu Youyao felt like crying. She sniffed and resisted the urge to cry. However, her voice was also trembling and she choked. She felt terrible.

Perhaps because she had someone she trusted and liked by her side, she felt that even if she was a little weak, it was nothing.

Zhou Linghuai's eyes blurred. "That's really good!"

He finally understood why every time his father returned from outside in Youzhou, the first thing he did was to drag his mother back to her room and let her personally take off his clothes and armor.

The invincible King You would only take off his armor in front of the woman he loved. He would put down his tall heart wall and allow himself to become weak, ordinary, and even childish.

This was because all his armor and all the strength in his heart were for the sake of protecting the person he cared about the most.

This person could make him give up on a comfortable life. He could put on armor that weighed dozens of kilograms, pick up a bow and knife that weighed more than ten kilograms, and risk his life for her.

It could also make him put down all his weight and glory and be willing to be ordinary for her.

It could even make his injuries and pain become insignificant..

Chapter 550: Hidden Bones

Zhou Linghuai was a little confused. He held Yu Youyao's hand tightly. "You're not leaving?!"

Yu Youyao kept nodding. "I'll sit here and accompany Cousin. I won't go anywhere."

"Okay—" Zhou Linghuai only had time to say this word. Even his voice was so soft that it was almost inaudible. Then, right on the heels of that, his eyelashes fluttered slightly and he closed his eyes.

Yu Youyao was shocked and shouted in panic, "Cousin, Cousin..."

Uncle Sun quickly said, "Don't panic. He just fainted. His legs have been broken for five to six years, so his condition is more serious and the treatment process is more painful. It's good that he fainted."

Yu Youyao's breathing relaxed. Only then did she realize that she had subconsciously forgotten to breathe because of her panic just now. Now that she was panting, she felt a suffocating pain in her chest.

"Isn't Cousin's health recovering very well?" Yu Youyao took a handkerchief and gently wiped the sweat off her cousin's face.

From his forehead to the bridge of his nose, his face, his chin and his neck. The thin handkerchief was already soaked. She suddenly did not notice that she felt the handkerchief under her finger gently brush past her cousin's bulging Adam's apple. Only then did she vaguely realize the difference in the structure of the bodies of men and women. The handkerchief could not help but pause for a moment.

Then, she saw the rising and falling lines on her cousin's thin neck. There was a dazzling and tempting feeling.

Yu Youyao's heart skipped a beat. She quickly moved her handkerchief away and continued to wipe her cousin's sweat.

However!

The panic did not stop.

She saw the thin bones on her cousin's neck. A woman's collarbones grew on both sides of her neck, and her bones defined her throat. Her bones were as beautiful as wings and were hidden in her clothes. In front of others, they were hidden bones.

So, so a man actually had collarbones too?

A woman's collarbones were delicate and beautiful.

On the other hand, a man's collarbones were actually masculine and beautiful?

actions of wiping her cousin's sweat were. She did not dare to continue.

Her jade-like hand was soft and delicate. Her five fingers were soft and beautiful, but she held them tightly in her hand. The handkerchief that she had wiped for her cousin just now was already drenched and trembling slightly.

Uncle Sun did not notice Yu Youyao's abnormality. In any case, Yu Youyao had already seen it with her own eyes. He did not avoid the main point and told her about Zhou Linghuai's situation.

"For someone with lower extremity hemiplegia, the sooner he's treated, the faster he'll recover, and the treatment process won't be too painful. However, your cousin's injuries are too serious, and his body is like a broken bucket. His vitality can't be preserved, so his body has become weak. His life is like a drop of oil. When he's exhausted, he'll lose his life. Even if I usually use the best medicinal herbs to help him nourish his body, how can this broken bucket survive!"

All these years, he had tried his best to help him extend his life.

Yu Youyao held her breath and pursed her lips tightly.

Previously, every time she asked Uncle Sun, Chang An, and the old servants beside her cousin in The Green House, or even her cousin himself, they would avoid talking about her cousin's health.

Although she had learned pharmacology, pharmacology and medicine were two different concepts. She could not uncover the main problem.

She only felt that the situation they were talking about was not far from the health condition that her cousin usually displayed. She had never thought that when she was unaware, her cousin was already terminally ill and would be sick for a long time.

Yu Youyao's mouth was a little dry, and even her voice was hoarse. "Does cousin not want to live?"

The pain of having their family destroyed was not something that ordinary people could withstand. Her cousin had forced himself to be strong and all he wanted was to help the entire King You's residence seek justice and avenge their irreconcilable hatred.

But what happened after he took his revenge?

Her cousin had probably never cared. Whether he lived or died was no longer important.

If Cousin was healthy and had never fallen sick, he would still have the intention to live.

However, his body was disabled, and his life was hanging by a thread.

Uncle Sun sighed. "In the first three years, although I've been using the best medicinal herbs to help him nourish his body and legs, his foundation has been damaged. His body, mind, and Qi have been seriously injured, so it's better for him to recuperate and avoid thinking and scheming. Only then can he calm down and nourish his vitality. Perhaps he can live for a few more years. However, he's already in this state, but he's still thinking about revenge all day long. He doesn't take his life seriously and works to death all day. No matter how others persuade him, he won't listen. I'm afraid that he won't be able to survive and won't be able to seek justice for King You's residence."

Yu Youyao went to look at her cousin. Even though he was unconscious, he was still frowning, his face filled with pain.

He was used to enduring things. His ink-stained eyebrows were indeed beautiful, but he had also endured too much pain in his life.

He was used to hiding, so even the pain fused into his ink-black eyes without leaving a trace.

What was left for others was always his cold, indifferent, calm, and noble side.

Yu Youyao's heart ached for her cousin.

Her fingertips trembled slightly. She knew that it was against the rules, etiquette, and even more unorthodox, but she still couldn't help but raise her hand, reach out her fingertips, and gently place them between his eyebrows. She gently stroked his furrowed eyebrows, as if she wanted to soothe the pain that had piled up between his eyebrows. From then on, he would no longer be sad.

She knew that once some principles were broken, there would be a second time, a third time and countless times...

If this person was her cousin, she did not mind breaking them at all!

Uncle Sun's eyelids twitched, and he added, "His legs have been broken for five to six years. It's been a little too long. The condition of his legs is getting worse and worse year by year, and it's also been almost two to three years. With you helping him nourish his body and using the massage technique every day, it will help him nourish his blood and reduce his bruises. He'll also take the Essence Protection Pill, medicinal cuisine, medicinal tea, incense medicine, and so on every day to nourish his bone marrow. Only then will his foundation recover a little and he can barely withstand my internal acupuncture technique."

Tsk tsk, look at her headache. I've helped you a lot.

Of course, if it weren't for the fact that this kid couldn't leave Little Miss Yu, he wouldn't be willing to help this sinister thing lest he harmed her.

Yu Youyao understood the crux of the matter and panicked again. "Barely withstand it? Didn't you say that you were confident?"

It seemed that her cousin was hiding many more things from her.

Uncle Sun nodded and said, "He's been recuperating well in the past two years. I originally wanted to wait for a year and a half before giving him acupuncture treatment. This way, I would have a higher chance of success. However, he couldn't wait any longer and wanted to recover as soon as possible. He forced me to treat him early." At this point, he looked up at Yu Youyao. "He doesn't want you to worry too much."

Since Yin Huaixi was conferred the title of King Wumu, he can't stay in the capital forever. He has to return to the North at least once or twice a year..