

## All Hail 691

### Chapter 691 - 691: Destruction

At this point, tears streamed down Yang Shuwan's face again.

Yu Jianjia's lips trembled as tears poured down her face. Listening to her mother's every word and sentence, she felt a little regretful.

She shouldn't have schemed against her mother's loving motherly heart.

However, when she saw her mother's withered appearance, she thought about how her mother was already at the end of her rope and did not have many days to live. She would treat it as her last thing to do for her before she died. In the future, when her mother passed away, she would definitely observe mourning for her mother for three years and copy Buddhist scriptures for her every day.

Yang Shuwan held her hand and said earnestly, "Jia Jia, I can't leave Hui

Xiang, this hidden danger, by your side. I won't ever harm you."

Yu Jianjia cried and called out, "Mother," but she couldn't say anything to object.

Yang Shuwan asked again, "Does your maidservant, Bai Ye, know about this?"

Yu Jianjia shook her head. "I've tested her. Bai Ye doesn't know about this. Moreover, Bai Ye is loyal to me just like Hui Xiang."

Yang Shuwan felt more confident and held Yu Jianjia's hand tightly. "Treat Bai Ye better in the future."

Yu Jianjia panicked. Only then did she vaguely realize that it would take many lives to achieve what she had expected.

She has no regrets at all.

Every man for himself, and the Devil take the hindmost.

Yang Shuwan continued, "Pretend that you don't know about this. Use the excuse that you're not feeling well to stay in the courtyard and recuperate. No matter what happens in the residence, it has nothing to do with you. Do you understand?"

Her tone suddenly became stern.

Yu Jianjia was shocked and quickly said, "I-I heard you clearly!" The room fell silent.

After an unknown period of time, footsteps came from outside.

Nanny Li walked in from behind the four screens. When she reached the bed, she saw First Madam staring at her with wide eyes.

Nanny Li was so frightened that she took a step back.

Yang Shuwan looked at her faintly. "Where did you go just now?"

She recalled that previously, when First Madam was asleep, she had secretly left the Tranquil Heart Residence and arranged to meet her old sisters to drink a few cups of alcohol to share their complaints.

Nanny Li panicked and felt a little guilty for no reason. She quickly said, “Madam, I heard that there was a divine physician living in the residence, so I specially went out to ask around.”

First Madam was now at the end of her rope. Forget a divine physician, even a god would find it difficult to save her. However, she had served First Madam for more than ten years. When she heard that a divine physician had come to the residence, it made sense to go out and ask.

Fortunately, Yang Shuwan did not continue asking. “Nanny Li, I remember that you’ve entered the residence since you were young. In the past, you were a young maidservant who did chores in the north courtyard. Later, after I married into the residence, I chose a few agile people to serve in my courtyard.

You were one of them.’

She was the daughter of a concubine who was not valued. The maidservants around her were all from the first wife. If they had already sold themselves to the first wife, they would not be loyal to her.

After she got married, the accompanying houses were also arranged by the first wife. Although the indenture had been handed over to her, she still had relatives in the Yang Residence. Even if they did not betray her, they had to inform the Yang Residence.

She was also worried about using it.

After marrying into the Yu Residence, she personally chose some people who were easy to control to serve her. She also made excuses to send away all the people who had come with her.

Nanny Li had been with her the longest and most useful.

Nanny Li had a bad feeling and subconsciously replied, “It’s also thanks to First Madam that I can serve Master.’

Yang Shuwan chuckled. “Your hometown is in a manor in the suburbs of the Yu Residence. As your husband passed away early, you had two sons in the family to support. You had no choice but to entrust them to your brother and sell yourself to work in the manor. You were agile and smart, so I chose you to work in the residence.’

It was easier to control such a person, so she had chosen Nanny Li to serve her back then.

Nanny Li was also loyal to her. Anything that was inconvenient for her to step in was handed over to Nanny Li. Nanny Li’s family had received a lot of her grace.

Her two sons were already married and had children. They had been arranged to be in charge of her shop, and now they even had grandchildren.

Nanny Li’s face was ashen, and she did not even dare to breathe loudly.

Yang Shuwan said softly, ‘I don’t have much life left. You’ve done a lot with me, so you’ll definitely die before me. However, don’t worry. You’ve served me loyally, so I won’t treat your family badly...’

Nanny Li knelt on the ground with a thud. “First Madam, I-I...”

Her indenture was in First Madam’s hands, and the future of her family was also in her hands. She had followed First Madam for many years and had done many atrocities. An old nanny like her had no other way out except to die for her master. This had almost become an unwritten rule for wealthy families.

Yang Shuwan asked casually, “Do you know Old Madam Lai? I heard that she used to do cleaning in Matriarch’s courtyard.”

Nanny Li looked confused. She did not know if it was because it had been too long and she did not remember this person for a moment, or if she really did not know her.

Yang Shuwan did not mind. “It doesn’t matter if you don’t know her. In any case, An Shou Hall is in the north courtyard. One of you will be sweeping the inner courtyard, and the other will be doing chores in the outer courtyard. You won’t be far from each other.’

Nanny Li’s heart jumped.

She indeed did not have much of an impression of Old Madam Lai. The north courtyard was so big that there were more than ten small courtyards alone. Even the young maidservants had to follow the rules. They were not allowed to run around wherever they were assigned.

An Shou Hall belonged to the inner courtyard. The maidservants serving in the inner courtyard were more dignified than those doing chores in the outer courtyard, and they did not interact much with them.

Old Madam Lai was not someone who served her master, and she was not very dignified in the inner courtyard. Even if she knew about this person, she would not have a deep impression of her.

As time passed, who would remember?

Yang Shuwan sighed softly. “In this residence, you’re the person I trust the most. There are still a few last things I want to ask you...”

The Mid-Autumn Festival was approaching, and everyone in the residence was busy preparing for it.

The Yu Residence was large. Every time it was a festival, no matter how many people there were, it wasn’t enough. They had to first tidy up the important places. A side courtyard like the Tranquil Heart Residence was often ranked last.

This year, there were calamities everywhere. The Mid-Autumn Festival had to be simple, but the preparations could not be careless. The arrangements for the ceremonies had to be more meticulous. They could not be prepared early like in the past. Many things had to be redrafted. Yu Youyao led the servants in the courtyard to take inventory of the storeroom and prepare the gift list. She was even busier.

At this moment, she had finally drawn up the gift list and handed it to

Concubine Jiang to prepare. Yu Youyao could finally take a break.

Nanny Xu made white jade ginseng soup. “You’ve just recovered from a serious illness. You have to take care of your health. Try your best to leave the matters in the residence to Concubine Jiang. In any case, it’s only a matter of time..”

## Chapter 692 - 692: Causing Trouble

Yu Youyao nodded. “How can I not be busy during the holidays? In the past, Grandmother had always made the decisions for the family. As soon as she gave an instruction, we weren’t afraid that anything would go wrong. Now that Grandmother is sick, there’s no one in the family who can take charge. I should be more careful, in case something goes wrong at home and Grandmother worries again.”

Nanny Xu shook her head. The first branch of the Yu Residence was really a bad family. When their elder fell sick, there was not even anyone who could

take charge seriously. No matter how capable the eldest daughter of the first wife was, she was still a young lady who had yet to get married, so it was not convenient for her to manage many things.

At this moment, Xia Tao came over. “Young Miss, Nanny Xu is here to report that First Madam has used up all the old ginseng in her house and wants to collect another one.’

Yu Youyao was stunned when she heard this. She frowned and said, “Just say that Matriarch is sick. I’m attending to her illness in An Shou Hall, so I’ll have to trouble Third Miss to take care of the Tranquil Heart Residence. If there’s anything, just report it to Third Miss and let her make the decision.”

In the past, her grandmother had been in charge of Tranquil Heart Residence, and she had never gotten involved.

After her grandmother fell sick, she had been attending to her illness in An Shou Hall. Her grandmother had also instructed Yu Jianjia to go to the Tranquil Heart Residence to show her filial piety. She had even removed the guard.

She was just short of saying, “Take care of your own mother.”

Indirectly, she handed the Tranquil Heart Residence to Yu Jianjia.

Why was the matter of the Tranquil Heart Residence reported to her?

Xia Tao quickly said, “I heard that Third Miss isn’t feeling well. Nanny Li doesn’t dare to disturb her.’

Yu Youyao frowned and instructed Xia Tao, “Go to my house and get a hundred-year-old ginseng for Nanny Li. Prepare some good supplements and medicinal food and send them to Third Miss’ house to see if she’s seriously ill. Do we need to invite Imperial Physician Hu over to take a look?”

It had been a few days since Old Madam Lai had entered the residence, but Yu

Jianjia, who had been jumping up and down, had actually stopped?!

Yu Youyao was not surprised.

There was nothing to investigate Old Madam Lai's family background.

The children of wealthy families were all served by maid servants who had signed a death contract. That was the condition for them to be allowed to serve in the master's courtyard.

There were also a few courtyards of various sizes in the inner courtyard. Those who had signed a living contract like Old Madam Lai were usually not placed in an important position.

Most of the people who worked with Old Madam Lai and were familiar with her had signed a living contract. They would be released from the residence in three to five years at most. There were not many people in the residence who knew Old Madam Lai.

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Why was Yu Jianjia spending so much effort on such a person? Yu Youyao understood.

Old Madam Lai might seem to have nothing to do with her.

However, after thinking about when Old Madam Lai had entered and left the residence, she understood that that person and Old Madam Lai did not have any interest in her grandmother, but her biological mother, Madam Xie.

At that time, the one managing the residence was her biological mother, Madam Xie.

Yu Jianjia wanted to use her biological mother, Madam Xie, to cause trouble.

This current Yu Jianjia suddenly overlapped with the Yu Jianjia in her nightmare. She used her blood as a medicinal catalyst and her heart as medicine, but she could still pretend to be weak and innocent.

Previously, Yu Youyao had never understood why, as the eldest daughter of the first wife of the Yu Residence, she had been so easily abandoned by the Yu Residence in her nightmare.

To the point where she had even been tacitly agreed to be Yu Jianjia's medicinal catalyst?

If it had something to do with her biological mother, Madam Xie, then everything made sense.

Yu Youyao suddenly had the feeling that "it" was finally here. It was as if the two separate lines of nightmare and reality had suddenly intertwined.

Although she couldn't guess what Yu Jianjia was going to do, the most direct and effective way to make the Yu Residence give up on the eldest daughter of the first wife was to make a big fuss about her reputation.

Yu Zongzheng did not have any feelings for his first wife. Her mother had already passed away for more than ten years. There were many things that could not be verified even in death. It was very easy to slander a dead person.

Yu Youyao turned around and returned to her room. She a letter to her cousin. There were only two words on it: Return quickly!

After writing, she handed the letter to Qiu Xing. "Give the letter to Chang An and send it to Youzhou at full speed."

In a few days, the Xie Residence will arrive.

After Old Madam Lai entered the residence, it seemed that she had not done anything. In fact, she had already made the necessary plans. No matter what Yu Jianjia wanted to scheme, it would not go as planned.

She was no longer alone and helpless like in her nightmare. She was not the Yao Yao who could only rely on her grandmother.

Xia Tao followed Ai Ye into the house and heard Bai Ye crying in the inner room. "It's all my fault. Miss was too kind and understanding. That's why she allowed my grandmother to enter the residence and reunited me with her. However, I was only concerned about reuniting with Grandmother and didn't serve Miss. Miss' body is weak and she can't be alone. Sister Ai Ye isn't thorough enough. It's all because of me that Miss fell ill and suffered.

Boohoo...

Yu Jianjia coughed lightly. It sounded weak. "It's not your fault. It's also because my body is weak. Filial piety is the most important. It's rare for your grandmother to enter the residence, so it's only right for you to be filial to her."

Bai Ye immediately burst into tears. "Since I've signed a death contract and served Young Miss, I'm one of your people. If I die, it'll be for you. I should prioritize Young Miss. My grandmother has been in the residence for a while already. She hasn't served the residence for a long time and is no longer a member, so she can't stay in the residence forever. I'll send her out later." Yu Jianjia hurriedly said, "The Mid-Autumn Festival is in a few days. Why don't we wait until after it..."

Bai Ye kowtowed respectfully to Young Miss. "I've made up my mind. Young Miss, you don't have to persuade me anymore. I'll definitely do my best to serve you in the future."

Yu Jianjia couldn't help but cough again and say in a hoarse voice, "Girl, why are you so stubborn? I originally took advantage of the Mid-Autumn Festival to bring your grandmother into the residence. The festival hasn't even started..."

Bai Ye kowtowed to Young Miss again. "I thank you for your kindness on behalf of Grandmother. Young Miss is sick, so I just want to serve you well."

Yu Jianjia couldn't persuade her anymore. "In that case, I won't persuade you anymore. It's just that your grandmother is old and not in good health. When she entered the residence, she followed the people in the manor and they could take care of her. It's a little inappropriate for her to go back alone." At this point, she pondered for a moment. "Let Hui Xiang make a trip and send your grandmother back. That way, I'll be more at ease."

Bai Ye did not want to trouble the residence too much, but she was worried about her grandmother, so she said, "Thank you, Young Miss."

Yu Jianjia rewarded her with many more things, including 20 taels of silver, some cotton cloth, food, and so on.

When Bai Ye came out, her eyes were red. When she saw Xia Tao, she called out, “Sister Xia Tao.” Then, she left the house and returned to help her grandmother tidy up.

For some reason, when Xia Tao heard this, she was invited into the inner room by Ai Ye. There was a faint medicinal smell in the room. Yu Jianjia was leaning against the pillow with disheveled hair, her face pale and haggard..

Chapter 693 - 693: First Madam Is Dead

Xia Tao quickly bowed. “Hello, Third Miss.”

Yu Jianjia said hoarsely, “Miss Xia Tao, there’s no need to be so polite. What instructions does Eldest Sister have?”

Xia Tao quickly shook her head. “Third Miss, you’re being too serious. My young miss heard that Third Miss was not feeling well, so she ordered me to come over and take a look.”

Yu Jianjia coughed twice again before saying, “Every time the seasons change, my body has to go through some trouble. It was only because I felt hot last night that I took off my blanket. When I woke up in the morning, I was still fine. At noon, my body couldn’t move anymore. I’ve already asked Divine Physician Xie to take a look. I just caught a cold. I’ll be fine after taking a few sets of medicine and recuperating for a few days. Don’t let Eldest Sister worry.”

Xia Tao finally heaved a sigh of relief. “It’s good that Third Miss is fine,”

Yu Jianjia said, “It’s also because my health isn’t good enough and I can’t share Eldest Sister’s burden. Eldest Sister has just recovered from a serious illness. Please take care of yourself.”

When Xia Tao returned to An Shou Hall, she recounted what had happened in the courtyard.

Hui Xiang wanted to send Old Madam Lai back!

Yu Jianjia was really sick!

Yu Youyao’s expression was very serious. Next, no matter what happened in the Yu Residence, it would not implicate an old woman who had left the residence and Yu Jianjia.

Seeing that Young Miss’ expression was amiss, Xia Tao said, “Young Miss, I keep feeling that something is wrong with Old Madam Lai. Are we going to let her leave the residence?”

Yu Youyao immediately felt conflicted. No matter what was wrong with Old Madam Lai, as long as she was captured and handcuffed and interrogated, everything would be clear. If she knew what Yu Jianjia was plotting, she would be more guarded.

However, her rationality told her not to do this.

If Yu Jianjia really wanted to make a big fuss about her mother’s reputation, as her daughter, she couldn’t act rashly.

Before Yu Jianjia could show her fox tail, she had already panicked. Instead, she had become the one who felt “guilty.” When Yu Jianjia returned the favor, she would have no way to defend herself. It would be disadvantageous to her biological mother.

This was not something a young lady who had yet to get married should get involved in. Even her biological mother would be in the wrong the more she got involved.

It would be more legitimate to leave it to the Xie family to handle.

After figuring this out, Yu Youyao took a deep breath. "Hurry up and ask when the Xie family will enter the capital."

Old Madam Lai and Hui Xiang left the residence at half past four in the afternoon.

Nanny Li had been guarding the front courtyard for a long time. As soon as Yu Zongzheng entered the residence, she quickly rushed over and knelt in front of him, crying. "Master, you're finally back..."

When the servants nearby heard the commotion, they couldn't help but glance sideways.

"Who are you?" Yu Zongzheng was shocked. He did not recognize that this old woman, who had lost most of her gray hair and her weight, was actually Nanny Li, who served beside Yang Shuwan.

Nanny Li cried, "I'm Nanny Li, who works for First Madam!"

Yu Zongzheng frowned and his expression immediately darkened. "First Madam's health isn't good. Why aren't you serving her well? Why did you come to the front courtyard?"

With that, he took a detour to leave.

Nanny Li suddenly pounced over and hugged Yu Zongzheng's leg, not letting him leave. "Master, First Madam, she... she can't take it anymore. She keeps muttering about Master. Go and meet her. After all, you and First Madam are husband and wife. A day as husband and wife means a hundred days of kindness. Please see First Madam one last time, Master..."

Hearing Nanny Li say that Madam Yang was dying, Yu Zongzheng couldn't help but be stunned for a moment, his heart filled with mixed emotions.

In the past, he had felt guilty towards Madam Yang and looked down on her. However, in the end, she had still married into the family.

But now, this guilt had become humiliation and a stain in his life.

He did not want to see Madam Yang.

However, Madam Yang was still his legitimate wife in name. With Nanny Li causing such a commotion in public, if he did not see Madam Yang one last time, it would inevitably be exposed.

In the end, Yu Zongzheng still went to the Tranquil Heart Residence with Nanny Li.

Yang Shuwan leaned against the big pillow, still looking thin and withered. However, when she saw Yu Zongzheng, two unnatural lumps of red appeared on her ashen face, as if spring had arrived for her. She immediately perked up.

Is this an illusion?!

“You’re here!” Yang Shuwan grinned.

Yu Zongzheng simply couldn’t believe that the skinny and withered person in front of him was Yang Shuwan. He couldn’t help but think of Yang Shuwan’s charming appearance in the past. He looked incredulous. “You, how did you become like this?”

Yang Shuwan did not seem to hear this. “Yu Zongzheng, I’m going to die.” Yu Zongzheng’s expression darkened and he said nothing.

Yang Shuwan did not mind. “I know you can’t wait for me to die sooner.

However, when a person is about to die, their words are kind...”

The door between the East Mansion and the West Mansion was blocked. If Bi Tao wanted to go to the Second Mansion, she could only take a detour and get in through the back door.

When Old Madam Ma saw Bi Tao running over in a panic, she asked while watching from the sidelines, “Oh, isn’t this Miss Bi Tao? Why aren’t you serving First Madam? Why did you run to the back door?”

Bi Tao hurriedly stepped forward and stuffed a bag of money into her hands. “First Madam can’t take it anymore. She wants to see Second Madam and asked me to invite her over. I’ll need a favor from you.”

Old Madam Ma was stunned for a moment. In name, Eldest Madam Yang was still the mistress of the residence. She was about to die. If she wanted to see Second Madam, she naturally couldn’t stop her.

Old Madam Ma quickly opened the door. “Miss Bi Tao, come back quickly.”

Bi Tao was extremely grateful. Without hesitation, she ran to the Second Mansion to look for Madam Yao and explained her intentions.

Madam Yao was puzzled, but she did not show it on her face. She said, “I’ll quickly change my clothes first.”

No matter how anxious Bi Tao was, she couldn’t let Second Madam go to the main house in this outfit. It would be too rude, so she could only nod in agreement.

Madam Yao immediately entered the inner room. Nanny Qian did not dare to delay and instructed the maidservants in the room to quickly help Second Madam put on her clothes.

The more Madam Yao thought about it, the more confused she felt. She couldn’t help but ask, “Madam Yang’s illness is very serious. After enduring for so many years, it’s finally over. I still feel quite uncomfortable being a sister-in-law.” At this point, she couldn’t help but sigh. “It’s just that our relationship wasn’t very good in the past, and we weren’t close. In the past two years, Matriarch has been far away from the Second Mansion and hasn’t even interacted much. Why did she suddenly want to see me?”

Nanny Qian quickly combed Madam Yao’s hair. “Who knows what First Madam is thinking? Perhaps she’s worried about Third Miss and Fourth

Young Master and wants you, as an aunt, to take care of them. Aunts are also half a mother.” At this point, she sighed. “Fourth Young Master is still young, and Third Miss’ health isn’t very good. Matriarch is also sick, and her heart is only biased towards Eldest Miss. In the future, Third Miss and Fourth Young Master’s lives...

She didn’t finish the sentence.

As a servant, she shouldn’t judge her master rashly.

#### Chapter 694 - 694: A Dying Person

However, Nanny Qian’s meaning was clear, so Madam Yao naturally understood. “This person is about to die. After all, we’re sisters-in-law. It’s indeed time to go over and take a look.”

In less than the time it took to burn an incense stick, Madam Yao was dressed neatly. She quickly followed Bi Tao to the main house. Instead of going to An Shou Hall, she went straight to the Tranquil Heart Residence.

Nanny Qian and Bi Tao consciously guarded the courtyard and did not follow her in.

If Eldest Madam Yang really wanted to make arrangements for her funeral, the servants couldn’t enter rashly.

There were four screens in the middle of the inner room, and a Buddhist shrine was placed in the outer room. Just as Madam Yao was about to circle into the screen, she heard a man’s voice from inside—

Madam Yao was shocked and took two steps back. Then, she realized that it was her uncle’s voice.

What was Madam Yang doing? She had said that she wanted to see her and hurriedly asked Bi Tao to invite her over. Why was Eldest Uncle still inside?

For a moment, she did not know whether to leave or stay!

Yang Shuwan grinned strangely. A person’s words are kind when they’re about to die. Nanny Li.” She looked at Nanny Li, her turbid eyes filled with threat. “There are some things that you’ve been hiding for more than ten years. It’s time to tell Master...”

Yu Zongzheng frowned and said impatiently, “What are you doing now?”

Yang Shuwan’s gray eyes were fixed on Nanny Li, who was standing still and trembling. “You still want to bring this secret into the coffin?”

These words were clearly telling her that she wouldn’t be able to live if she didn’t tell her.

Nanny Li thought of the old and young in the family, and her legs immediately went limp. She knelt on the ground with a thud. “Eldest Master, I have something to say about the late Eldest Madam Xie.”

At noon, when she returned to the Tranquil Heart Residence, First Madam inexplicably mentioned “Old Madam Lai”.

She even said some strange things.

—Do you know Old Madam Lai? I heard that she used to do cleaning in Matriarch's courtyard.

It didn't matter if they didn't know each other. In any case, An Shou Hall was in the north courtyard. One of you would be sweeping the inner courtyard, while the other would be doing chores in the outer courtyard. They wouldn't be far from each other.

—In this residence, you're the person I trust the most. There are still a few last things I want to ask of you...

At that time, Nanny Li did not understand what First Madam meant, but she did understand that First Madam wanted her to die, and she had no room to refuse.

Nanny Li listened to First Madam's instructions and used the excuse that she had used up all the old ginseng in the Tranquil Heart Residence to go to the courtyard to look for Old Madam Lai.

After threatening and tempting her, she obtained a shocking secret from Old Madam Lai.

On such a hot day, Nanny Li broke out in a cold sweat. As if no one had drained their energy, she left the courtyard in a daze and went to An Shou Hall to look for Eldest Miss.

She used the excuse that Third Miss was not feeling well and did not want to disturb her to ask Eldest Miss for the old mountain ginseng.

When Eldest Miss found out that Third Miss was sick, she would definitely send someone to visit her.

Hui Xiang deliberately caused a commotion with Bai Ye, saying that Bai Ye

had been taking care of her grandmother and serving Young Miss wholeheartedly, causing her to fall sick.

Bai Ye was also one-track-minded and grateful to Third Miss. After hearing such criticism, how could she tolerate it? She immediately went to look for Third Miss and said that she wanted to send her grandmother away.

When Xia Tao arrived at the courtyard, she happened to hear Bai Ye and Third Miss's conversation

This plan was to send Old Madam Lai away legitimately. After Old Madam Lai left the residence, whatever happened in the residence would have nothing to do with her, and Third Miss would not be implicated.

Outside, Hui Xiang and Old Madam Lai were the only two people who knew. If anything happened, it would be their bad luck.

Old Madam Lai only entered the residence to see Bai Ye.

Third Miss was sick and did not know anything.

At the thought of this, Nanny Li gritted her teeth. used to do chores in the north courtyard. Occasionally, when I was busy at An Shou Hall, I would have the chance to enter An Shou Hall to work.'

Yu Zongzhengs expression became even more impatient. "What are you trying to say!"

Nanny Li continued, "I still remember that on the day of Master and Second Madam's marriage, everyone in the residence was so busy that their feet didn't touch the ground. Eldest Madam Xie saw that the auspicious time had arrived, but Master hadn't gone to welcome the bride yet. Worried that she would miss the auspicious time, she called a maidservant over to An Shou Hall and reported it to Matriarch..."

Four screens away, Madam Yao, who was about to leave, suddenly heard about the day of her marriage. She couldn't walk anymore.

Yu Zongzheng was also stunned.

That day, Second Brother had drunk a lot and had yet to change into his wedding clothes when the auspicious time came. He was called to An Shou Hall by his mother. Later, he missed the auspicious time and was late to welcome the bride.

He was both indignant and envious.

He thought to himself, "Second Brother married a well-connected and noble scholarly woman. He's in bliss and doesn't know how to appreciate it. He actually missed the auspicious time to welcome the bride."

At this point, Nanny Li's face turned pale. "When I arrived at An Shou Hall, I didn't see anyone in the house, so I didn't dare to enter rashly. However, I was worried that I would miss Master's time, so I became bold. I didn't expect to hear Matriarch reprimanding Second Master..."

Yu Zongzheng said nothing.

On the day of his second brother's marriage, he was drunk before he even welcomed the bride. When the auspicious time came, he had yet to change into his wedding clothes to welcome the bride. His mother would definitely reprimand him. It would not be glorious if this matter spread.

Therefore, other than his mother, he, and his second brother, no one else in the residence knew about this.

Outsiders only thought that something had gone wrong in the residence, so they were not surprised. After all, no one would not make a mistake in such a big matter like marriage.

For Nanny Li to know about this, it was obvious that she was not lying.

"Matriarch was scolding Second Master." Nanny Li's forehead was covered in cold sweat. Her mouth trembled, and even her voice was trembling uncontrollably. "You b\*stard, you're about to get married. Why are you still making a fuss? Do you want to make a fool of yourself in the entire Yu Residence? Roujia has been married to your eldest brother for more than half a year. Hurry up and change into your wedding clothes and go to the Yao Residence to welcome her..."

Yu Zongzheng was like a bolt from the blue.

Madam Yao, who was four screens away, felt the world spin and her eyes turn black.

It wasn't until this moment that the details of the marriage flashed through his mind. Some things that he couldn't see in the past were connected to a shocking truth at this moment.

Yu Zongshen was infatuated with his eldest sister-in-law!

While he did not really want to marry her.

After the initial shock, Yu Zongzheng flew into a rage. "You b\*tch slave, how dare you spout nonsense..." He kicked Nanny Li's chest.

Nanny Li wailed and fell to the ground. She covered her chest and vomited blood. "I dare to swear to the heavens that everything I said today is true. I'm willing to die to prove my innocence..."

Before Yu Zongzheng could react—

Nanny Li hit the corner of the table on the bed like a bull. With a bang, her forehead bled.

Nanny Li fell to the ground limply. Blood gushed out of the blood hole on her head. Her mouth opened and closed, but she couldn't even make a sound. She glared and stopped breathing.

Chapter 695 - 695: Good Words

Yu Zongzheng was stunned and suffered a huge shock.

So! Was what Nanny Li had just said true?

Second Brother and Madam Xie really...

Even Matriarch knew...

Only he was kept in the dark?!

But how could Second Brother be with Madam Xie?

He must have heard wrongly just now. Yu Zongzheng shook his head hard and saw Nanny Li lying in a pool of blood. Her eyes were wide open and she died with remaining grievances.

Nanny Li's every word and sentence just now was especially audible.

He had no choice but to believe it!

Why was that?

Yang Shuwan laughed crazily. "Yu Zongzheng, oh Yu Zongzheng, don't you think about it? The Yu Residence is a scholarly family, and you're the eldest son of the first wife. In the future, you'll have to inherit the family business. Which eldest son of the first wife doesn't marry a woman of equal status and meticulous upbringing to manage the family business? However, Matriarch asked you to marry a businesswoman."

These words stabbed into Yu Zongzheng's heart like a knife, causing his expression to change drastically.

This was also something that Yu Zongzheng had not been able to let go of for so many years.

"Haha, it's because brother-in-law has long had a relationship with Madam Xie in Quanzhou. However, he's high on the rankings and has entered the

Hanlin Academy. In the future, he'll still enter the cabinet and be the Grand Secretary. How can he marry a businesswoman?"

"Since he couldn't marry her, he sacrificed you to marry her. The Xie family is so rich. When the time comes, he'll get both the money and the person. How good would that be..."

"It's a pity that you became a fool and picked up your brother-in-law's used good and became his sacrifice..."

Yu Zongzheng's eyes turned red with anger as he shouted, "Shut up, shut up!" She did not want to believe Madam Yang.

However, back then, when Second Brother went to Quanzhou, he was indeed close to the Xie family. Second Brother had long known Xie Roujia. They were unrelated and for no reason. Why did the Xie family help Second Brother write "Sea Map Strategy"?

Once the seed of doubt was planted, it would take root in the heart and quickly grow into a towering tree.

Yang Shuwan was excited and kept grinning. "If the parents around, the family won't be separated. There are only two brothers in the Yu Residence. We're a family, so how can we not be better together? Matriarch has never been in good health either. Isn't it more appropriate to have two daughters-in-law taking care of her at home? Why did you two split up so early? Don't you feel that something is amiss?"

Yu Zongzheng's mind exploded. How could he not have felt it?

At that time, he had found it strange. His mother was a widow and had worked hard to raise the two of them. She often warned them to be united as brothers, hoping that the two of them could take care of each other and support each other.

Why did Second Brother have to split from the family as soon as he got married?

Not only were people divided into different families, but they were also divided into family businesses, relationships, and interests. This divided the brothers who were originally as close as family into two families, and completely separated the brothers who were on the same path.

With parents around, there should be no separation between the families. It was the same for every family.

His mother was still alive, so it was unfilial to split up.

Second Brother was young, so no one would say much. However, as an elder brother, he had to inherit the family business. By splitting up the family early, it was inevitable that others would think that he couldn't tolerate Second Brother.

The separation had a greater impact on him.

Naturally, it was not something he would agree with.

However, his mother insisted on splitting up, and his second son did not object. He could not dissuade his mother, so they split up.

It wasn't that he didn't know that there was something wrong with his mother's attitude at the time, but he couldn't figure it out.

If Second Brother had a relationship with Madam Xie, then everything would be explained.

After being husband and wife with Yu Zongzheng for more than ten years, Madam Yang knew him the best. She also knew very well what to say to control Yu Zongzheng.

A fire seemed to burn in her turbid eyes. "Have you never suspected why Yu Youyao is closer to Second Uncle when she's clearly your daughter? Uncle treats Yu Youyao like his own daughter. Whatever Shuangbai has, Yu Youyao definitely has it too. Yu Youyao even has somethings that Shuangbai doesn't have..."

Yu Zongzheng felt dizzy. His second brother had doted on Yu Youyao since she was young.

He still remembered that on the day Madam Xie passed away, Yu Youyao had cried all day. When he went to An Shou Hall to visit his mother, he saw his second brother hugging Yu Youyao.

It was strange. Yu Youyao, who had been crying non-stop, stopped crying after a while when she was in her second brother's arms.

At that time, he had even teased, "A gentleman doesn't hug his child, only his grandchildren. Why are you hugging your niece?"

Second Brother's expression was indifferent, but he did not say anything.

Yu Zongzheng suddenly realized that in the past, he had the best relationship with his second brother. It was only after he married Madam Xie that he unknowingly distanced himself from him.

At that time, he and his second brother had just entered the royal court. They were both very busy and did not think too much about it.

However, after Madam Xie's death, his relationship with his second brother completely faded.

Second Brother did not come to the main house much anymore. Even if he did, he would not look for him anymore. Even if the two of them bumped into each other, Second Brother did not speak to him much and ignored him.

"Even if Old Madam doesn't like me, she shouldn't vent her anger on her grandchildren. They're all biological grandchildren, but Old Madam dotes on Yu Youyao and Shuangbai from the Second Mansion. Even the sons and daughters of concubines are more doted on than Jia Jia and Brother Si." Yang Shuwan giggled. "Old Madam dotes on brother-in-law. She even dotes on his children more than yours."

"After you married Madam Xie, you didn't stay in her room much, so she was married for three years and didn't have any children. She didn't get pregnant for three years. How did she suddenly get pregnant..."

Yu Zongzheng was completely stunned. Yang Shuwan's words were like knives that cut through his rationality. He began to rack his brains to think about the past...

He thought of his second brother and Madam Xie chatting and laughing together. Madam Xie smiled elegantly, completely unlike how cold and perfunctory she looked when facing him.

He thought of how his second brother had secretly looked at Madam Xie and pretended that he was fine when he discovered him. He thought that he was just looking at her by coincidence and did not think too much about it.

He recalled that when Madam Xie was building the Jade Courtyard, his second brother came to the main house every other day. Not long after the construction of the Jade Courtyard was completed, Madam Xie realized that she was pregnant.

Suspicious create imaginary fears!

All the seemingly normal scenes in the past had become abnormal at this moment.

Yu Zongzheng's eyes turned red as he strode out of the house.

Madam Yang was laughing crazily. "Yu Zongzheng, you cuckold. You're a fool.

You picked up your brother's used good. Did you feel comfortable using it? Mother dotes on her younger son. His wife is his lover, and his daughter is also his daughter. Are you happy raising your wife and daughter? Your mother, second brother, and the first wife joined forces and treated you as a fool. They lied to you and used you. Are you satisfied?"

"Who can you blame? If you want to blame someone, blame yourself for being inferior to your second brother. Serves you right for being stepped on by him for all of your life and marrying a wh\*re that he doesn't want just to pave the way for his future. Serves your mother right for only having your second brother in her heart and never caring about your feelings.. Serves Xie Roujia right for being disrespectful and fooling around with him..."

Chapter 696 - 696: Furious

Every word was like a knife that drew blood. It stabbed at the indignation, anger, and resentment that he had buried deep in his heart.

The string in Yu Zongzheng's mind called rationality broke with a buzz.

After Hui Xiang and Old Madam Lai successfully left the residence, Yu Jianjia finally felt relieved.

Next, she only had to listen to her mother's arrangements and "recuperate."

For the sake of caution, Yu Jianjia was not pretending to be sick. Her body was weak, so she could not be greedy for cold. After drinking a bowl of ice water, she felt an itch in her throat and coughed. She was not afraid of being exposed.

Ai Ye helped Yu Jianjia drink the medicine and left.

Bai Ye returned after asking around. “Young Miss, Nanny Li bumped into the corner of the bed and stopped breathing on the spot. Eldest Master came out of the Tranquil Heart Residence angrily and went to An Shou Hall...”

Yu Jianjia’s eyes turned red, and her throat itched. She couldn’t help but cough. “Cough... What... what happened? Nanny Li was fine. Why would she...” As she spoke, her voice turned hoarse and she cried.

Nanny Li had served First Madam for more than ten years and had a deep relationship with Young Miss. Now that Nanny Li was suddenly gone, Young Miss would definitely not feel good.

Bai Ye’s heart ached for Young Miss, and she did not know how to persuade her. “In the Tranquil Heart Residence, there’s only Nanny Li and Bi Tao serving her. When Eldest Master was talking to First Madam, Bi Tao was guarding outside the courtyard. I don’t know what happened inside. First Madam must have been agitated and fell crazy...”

Tears streamed down Yu Jianjia’s face. “My health hasn’t been good since I was young. Nanny Li has taken care of me a lot. All these years, Mother has relied on Nanny Li to take care of her. How could she...”

Hui Xiang and Old Madam Lai had left the residence, Nanny Li was dead, and her father had gone to An Shou Hall...

She had already done more than half of her plan.

Actually, Old Madam Lai’s words were not enough to prove that Madam Xie was having an affair with Second Uncle.

It was said that catching thieves and dirty hands would lead to catching adultery in pairs.

There was no witness and no physical evidence. It was really difficult to convince her with just Old Madam Lai’s words. At the very least, she did not believe that Second Uncle was such a shameless person.

But none of this mattered.

What was important was to make her father believe that Madam Xie and Second Uncle were having an affair.

Yu Jianjia knew very well that even if Old Madam Lai revealed this matter, no one would believe her. After all, she had been out of the residence for many years, and no one had proved that what she had said was true.

That was why she had looked for her mother.

His mother and father had been husband and wife for more than ten years. In the end, she still understood him and knew what to do to make his father suspect that Madam Xie was improper.

Don’t wash dirty linen in public. No matter how much trouble this matter caused, it wouldn’t affect her and the Yu Residence.

After that, even if her father wouldn't do anything to Yu Youyao for the sake of dignity, Yu Youyao's future wouldn't be too good. She would either find a random family to marry into or die of illness.

At that time, it would be easy to raise Yu Youyao into a medicinal catalyst

Yu Jianjia pinched her handkerchief and covered her lips, covering the corners of her mouth.

Yu Zongzheng rushed into An Shou Hall.

Seeing that his expression was amiss, Nanny Liu's heart skipped a beat. She quickly said, "Master, why are you here? Matriarch is still asleep. You..." Yu Zongzheng turned a deaf ear and strode towards the inner room.

Nanny Liu quickly went over to stop her. "Matriarch has just taken the medicine and isn't awake yet. Divine Physician Xie has repeatedly reminded me to let Matriarch recuperate well so that she can recover from her illness. If you have any urgent matters, why don't you sit outside first and let me go in to call Matriarch..."

The veins on Eldest Master's forehead throbbed, and his eyes almost spewed fire.

How could she dare to let Eldest Master go in to look for Matriarch?

It was good to sit outside and calm down.

"Get lost..." Yu Zongzheng roared and waved Nanny Liu away.

Nanny Liu was waved by this force and fell to the ground with a bang. She was in a daze and watched helplessly as Eldest Master rushed into the inner room.

Eldest Master's roar came from the inner room. "Get lost. All of you, get out. No one is allowed to approach An Shou Hall. Otherwise, they'll be beaten to death..."

Qing Xiu and Bai Kui, who were serving in the room, left the inner room in fear.

When Qing Xiu saw Nanny Liu fall to the ground, she hurriedly went forward to help her up. Her eyes kept looking into the inner room. "Nanny, what should we do now? Master, he, he..."

Nanny Liu took a deep breath. "We'll do as Master says. Everyone, leave first. Bai Kui, guard the door. No one is allowed to approach An Shou Hall. Qing Xiu, go look for Eldest Miss immediately..."

Qing Xiu and Bai Kui quickly left the house.

Nanny Liu was worried about Matriarch, so she stayed outside.

Soon, she heard Eldest Master's furious voice coming from the room. "Mother, you clearly know that there was something going on between Second Brother and Madam Xie. Why did you let me marry Madam Xie?"

"You, shut up!" Old Madam Yu leaned against the pillow with a pale face. After shouting, a wave of blood suddenly rushed to her head, making her dizzy. Her chest seemed to be blocked by something, and even breathing became difficult.

She clutched her chest and panted, her vision turning black. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

"You're still lying to me!" At the thought of Nanny Li, who had bumped into the corner of the table and was still lying in a pool of blood with her eyes wide open, Yu Zongzheng was furious. He shouted, "I know everything. When

Second Brother was in Quanzhou, he was thinking about Madam Xie. After Madam Xie married into the Yu Residence, Second Brother refused to give up on her, so Mother was anxious and helped Second Brother welcome Madam Yao into the house. On the day of the wedding, Second Brother was drunk and refused to change into his wedding clothes or welcome the bride. You were the one who forced him to go and welcome the bride. You were worried that it would be inappropriate for Second Brother and Eldest Sister-in-law to live under the same roof, so you insisted on separating."

Old Madam Yu panted heavily. "Who, who did you hear all this from..."

Yu Zongzheng said angrily, "Mother, you've been paying respects to Buddha and Bodhisattva for most of your life. Now that Bodhisattva is in your house, can you swear to the heavens that what I said just now isn't true?"

Old Madam Yu felt suffocated. A fishy sweetness suddenly surged into her mouth from her throat. She suddenly covered her mouth with a handkerchief and coughed a few times. She suddenly felt relieved, but her face was frighteningly pale.

In his anger, Yu Zongzheng did not notice her abnormality. He roared like a trapped beast, "Mother, say something. Why aren't you saying anything? Tell me..."

Old Madam Yu tightened her grip on her handkerchief. "You and your second brother have grown up together since you were young. You know better than anyone what kind of person your second brother is. Your second brother indeed likes Roujia, but he's been familiar with the books of the sages since he was young and has been taught by the Yu Clan. He knows his manners and doesn't do indecent things. There was nothing going on between him and Roujia..."

Yu Zongzheng couldn't listen to anything else. His eyes turned red with anger. "Since Second Brother has taken a fancy to Madam Xie, why didn't you let him marry her? Why did you let me marry her? Why?!"

Chapter 697 - 697: Filthy

Old Madam Yu's body went limp, and her lips trembled.

Back then, without taking an impartial approach, the root of trouble was left in the end. Now that Roujia had died early, the eldest was indignant, the second was resentful, and the brothers were at odds.

She had schemed for the Yu Residence and her two sons for her entire life, She had even lost her health because she hoped that one day, she would be able to fulfill Old Master's instructions before he died.

However, in the end, the Yu Residence was still defeated in her hands.

Yu Zongzheng was furious and had already lost his rationality. "It's because I don't have a brighter future than Second Brother. If Second Brother marries Madam Xie, it'll ruin his future. If I marry Madam Xie, I can still use her money to pave the way for Second Brother's future."

Old Madam Yu tried to explain, "I didn't do this all for your second brother."

Back then, your ranking in the imperial examination was barely medium. The Yu Clan was close to defeat, and the Yu Residence was in dire straits. When you and your second brother first entered the royal court, everything was not smooth sailing. Your second brother was better, and Elder Xia took a fancy to him. However, you've been in the capital for a year or two. If you can't make any political achievements, you'll be completely buried. If you want a way out, you can only be demoted. However, how can you live easily after being

demoted...

If capable people were demoted, they would definitely be able to stand out after staying in the area for two to three years.

However, Eldest Son was only average, and the Yu Residence was in dire straits. No one in the clan was in the capital to help pave the way for him. When he arrived, he had to rely on himself.

If he couldn't make a name for himself, he would die of old age without anything.

She did not want her eldest son to work so hard.

However, Yu Zongzheng refused to listen. In his ears, Matriarch Xie's words undoubtedly became evidence that he was inferior to his second brother. "There are many families in the capital that are compatible with my family and beneficial to my career. Why do you insist on me marrying Madam Xie?"

His future was not as good as Second Brother's, but the Yu Clan was a big scholarly family. He was a proper scholar, and he was also the eldest son of the first wife in the family. In the future, when he inherited the family business, he would be able to marry a scholarly daughter.

He did not necessarily have to marry a businesswoman like Madam Xie.

At the mention of this, Old Madam Yu also regretted it.

Second Brother had written "Sea Map Strategy" and helped the Imperial Court lift the sea ban. The Xie Residence had also received praise from the Imperial Court and was also glorious. When she saw Rou Jia, she thought she was magnanimous and bright, like a pomegranate flower on a tree. Old Madam Yu had been a widow for so many years, and it was rare to see such a lively and bright person like Roujia. An idea was lit up in her mind.

After that, she couldn't help but think about this.

She was a Buddhist, so she felt that the Xie Residence was indebted to the Yu Residence. This was also a rare fate. Roujia was smart and capable. As the eldest daughter-in-law, she could support the family.

Then, she thought about it carefully.

The Yu Residence was indeed in dire straits. If they had ties with the Xie Residence, there would indeed be many benefits. She felt that this was a rare good marriage.

Later on, when she happened to see Second Brother looking at Roujia, she started to feel uneasy.

Second Brother had a mild personality since he was young, but such a lukewarm person looked at Rou Jia like a pomegranate flower on a branch. It was in full swing, bright and scorching, like a moth flying into the fire.

After that, she was in a daze.

One wrong step led to another.

However, Old Madam Yu couldn't explain this to Eldest Son. "I'm a widow. No matter what I do, people will talk. I thought that Roujia was generous and straightforward, and would support the family in the future..."

"You lied to me." How could a businesswoman compare to the meticulously raised daughter of the first wife of a scholarly family? Yu Zongzheng roared, "Is it because Madam Xie and Second Brother already have a relationship?!" "You..." Old Madam Yu felt dizzy and couldn't even say anything.

However, Yu Zongzheng felt that Matriarch Xie was feeling guilty and had nothing to say. He flew into a rage on the spot. "Why would the Xie family help Second Brother for no reason? Didn't they want to take the opportunity to cling to the officials?"

"It's already good enough for a businesswoman to marry into an official's family and be a noble concubine. However, Mother didn't let Second Brother take in Madam Xie because Second Brother has a relationship with Madam Xie. The Xie family doesn't agree to let Madam Xie be the youngest!

"The Xie family was indebted to Second Brother and had even received praise from the Imperial Court. Second Brother had just entered the royal court and hadn't stabilized his position in the court yet. We couldn't make things too ugly. Otherwise, it would have damaged Second Brother's reputation and hinder his future..."

The more he spoke, the more self-righteous he felt, and the more he felt that this was the rage

"You, you." Old Madam Yu was already so angry that she was seeing stars.

"Shut up. You're dirty, but you think others are as dirty as you..."

Back then, he had been fooling around with Madam Yang in the Yang Residence, so when he saw this matter, he subconsciously put himself in her shoes and thought that Second Brother was the same.

Those who were lecherous would see lewdness.

A wise man saw wisdom.

Seeing through this, Old Madam Yu knew that no matter how she explained, Eldest Son would not believe her.

From the bottom of his heart, he was already certain that Second Brother and Roujia had a relationship.

Yu Zongzheng was immediately furious. “I’m dirty? No matter how dirty I am, how can I be as dirty as Second Brother who fooled around with his Eldest

Sister-in-law? For Second Brother’s future, Mother didn’t allow him to marry

Madam Xie. In order to appease the Xie Residence, she asked me to be a fool and marry Madam Xie. Isn’t Mother dirty for doing this?”

Old Madam Yu’s ears were buzzing as she panted heavily, but her chest was getting suffocated. “You, stop talking...”

Yu Zongzheng frowned angrily. “Tell me, is Yao Yao Second Brother’s child...”

“Pfft—” When Old Madam Yu heard this, she was immediately furious. She opened her mouth and was about to reprimand him, but she suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood. Her barely propped up body fell heavily onto the big pillow, her eyes rolling back into her head. The handkerchief that she was holding tightly in her hand fell to the ground, and it was a shocking ball of scarlet.

Yu Zongzheng was shocked and quickly rushed over. His legs went limp and he almost knelt on the ground. “Mother, Mother, what’s wrong? Someone, come quickly...”

Nanny Liu, who was guarding outside, heard the argument inside and wished she could cover her ears with cotton. She had a bad feeling.

When she heard Eldest Master’s panicked shout, she felt dizzy and quickly rushed into the inner room—

She saw the Matriarch lying on her back on the bed, panting with her mouth open.

Nanny Liu was so frightened that her legs went limp and she fell to her knees with a thud. She grabbed Old Madam’s hand and began to do first-aid acupuncture on her hand.

Yu Zongzheng was also stunned, his mind in a mess. He was angry with his mother, and he felt indignant and resentful, but he had never expected her to be so angry...

Yu Youyao received Qing Xiu’s notice. As she was mixing incense, her body was also stained with the medicinal fragrance. Worried that she would affect her grandmother, she quickly changed her clothes first.

When she rushed over, she heard movement in the house. Her heart skipped a beat. She waved the curtain aside and quickly entered the inner room.

Then, she saw her grandmother lying on the pillow, her eyes wide and panting.

Immediately, a chill ran down her spine.

Yu Youyao’s mind buzzed, and she cried, “Grandmother, Grandmother, what’s wrong...”

Chapter 698 - 698: Helpless

Old Madam Yu opened her mouth and said in a voice as soft as a mosquito,

“Yao... Yao Yao, my... my good granddaughter...”

As she opened her mouth, turbid tears flowed from her eyes. She hadn't expected that the scene in her dream would come true. That b\*stard, Yu Zongzheng, really didn't acknowledge Yao Yao as his biological daughter. He suspected that Yao Yao was the child of Second Brother and Madam Xie. He saw Yao Yao as a disgrace and wouldn't care about her life or death in the future.

How could her good granddaughter have such a hard life?!

It was all her fault!

Her grandmother's voice was too soft, so Yu Youyao didn't hear her clearly. However, seeing that her grandmother could still speak and see, her mind immediately cleared. “Qing Xiu, quickly help Grandmother press her acupuncture points...”

Qing Xiu, who was following behind Yu Youyao, did not even bother to take off her shoes. She quickly went to the bed and grabbed Matriarch Yu's other hand to press her acupuncture point.

Yu Youyao untied the sash at her waist. After her grandmother fell sick, she had brought emergency medicine with her.

She took out a Ten Rescue Pill and pinched her grandmother's cheek hard, forcing her grandmother to open her mouth and fed the pill to her. She realized that her grandmother couldn't swallow.

Seeing Yu Zongzheng standing in the room in a daze, she was furious. “Get me a cup of warm water.”

Yu Zongzheng was stunned for a moment before he quickly went to the table to get some water. It was unknown if he was too anxious or too flustered, but the tea in his cup spilled all over his hands, but he did not notice it.

Yu Youyao tested the temperature and poured it into her grandmother's mouth without any explanation. Most of the water leaked out from the corner of her mouth, and only half of it was swallowed by Matriarch.

Fortunately, she finished the cup of water and took the medicine.

Yu Youyao did not dare to relax. As she took out the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill, she instructed, “Get Bai Kui to come in to serve as well. Hurry up and invite Divine Physician Xie over...”

Wasn't it common sense to bring a doctor when her grandmother was sick?

She even had to instruct him about this. It was obvious that he was irresponsible.

Yu Zongzheng quickly went to invite Divine Physician Xie.

Divine Physician Xie arrived quickly. When he arrived at Old Madam's room, he saw two maidservants pressing her acupuncture points. Eldest Miss Yu held the incense burner and leaned close to Old Madam Yu's nose...

Old Madam Yu laid on the bed and cried as she looked at her granddaughter. Yu Youyao quickly said, "Divine Physician Xie, Grandmother couldn't breathe just now. I gave her the Ten Rescue Pill and even smoked the Musk Medicinal Fragrance Pill..."

Patients with sudden emergencies would need their Yang to be restored at the five acupuncture points to regain their consciousness. Divine Physician Xie sized up Old Madam Yu and had an idea. He quickly took her pulse. After a long while, he moved his hand away with a solemn expression. "Matriarch was so anxious that she had a stroke. Fortunately, your servants are proficient in the Five Acupuncture Points First Aid Technique. This method is very useful for strokes..."

Yu Zongzheng felt as if he had been struck by lightning and took a few steps back.

Remorse, self-blame, indignance, and resentment intertwined in his heart. He was like a defeated male hero, dejected and extremely depressed.

Divine Physician Xie helped Old Madam Yu with the acupuncture before she finally fell asleep.

Yu Youyao and Yu Zongzheng left the house with Divine Physician Xie.

Divine Physician Xie's expression was solemn. "Matriarch doesn't have much time left. Your family should prepare for the funeral!"

How was that possible? This morning, her grandmother was still fine. She had served her grandmother dinner, and she had eaten slightly more porridge

than usual. She was also much more energetic. Why did she suddenly...

Yu Youyao felt like he had been struck by lightning!

Yu Zongzheng looked incredulous. "Divine Physician Xie, didn't you say that after taking your prescriptions recuperating carefully, Matriarch's health will recover..."

Divine Physician Xie shook his head. "If she can recuperate well, she can naturally recover. However, Matriarch had an outburst, triggering a Yang problem. It's already hopeless."

Yu Zongzheng's expression turned tragic. He had never expected his mother to be like this...

He hadn't done it on purpose.

He did not expect his mother to die.

Madam Yao returned to the Second Mansion in a daze.

When she was 14 years old, her mother had said that she wanted to arrange a marriage for her. The other party was ranked first and had a very bright future. Her father would find an opportunity to invite him to the house. At that time, she would hide behind the screen to take a look.

She agreed shyly.

She thought to herself that when they reached home, if the man was indeed as the rumors said, she would say to her mother, "Parents' orders are the matchmaker's words. I'll follow everything you decide for me."

If that person's reputation was just for show, she would say to her mother,

“I’m ashamed of my looks. I’m not worthy of Scholar Yu.”

Not long after, Yu Zongshen sent a greeting card to the Yao Residence. He had heard that her father had books related to maritime trade from the previous dynasty and wanted to borrow them.

Her father accepted the greeting card.

The next day, she woke up early to dress up and change into her treasured clothes. She was brought by her mother to the back of the screen in the reception pavilion.

Yu Zongshen stopped as promised.

She was sitting behind the screen. When she heard Yu Zongshen’s gentle voice, she was so nervous that she broke out in a sweat. She couldn’t help but secretly poke her head out from behind the screen. When she saw Yu Zongshen’s gentle and elegant appearance, her heart skipped a beat.

As if noticing her sizing him up, Yu Zongshen glanced at her.

That glance was neither warm nor hot, but she was really too nervous. She was so frightened that her face turned red and she immediately shrank behind the screen. Thinking back to how they had looked at each other just now, she felt embarrassed.

After borrowing the book, Yu Zongshen used the excuse of being busy to leave.

Her mother quickly asked her how she was.

She lowered her head in embarrassment and stomped her feet. “Sigh, you guys can decide. Why are you asking me? I-I can’t make the decision myself.”

This answer was completely different from the generous and polite answer she had imagined.

After saying that, she thought of the handsome and gentle Scholar Yu and felt a little uneasy. “The Yu Clan is a noble clan. Scholar Yu is ranked first and has made contributions. His future is very bright. Our family...”

Yu Zongshen had entered the Ministry of Revenue and was a seventh-grade official. He had a real position and real power. It was said that after working in the Ministry of Revenue for a few years and having enough experience, he could enter the cabinet. Such a person could even marry a princess.

The Imperial College’s Chancellor was a fourth-grade official. He looked noble and did not have any real power. Thinking about it, it was their family that was out of Yu Zongshen’s league.

Why would the Yu Residence be related to their family?

Her mother only said, “Since Old Madam Yu has taken a fancy to you, don’t worry.”

But now that she thought about it, why would Old Madam Yu have taken a fancy to her?!

It was obvious that she had taken a fancy to their family’s noble reputation and that her father did not have any real power. The possibility of his promotion was very small.

Yu Zongshen was infatuated with his eldest sister-in-law, so it was impossible for him to live with her wholeheartedly. Her maiden family was weak and couldn’t support the family. When the couple was unhappy, she could only take a step back and endure it. She couldn’t even cause a commotion.

In less than three months after the engagement, Old Madam Yu welcomed her into the residence.

Her mother complained, "How can you welcome the bride after being engaged for just three months? You're too anxious. You've only reached adulthood for a month and the family isn't prepared. We can't be too rash with this marriage. My good daughter will be aggrieved. This is crossing the lines.. Even if we don't wait for a year, we should wait at least half a year..."

Chapter 699 - 699: Don't Mess With Me

She also felt that it was too rushed and panicked.

Her father said, "Alright, stop complaining. You should be secretly happy to be able to find such a good son-in-law. Don't pretend to be obedient after taking advantage of him. Old Madam Yu is a widow and her health isn't good. Her eldest daughter-in-law is from a merchant family, so her upbringing definitely isn't as good as ours. Yu Zongshen isn't young anymore and is valued by the court. Old Madam Yu is anxious and wants to welcome our daughter into the family as soon as possible. It's understandable. We're about to become in-laws, so we have to understand each other.'

When her mother heard this, she tacitly agreed.

She listened from the side and felt that Yu Zongshen probably had her in his heart, so he was in a hurry to welcome her in.

But now that she thought about it, why would he have her in his heart?!

It was obvious that Yu Zongshen was infatuated with his eldest sister-in-law and refused to give up on her. Matriarch had no choice but to welcome her into the family as soon as possible to get married and have children so that she could calm down.

No wonder on the second day of their marriage, when she saw Madam Xie, her eldest sister-in-law, she had an inexplicable dislike for her. Perhaps there were more or less intuitions between love rivals!

Old Madam Yu had really planned it well!

After being married for more than ten years, Yu Zongshen was like cold water. Even after trying for more than ten years, he wouldn't warm up. They couldn't even quarrel. She had had enough of such cold treatment. She was powerless and sad.

Even when she had been wronged and returned to her maiden home, her mother and father had told her not to throw a tantrum and to tolerate it more.

Everyone thought that Yu Zongshen and her were loving without having a fight in ten years. They felt that she was lucky, but she herself knew best.

After more than ten years, she had gradually gotten used to the thin relationship between husband and wife and learned to accept it.

It wasn't until today that she realized that she was just a joke.

Yu Zongshen was infatuated with his eldest sister-in-law and did not marry her willingly at all.

Madam Yao broke down and threw herself onto the bed, crying.

“Madam, what, what’s wrong? You’re fine. Why, why...” Nanny Qian was shocked and immediately panicked.

It was unknown what Eldest Madam Yang had said to Madam previously. Madam left in panic and returned to the Second Mansion in a daze. As soon as she entered the room, she dismissed the servants and sat on the edge of the bed, crying silently. Now, she was weeping like this...

The more Madam Yao thought about it, the more she broke down. She wiped her tears and ran out. “I can’t take this lying down. I have to ask Yu Zongshen.

After being married for so many years, what am I to him?!”

Second Master was not a husband who doted on others. Nanny Qian also knew that Madam felt aggrieved, and her heart ached for her. However, wasn’t calling him by his name a little too serious?

Which daughter-in-law of a wealthy family didn’t become a mother-in-law after ten years?

In her opinion, other than the fact that the clueless master did not dote on her, Madam’s life had been very good all these years.

There were not many people in the Yu Residence to begin with, so there were no messy matters. The family had split up long ago, and there were no mother-in-laws to manage it. There were also no sisters-in-law to keep an eye on it. As soon as they entered, they took charge of their small family, and their children also grew well.

Second Master was not greedy and lecherous. He had given Madam enough dignity. The concubines in the backyard were all chosen by Madam, and there were not many.

Which daughter-in-law in the capital was as happy as Madam?

Madam Yao ran all the way into the study and pushed open the door.

Yu Zongshen had just returned from the government office and was about to read the official documents when he saw Madam Yao barge in with red eyes. He asked gently, “What’s going on?”

After seeing Yu Zongshen, Madam Yao’s head heated up and she suddenly calmed down. She chuckled, her eyes filled with cold mockery. “I accidentally heard a piece of news from the first branch today.” She laughed. Previously, she had only felt like she was about to break down, but now, she actually felt happy. “Someone was infatuated with Eldest Sister-in-law but couldn’t get her no matter what.”

The gentle smile on Yu Zongshen’s lips revealed a hint of bone-chilling coldness. “No matter where you heard this nonsense from, it has to rot into your stomach. You’re from a noble family, so you probably understand that it’s hearsay and indecent. You have to remember that women have three subserviences. When they get married, they follow their husbands. Women have four virtues. You have to choose your words, and you have to watch what you say.”

Madam Yao looked at him in disbelief.

Yu Zongshen did not deny it, nor did he feel ashamed. All he had was a warning to her.

But on what basis?

The person in the wrong was clearly him, Yu Zongshen. The person who had let her down was also him, Yu Zongshen, who was infatuated with his eldest sister-in-law, and the person who violated ethics!

What did she do wrong?!

Madam Yao completely broke down. “Yu Zongshen, do you still have any shame?”

Yu Zongshen chuckled. “Whether you get a divorce or continue to be Second Madam Yu, I respect your choice.” He chuckled again. “I’ll also arrange your future life so that you don’t have to worry. If you want to take the child away, I won’t stop you. If you don’t take him away, I’ll also raise him well.”

He was smiling, but Madam Yao felt her blood run cold. It was as if someone had poured a bucket of cold water on her head and she couldn’t help but shiver. Yu Zongshen had never cared about her, or even their three children.

Otherwise!

He wouldn’t say such a thing easily.

Madam Yao collapsed to the ground, unable to even cry. “Yu Zongshen, what have I done wrong? Why are you treating me like this? Why...”

How could a cold person grow old with her?

Yu Zongshen looked at her arrogantly. “Don’t provoke me, understand?”

Madam Yao shook her head as she cried. What did she know? She knew nothing. They had been husband and wife for more than ten years. Even if you raise a dog, wouldn’t you have developed feelings for it?

But what about Yu Zongshen?

It was fine if he didn’t care about her, but why shouldn’t he care about his children?

Yu Zongshen said calmly, “Get out!”

Madam Yao collapsed to the ground and did not move. She wanted to stand up and scream and curse, but it was as if she had exhausted all her strength. There was only deep helplessness and sorrow.

Yu Zongshen’s gaze was cold, but there was a smile on his lips. “Zongcheng, send Madam back.”

Zong Cheng, who was guarding outside the study, felt his heart tremble. He lowered his head and walked into the house, calling out, “Madam, Master is busy with work. I’ll send you back...”

Zong Cheng was Yu Zongshen’s follower and a proper member of the Yu Clan.

Yu Zongshen was top of the rankings and had a bright future ahead of him.

His followers had to be extremely cautious. The elders had chosen an ancestor from the clan, Zong Cheng, to stay by Yu Zongshen’s side and specially handled some secret and tricky matters for him.

Zong Cheng’s status in the residence was second only to Yu Zongshen’s.

Madam Yao did not have the face to make a fuss in front of her clan uncle. She gritted her teeth and pushed her limp body up. However, she could not exert any strength, and her legs were soft and numb. As soon as she stood up, she was on the verge of collapse. Zong Cheng, who was standing at the side, subconsciously reached out to help her up. However, before his hand could reach her, he retracted it.

Madam Yao felt dizzy. She supported her limp body and staggered out of the study.

Zong Cheng followed behind her in silence..

Chapter 700 - 700: Drastic Measures

Yu Zongshen looked at this scene with a smile and chuckled. “There’s a kind of fragrance in the Western Region that’s called ‘Thought of Justice’. When someone uses this fragrance to have fun with someone, their mind will automatically imagine themselves as the person they’re looking forward to the most.” He was still smiling, and his smile was extremely gentle. “Talking about shame to a lunatic like me, huh?”

So, don’t provoke me~

I’m a lunatic!

Yu Zongshen recalled that when he first saw Xie Roujia, she was standing under a pomegranate tree. She was warmer and brighter than the pomegranate flowers.

Later on, he often used the excuse of visiting the Xie Residence and finally found a chance to get to know Xie Roujia.

“Why did the Emperor choose you as the second-ranked? I think it’s better to be a third-ranked scholar.’

“The third-ranked scholars are all good-looking.”

“Father said that you’re very talented. Then will you become a good official in the future? Set your heart for the world, build your life for the people, inherit supreme techniques, and establish peace for all generations.”

“Grandfather said that if you can focus on the country and the people, the Great Zhou Dynasty will prosper.”

How could a lunatic be dedicated to the people?

Back then, he had spared no effort to help the Imperial Court remove the sea ban because he wanted to prove to the woman he liked that he would be a good official and would be wholeheartedly devoted to the country and the people. He wanted to make meritorious contributions and establish virtue. He wanted to marry the woman he liked and be with her.

At this moment, there was a knock on the door, followed by a report. “Master, Matriarch has a stroke.’

Yu Zongshen was silent for a long time before saying, “Got it!”

Even Madam Yao had heard the news. Yu Zongzheng must also know that Old Madam's sudden stroke was definitely related to Yu Zongzheng.

Yu Zongzheng did not believe Divine Physician Xie and shouted that he wanted to hire an imperial physician.

Yu Youyao turned to look at Nanny Liu. still have a 400-year-old ginseng in my house. Nanny, come with me to get it!"

Nanny Liu's breathing tightened, and she slowly lowered her head.

Yu Youyao got up and returned to the house. Nanny Liu followed. The two of them entered the room one after another. Yu Youyao dismissed the servants and asked Chun Xiao to close the door and windows.

Yu Youyao did not beat around the bush. "Just now, I heard from Qing Xiu that

Eldest Master came over angrily to look for Matriarch. At that time, only

Nanny was serving in the house. I don't know what Father said to

Grandmother, but she was so angry that she suddenly had a stroke."

Nanny Liu's back even bent. She lowered her head and stammered, 'I was guarding the outer room, so I didn't hear what Eldest Master and Matriarch said...

Nanny Liu was loyal to her grandmother. If it were anything else, she would not have held back. The matter must have been related to her.

Yu Youyao closed her eyes but did not force Nanny Liu. She only said, "Nanny Li bumped into the corner of the table and she's gone. Father came over from the Tranquil Heart Residence just now. Old Madam Ma, who was guarding the back door, came over to report that Miss Bi Tao had invited Second Madam to the Tranquil Heart Residence. This matter is related to me, right? To be precise, it's related to my deceased mother!"

When Nanny Liu heard that this matter had reached the Second Mansion, her legs immediately went limp and she knelt on the ground. "Young Miss, I..."

Yu Youyao bent down and helped Nanny Liu up. She said gently, "Nanny, get up quickly. If you have anything to say, talk slowly..."

Nanny Liu sat on a chair and was silent for a long time before opening her mouth...

She did not want to say it.

However, she was also worried that the Old Madam would have a stroke and it would be difficult for her to even speak. If the Old Madam left, she would definitely have to follow her for the rest of her life. At that time, no one would be able to clear her name. What if Young Miss's background was distorted and she was harmed?

It wasn't a long story.

He was a handsome young man who had just entered the Hanlin Academy. He had gone to Quanzhou with ambition, but he had fallen in love with the daughter of a merchant.

There was a natural chasm between scholars, farmers, and businessmen that could not be crossed.

If he was only from an ordinary aristocratic family, he could have been with her.

However, he was a prodigy of the clan. He was ranked in the examination and was the heir of the Hanlin Academy. As soon as he entered the royal court, he was nurtured and valued by the Imperial Court. He carried the glory of the entire clan and the anticipation of the blood and tears of a widow.

As someone from the rankings, he did not dare to act on the feelings he had for the beauty, afraid that he would cause gossip and damage her reputation.

With a heart full of worries, he did his best to help the Imperial Court remove the sea ban and ask for credit for the Xie Residence. He even instigated the young talent, Third Young Master Xie, and Xie Jingliu to take the imperial examination, wanting Xie Jing to become an official.

If all of this could really develop according to his plan, perhaps he would really be able to get his wish.

However, there were no ifs in this world!

The Xie Residence had helped the Imperial Court lift the sea ban and received praise from the Imperial Court. The beauty followed the Xie Residence to the capital. The Yu Residence was grateful for the Xie Residence's help and held a banquet to entertain them.

A mother knew her son best. No matter how well he hid his thoughts, he couldn't hide them from his mother.

Next!

With the help of a book called "Sea Map Strategy", he had contributed to the Imperial Court and was personally appointed to the Ministry of Revenue.

Although the official position he was given was small, he had a lot of authority. He also needed to be busy with the follow-up of maritime trade.

Just as he was filled with hope and confidence for his future—

His mother had secretly discussed the marriage with the Xie family in exchange for the invitation.

When everything was settled and the beauty became the eldest sister-in-law, he finally knew the truth. However, there was no room for redemption.

It would be a huge disgrace for brothers to swap wives.

No one expected that what happened back then would still leave a root of trouble in the end!

Yu Youyao's hands trembled, and she couldn't even hold the teacup in her hand steadily. It fell to the ground with a bang and shattered.

In this story.

For the future of the clan, family, and son, Matriarch had schemed against an innocent woman, causing this woman's marriage to be unfortunate and her life to be short. She was the culprit.

On the other hand, the eldest son who had married this “beauty” spent the first wife’s money and enjoyed all the benefits of the first wife’s dowry industry. However, he looked down on the first wife and even fooled around with the daughters of the upper echelons, causing the first wife’s death. He was shameless and worse than a beast.

As for the young man who liked the “beauty”, what harmed the “beauty” happened to be his so-called true feelings.

In this story, no one was innocent.

The only innocent person was that beauty.

Now, that beauty had passed away for many years, but she was actually wronged. She was accused to have adulterated with her brother-in-law, and even her only daughter was accused of being a bastard...

Yu Youyao wanted to laugh, but tears streamed down her face. “Chun Xiao, prepare the brush and ink.”

In that case, don’t blame her for taking drastic measures.

Chun Xiao went to the side room in fear and quickly brought out a brush, ink, paper, and inkstone.

Yu Youyao spread out a piece of paper and silently ground the ink. She looked up at Nanny Liu. “I’ll say it out loud. Nanny Liu, you’ll write for me.”

Under Eldest Miss’s clear and cold gaze, Nanny Liu subconsciously picked up her brush.. “What, what do you want to write?”