

All Hail 701

Chapter 701 - 701: Rejection

Yu Youyao's eyes were watery, cold as ice—

“There is the eldest son of the Yu Clan, Zongzheng, and his wife, Madam Yang Shuwan—”

“I was young and inexperienced. I had been deceived by your flowery words regarding your talent and character, so I've arranged three marriages, six betrothal gifts, and eight large sedan chairs to welcome you into the family as husband and wife.’

“You should be doing your duty as a wife. You should respect your in-laws, take care of your husband and children, and look after the house. I didn't expect you to not know your duties. You were disrespectful, unfilial, displeased, unkind, discordant, and immoral. You're vicious and guilty of many things.”

“There are seven reasons for abandoning a wife. First, she is not filial and virtuous.

“Second, she is jealous and causes chaos.”

“Third, she is a thief and steals.’

“Fourth, she has a serious disease and cannot be around those who are prosperous”

“Fifth, she spreads gossip and messes up the family!’

“In ‘The Book of Rites: Life’, there are five people you should not marry—”

“No random girl or one from a lower family.”

“No rebellious girl or a cripple too!”

“All kinds of things are clear in my eyes. Every time I read this, my heart burns to the bone. On account of your relationship as husband and wife, I can't bear to say it explicitly. Please return to where you came from. I have no objections to that so I'm willing to sign this divorce letter.”

Towards the end, Nanny Liu almost lost her grip on her brush. She really did not expect Eldest Miss to ‘in for a penny, in for a pound’ and directly ask her to write a divorce letter for Madam Yang.

Furthermore!

Out of the seven rules, Yang Shuwan had already broken five. However, for each one she had broken, she had carefully schemed to make them sound reasonable and not unjustified.

A divorce was not something that could be settled with just a divorce letter. She would still have to go to the government to settle matters related to the suspension of his wife.

Although the government did not care about divorce, they still needed to go through them. The contents of the divorce letter had to be true. Otherwise, it would easily be exposed. No wealthy family was willing to be vague about this. Yu Youyao said calmly, "Do you have Grandmother's seal with you?"

Nanny Liu was her grandmother's personal nanny. In order to make things easier, she usually carried her grandmother's seal.

Nanny Liu was still in a daze. Cold sweat kept breaking out on her forehead.

"Stamp it!" Yu Youyao instructed.

Nanny Liu received the order and moved as if she was possessed. Whatever Eldest Miss said was right, and she could not resist at all.

After the letter was completed, Yu Youyao took it over and looked at it carefully. Seeing that there were no mistakes, she handed it back to Nanny Liu. "Take it to the front courtyard and get Yu Zongzheng to sign it. Tell him that Matriarch has just woken up and said everything word for word. She asked you to write it for her."

Nanny Liu did not dare to move. Cold sweat kept breaking out, and her lips trembled. This was an elder's matter, and it should not be decided by a junior like Eldest Miss.

Yu Youyao clearly knew her scruples, and a smile appeared on her lips. "Grandmother is seriously ill. As a man, Father's ambition is to be in the royal court. All the matters in the family can only be handled by me, the eldest daughter of the first wife. Otherwise, wouldn't it be chaotic if no one in this huge family could take charge?"

Nanny Liu's lips moved. "Should we discuss with Eldest Master first..." Yu Youyao chuckled. "Yu Zongzheng came out of Tranquil Heart all the way and looked for Old Madam angrily, but he didn't avoid the servants. I think many people in the residence saw him. Even if the servants don't know what Yu Zongzheng said to Old Madam, they can guess that Yu Zongzheng is involved in Old Madam's stroke."

Nanny Liu suddenly realized that she had never understood Eldest Miss in the past.

Yu Youyao continued, "Grandmother was anxious. It was also Madam Yang who caused trouble. I am asking Father to divorce Madam Yang for the sake of Father's reputation. It's all Madam Yang's fault. No one will speculate about Father recklessly. He is now an extremely powerful official. Countless pairs of eyes are watching him in the court. I think Father doesn't mind divorcing his wife for Grandmother and his reputation."

Even if it wasn't for Yu Zongzheng's reputation, just based on what Niadam

Yang had said, the Yu Residence couldn't keep her anymore. It seemed that Yu

Zongzheng had already turned his anger towards Yang Shuwan at this moment.

Nanny Liu's body went limp. "As for Matriarch..."

Yu Youyao said calmly, "I'll explain to her myself."

Nanny Liu sat still.

Yu Youyao said softly, "This family is under my control now. I asked you to write a divorce in Grandmother's name on my behalf just to be more legitimate. Would it matter who came up with this divorce letter? After all, Yu Zongzheng will want to sign it. She's already an abandoned wife. It's fine if they divorce." The corners of her mouth twitched slightly, and her expression was extremely cold. "I even have the heart to kill her now!"

Nanny Liu's hands trembled as she stood up with the divorce letter.

The house fell silent.

Yu Youyao sat in the house and drank her tea calmly, as if the person whose reputation had been tarnished was not her biological mother, nor was she the one whose blood had been mixed up.

After an unknown period of time!

Nanny Liu returned and handed a thin page of the divorce letter to Yu Youyao.

"Eldest Miss, Master has signed the divorce letter."

She had originally thought that it would take more effort.

Unexpectedly, when she mentioned that Matriarch was the one who had written it, Eldest Master vented his anger on Madam Yang and easily signed an autograph.

Yu Youyao took the divorce letter.

Not only did Yu Zongzheng sign his name, but he also added on the last line, "Such a rebellious woman is not worthy of being a daughter-in-law, wife, or mother. It's only right that she be abandoned and be sent back to cleanse our family."

He was really ruthless!

Most families usually do not make a big fuss about leaving their wives, but the contents of the divorce letter would be left in the government office and could be easily found out.

People cared about their reputation and the future of their children. It was very rare for them to divorce their wives. The Yu Residence was not a lowly family, and Yu Zongzheng was still a powerful minister. It seemed that the news of the divorce would spread very soon.

Often, the contents of the divorce letter would directly affect the future of the divorcee's children.

Therefore, men often considered the fact that they were husband and wife once and could not bear to say it out clearly. They were vague about it with no clean cut.

Previously, when she had asked Nanny Liu to write the letter for her, she mentioned that Madam Yang was not a good woman. This was already very serious.

The most important thing for women was dogmatic rules and women's morals.

When aristocratic families marry, they would have to have a good relationship with the two families. Not only did they have to evaluate each other, but they also had to evaluate their families. The talent and character of the elders were the most basic criteria.

In aristocratic family discussions, virtue was also the most important. Then, talent, appearance, and so on.

No one wanted a daughter of a divorcee. Moreover, this divorcee had already made several huge mistakes. The most serious thing was that she had messed up the family and brought shame.

As the saying went, like mother, like daughter!

Madam Yang was not a good woman, so what kind of good daughter could she raise?

Her divorce letter had directly tarnished Yu Jianjia's reputation and ruined her future, making her unable to raise her head anymore.

She did not expect Yu Zongzheng to be even more ruthless than her..

Chapter 702 - 702: Malicious Intentions

However, she did not care if Yu Zongzheng was ruthless.

Yu Youyao slowly stood up and tidied her clothes unhurriedly. She said calmly, "Let's go to the Tranquil Heart Residence!"

Yu Youyao brought Nanny Liu, Chun Xiao, and Xia Tao, as well as a few burly old maids, to the Tranquil Heart Residence.

Madam Yang was unpopular in the residence and had even fallen crazy. All the things that she had done in the past for money and the people she had harmed had also been exposed. Although the servants did not know exactly what had happened, they could guess that Madam Yang had caused Matriarch Yang's condition to worsen.

The windows in the room were closed, so it was a little dark.

Nanny Li laid beside the table alone. Her old eyes were wide open as she stared fixedly at the beam above her head. The pool of blood under her had already solidified, and the strong smell of blood was nauseating.

This was the first time Yu Youyao had faced death head-on, and it was such a tragic and abnormal death.

This scene shocked Yu Youyao greatly. Her face turned pale on the spot, and she held her breath until she couldn't even breathe.

Nanny Liu reacted the fastest and quickly stood in front of Yu Youyao. "Eldest Miss, go to the courtyard and sit down first. The room is very dirty. It'll affect you."

At this moment, Yu Youyao had also calmed down. "It's fine. It's the death of an unkind and evil body. Do you think I'm afraid?" She walked out from behind Nanny Liu and instructed calmly, "Take a mat and wrap it up. Throw it to the mass grave. Don't dirty the Yu Residence's land. Go and investigate who else in her family is. Anyone related to her who works under the Yu Residence will be dismissed.'

Nanny Li had betrayed her master by framing her. No matter what the reason was, she was not worthy of sympathy.

Two old maids quickly carried Nanny Li's corpse away.

Yu Youyao walked to the bed.

Yang Shuwan lay on the bed lifelessly. Her chest almost did not rise or fall, but she was still holding her last breath.

Seeing that Bi Tao was not in the Tranquil Heart Residence, she could guess that Madam Yang was waiting for news of Bi Tao. She did not hear any news about her and could not bear to die yet.

Yu Youyao instructed, "Wake her up."

As soon as she finished speaking, an old woman hurriedly stepped forward and pinched Madam Yang hard.

When it didn't work, she kept pinching.

After pinching her seven or eight times in a row, Madam Yang felt the pain and subconsciously cried out. Her eyelashes trembled slightly as she pulled her eyelids open. It took her a while to open her turbid eyes. Her voice was like a mosquito. "Bi, Bi Tao..."

The old woman did not stand on ceremony. She picked up the cold tea on the small table at the head of the bed and splashed it on her face. "First Madam, wake up."

After being splashed with cold water, Yang Shuwan shuddered and finally sobered up a little. With her turbid eyes, she saw Yu Youyao in a green embroidered lotus dress. The lotus leaf dress was of the same color, and the hibiscus flowers were spread on both sides of her face. Such a bright color was so scorching that even her eyes hurt.

"Y-Yu Youyao, you..." Yang Shuwan seemed to be strangled, and her voice seemed to be squeezed out of her throat. "What are you doing?"

Yu Youyao's expression was indifferent. "First Madam can't even see clearly, so she probably can't read." She tilted her head to look at Nanny Liu and instructed, "Read the divorce letter to First Madam."

Divorce letter?

Yang Shuwan's turbid eyes suddenly cracked.

She thought that she had heard wrongly. Ever since she had a migraine, she often felt dazed. Sometimes, she couldn't even hear clearly.

Most families cared about their reputation and their children. It was rare for them to divorce their wives.

Even if their wife violated the seven rules, they would ask her maiden family to write a guarantee and cover it up. If it was more serious, she would be placed in the small courtyard.

Yu Zongzheng had not divorced her back then. Now that she was about to die, there was even less reason to divorce her. She had never heard of any family divorcing their dying wife.

She must have heard wrongly.

As she was thinking, she heard Nanny Liu say, "I was young and inexperienced. I had been deceived by your flowery words..."

Yang Shuwan opened her mouth and panted hard. Her body seemed to be having epilepsy, and she kept twitching, spasming, and trembling. Soon, her eyes rolled back and she vomited white foam, but she still held her breath. She was extraordinarily tenacious.

Yu Youyao looked at her coldly.

The divorce letter was not long and was quickly finished.

Perhaps it was because she was about to die, but her chaotic mind had never been so clear. Yang Shuwan heard every word and sentence in the divorce letter.

She immediately understood the sinister intentions of this divorce letter.

Ordinary reasons for divorce were vague in order to take into account the last dignity of both sides and the children in the family. They would not spell out the mistakes.

However, this divorce letter seemed to be targeting her because she was not a good woman. She was about to die, so it would be over if she died. Jia Jia's life was completely ruined.

She had schemed bitterly, but in the end, she had ruined her own daughter?!

On the other hand, Yu Youyao was fine?

No, that was impossible!

"Y-Yu Youyao, you harmed my daughter. You'll die miserably!" Yang Shuwan glared at Yu Youyao fiercely. She used all her strength to push herself up from the bed and was about to pounce on her and skin her alive. However, her body couldn't support her and she fell to the ground from the bed with a bang.

Yu Youyao chuckled. "Madam Yang disrespected the first wife and tarnished her reputation. It's a calamity for the clan. She instigated the mother-son conflict between Father and Grandmother and sowed discord between Father and Second Uncle, causing brothers to quarrel. It's a disaster for the clan. Because of Madam Yang's evil actions, Grandmother had a stroke and couldn't get up. This is a tragedy for relatives. Such a person who caused chaos in the clan isn't worthy of being a daughter-in-law, wife, or mother. She's also not worthy of being a human. She should be abandoned and sent away to cleanse the family's reputation."

Yang Shuwan lay on the ground in a sorry state, panting non-stop. "If there's anything, come at me. Don't..."

"You brought this upon yourself." Yu Youyao suddenly raised her voice, and there was a rational anger in her voice. She said calmly and sharply, "She could have been the Third Miss of the Yu family obediently. When she's old enough, let

Father make the decision and buy more dowry for a good family. Wouldn't it have been good for her to marry into a noble family for the rest of her life?"

Yu Zongzheng still doted on Yu Jianjia the most. With Yu Zongzheng making decisions for Yu Jianjia, wouldn't she be able to choose from the noble families in the capital?

Black blood appeared in Yang Shuwan's mouth. She opened her mouth with all her might, but she couldn't say a word.

"My mother used her life to fulfill the wishes of you and your daughter. She asked a shameless bed-climbing thing to be the first wife and let the traitorous child in your stomach wear the skin of a legitimate daughter." Yu Youyao raised her voice, and her eyes suddenly turned red, but there was a ruthless glint in them. "She's been dead for more than ten years, but you still won't let her off. You won't even let her daughter off.."

Chapter 703 - 703: The Daughter of a Divorced Woman

"You..." Yang Shuwan stretched out her arm and was about to crawl forward.

Yu Youyao took a deep breath to calm herself down. "If you're divorced, you'll no longer be Yu Zongzheng's wife, Your daughter is neither a legitimate daughter nor a concubine's daughter. She will be the daughter of a divorced wife. In terms of status, she's not even comparable to the daughter of a concubine. Her status can't even be compared to a concubine, and she'll be in an awkward spot in the residence. In the future, she won't even be able to marry the most ordinary poor scholar. She can only marry into a merchant family or be like her mother, become a second wife, or a concubine..."

"Y-Yu Youyao, you, you won't die a good death. You'll die miserably..." Yang Shuwan reached out to Yu Youyao as if she had gone crazy. As she vomited blood, she cursed her viciously.

Yu Youyao chuckled, her faint voice carrying a hint of coldness. "The thing you're most proud of in your life is probably marrying into the Yu Residence and becoming an official wife." Her lips curled up slightly, revealing a trace of malice, "But so what? You've been abandoned and will quickly return to where you came from. Even if you die, you won't be able to enter the Yu family's ancestral grave. I don't think your maiden family will care if you live or die. After you die, you'll probably be about the same as the old servant in front of you. You'll just be rolled up in a rotten straw mat and thrown it into the mass grave. When your corpse is fresh, it'll be bitten by a wild dog and pecked by birds..."

"Uh..." Yang Shuwan glared at Yu Youyao.

Yu Youyao chuckled. "Listen carefully. As long as I, Yu Youyao, am alive, your daughter, Yu Jianjia, will never be able to make a comeback in this lifetime."

Yang Shuwan screamed, "No..."

Yu Youyao tilted her head and glanced at Nanny Liu. "Get Madam Yang to press her fingerprint on the divorce letter."

"No, no, I won't press it..." Yang Shuwan shook her head crazily and clenched her fists tightly.

Two old maids stepped forward and pressed her to the ground. They pulled her hand away tightly, grabbed her fingers, and pressed them into the red ink box.

After the fingerprint was pressed, Nanny Liu handed the divorce letter to Eldest Miss.

Yu Youyao took a look. "There's no time like the present. Nanny Liu, I'll have to trouble you to make a trip to the government office to settle all the matters of suspending your wife."

Nanny Liu saw that it was already dark outside. Now that the government office was closed, if she wanted to do this, she would definitely have to knock on the door and spend some money.

Yu Youyao instructed the two old maids, "Go prepare a carriage, pack two sets of clothes, and five taels of silver. When Nanny Liu returns, take the divorce letter and send Madam Yang to her family."

After the Yang family was convicted, their family wealth was confiscated, and the master was exiled. The rest of the family were still living in the capital, so there was no need to trouble them. They could just send her over and be done with it.

After dealing with Yang Shuwan, Yu Youyao left the Tranquil Heart Residence. The sky was already dark. "What time is it?"

Chun Xiao replied, "It's half past seven."

Yu Youyao stood at the door of the Tranquil Heart Residence and looked at the deep and endless corridor in front of her. It was as if she was suffocating. Suddenly, she felt out of breath.

Cousin, I can't hold on much longer.

She took a step forward, and the lights in front of her swayed and spun. Suddenly, she was supported by a strong force. Chun Xiao's worried voice sounded in her ear. "Young Miss, are you alright!"

Only then did Yu Youyao feel a little dizzy. "I'm fine. Go back!"

The two old maids took lanterns from under the porch and walked in front to illuminate the way.

Yu Youyao walked slowly along this long corridor. As it was almost the Mid-Autumn Festival, there were many lanterns hanging in the residence. The hazy lights could not illuminate the night, and it was a waning scene.

Nanny Xu was waiting at the door. Under the bright candlelight, Yu Youyao's face was pale, and her forehead and the tip of her nose were covered in sweat.

Yu Youyao had never hidden anything from her.

What had happened in the Yu Residence all day and what Yu Youyao had endured could be seen from her pale and thin figure,

Nanny Xu's heart ached and she felt terrible.

Yu Youyao let go of Chun Xiao and suddenly threw herself into Nanny Xu's arms, wailing. "Auntie, Auntie, how can they be so bad..."

Tainting her background and making her the abandoned daughter of the Yu family was not Yu Jianjia's ultimate goal.

Yu Jianjia was crazy. She wanted to raise her into a medicinal catalyst like in her nightmare. She wanted to use her blood as a catalyst and her heart as medicine. She wanted to drink her blood and eat her flesh. She wanted her life.

She was not afraid of Divine Physician Xie.

However, under the influence of the nightmare, her heart often palpitated. She would panic and even feel suffocated. For some reason, she felt a sharp pain in her chest. She did not know if there was a problem with her body or if it was mental fear...

Nanny Xu stroked the little girl's hair and softened her voice. "Don't be afraid. Young Master will be back soon."

Matriarch Yu heaved a sigh of relief. Yu Zongzheng could not do anything to

Yu Youyao.

When Young Master returned, it was even more impossible for Yu Zongzheng to do anything to Yu Youyao.

Madam Yang and her daughter had made a bad move.

She arrogantly believed that Yu Youyao was like an ordinary woman from an aristocratic family. After being despised by her father, she had no way out.

However, she did not know that Yu Youyao's greatest reliance was King Yue Fei, who had a large army and power.

Nanny Xu accompanied Yu Youyao for a while before Yu Youyao stopped crying. She returned to the house to freshen up and change into dry clothes. She looked a little more energetic.

Thinking about how Yu Youyao had not eaten much all day, Nanny Xu personally cooked medicinal cuisine. Yu Youyao did not have much of an appetite. After being coaxed to eat a small bowl, she could not eat anymore, but at least she had eaten something.

At this moment, Xia Tao's voice sounded from outside the door. "Young Miss,

Matriarch has woken up and wants to see you."

Yu Youyao did not delay at all. She quickly left the house and brought Chun Xiao to Matriarch's house. After hearing Nanny Liu's story, she had some resentment towards her grandmother.

It was just that her grandmother really doted on her.

For more than ten years, the person who had been protecting her was her grandmother.

The person who had always doted on her was still her grandmother.

Old Madam Yu lay on the couch lifelessly. As soon as she saw her granddaughter, she began to cry. “How’s the family?”

Yu Youyao knew that her grandmother wanted to ask if Yu Zongzheng had done anything to her. Her eyes were red as she said, “Grandmother suddenly fainted. Father was so frightened that he didn’t care about anything. Nanny Li bumped into the corner of the table and she was gone. Father was instigated by Madam Yang and angered Grandmother, which made Grandmother so anxious. I asked Nanny Liu to write a divorce letter...”

This answer also told her grandmother that she was fine. She was still in charge of the family and was already fighting back. She would not suffer.

Old Madam Yu was stunned for a long time before she suddenly smiled. “Okay, okay. Cough, cough. She’s the daughter of a divorced wife. What else can she do in the future? Hahaha, good, this is a drastic move...”

As she laughed and cried, tears streamed down her face..

Chapter 704 - 704: Blackened Heart

She smiled, feeling relieved that her granddaughter could still stabilize the overall situation.

She cried because no one would protect her granddaughter in the future. No matter what happens, she would have to rely on herself.

Yu Youyao quickly stroked her grandmother’s chest to calm her down. “Madam Yang will become divorced, so it’s not good for Third Sister to stay in the capital. Let’s send her back to the clan tomorrow. Fourth Brother isn’t young anymore. I heard that Mr. Xian Yun is going to open an academy in

Youzhou. After a while, I’ll send Fourth Brother to Youzhou Academy to study with Mr. Xian Yun.’

A daughter of a divorced wife did not have a good life in the capital, let alone in the clan. Her future would not be good either.

Moreover, Yu Jianjia’s body was weak. If she’s sent to the clan, she would not be raised as precious as in the residence.

No matter how Yu Jianjia schemed, she would always fail.

As for Yu Shansi, this world was always more tolerant of men. In the future, when he goes to the North and studies with Mr. Xian Yun, he would be alright no matter what, and no one would underestimate him.

Old Madam Yu nodded and coughed hard. “When... When will your cousin be back?”

Yu Youyao’s eyes turned red, but she held back her tears. “He’s already on his way. He should be back in a few days.”

Old Madam Yu was a little disappointed, but she forced herself to perk up. “I’m about to die. Your father is a b-beast who doesn’t recognize anyone. L-listen to me. When y-your cousin returns, get

him to send you to Quanzhou. In the future, don't... Don't return to the Yu Residence anymore. I-I left a letter..."

Tears streamed down Yu Youyao's face. "Grandmother, don't say such inauspicious things..."

Old Madam Yu also cried. "Your maternal family has always doted on you. If you go to Quanzhou, with your cousin's protection, 1-1 can feel at ease."

After taking Divine Physician Xie's medicine these past few days, she clearly felt that her health was improving. She had originally thought that she could take care of her granddaughter more.

However, God's plans supersede our own.

Retribution!

All of this was retribution!

Fortunately, she had already made arrangements early on, so she did not have to be afraid that she would close her eyes and die just like that. She could be at ease that her granddaughter would not be in the hands of the family in the future.

"Grandmother, Grandmother..." Yu Youyao thought of her grandmother's love for her and tears streamed down her face.

Old Madam Yu held her hand tightly. "In the future, 1 won't be able to accompany you. Y-you have to be fine." Her voice seemed to be stuck in her throat. She opened her mouth. "It's about you and your mother... I've let your mother down. Uh, don't blame me..."

Yu Youyao wailed, "Grandmother... Grandmother, I don't blame you. I don't blame you..."

Anyone had the right to blame her grandmother.

Only she did not.

For the first half of her grandmother's life, she had schemed for the Yu Clan, the Yu Residence, and her son. Even her health had failed.

For the next ten years, her grandmother had been thoroughly scheming for her granddaughter.

Her grandmother had made plans for her entire life, but never for herself.

As a junior, she had no right to interfere with her elders.

At this moment, Qing Xiu came over. "Matriarch, Third Miss has been invited over."

Old Madam Yu grabbed the blanket and panted heavily. Her voice was squeezed out from between her teeth with a hint of ruthlessness. "Prepare a brush, ink, paper, and inkstone."

At this point, what else did she not understand?

Did she really think that she, an old woman, was so sick that she could do whatever she wanted at home?

She had learned how to coax men from that b*tch of hers. Did she think that she could escape unscathed just because her eldest son doted on her?

Or was it that she had been used to “I’m sick and I’m innocent”, “I’m sick and I’m pitiful”, and “I’m sick and I’m in the right” since she was young? Others had to give in to her. Did she think that she could use her “sickness” to succeed in the residence?

It was strange for her to be smart.

But!

She was just too smart, so she treated everyone else as fools.

Did she think that she would not be caught by sending Old Madam Lai out of the residence?

What did an elder need to have to do with an unfilial granddaughter?

Yu Youyao quickly lowered her head and wiped her tears with a handkerchief.

She instructed Chun Xiao to prepare brush, ink, paper, and inkstone, Chun Xiao left as quickly as she came.

When the brush, ink, paper, and inkstone were ready, Old Madam Yu instructed, “Call her in!”

Not long after, Yu Jianjia entered the house. She was wearing a purple myrtle flower gauze dress. Her white and pink clothes complemented her pale face, making her look even more delicate and pitiful.

Yu Jianjia walked forward and was shocked to see Matriarch Yu lying on the bed lifelessly. Her eyes immediately turned red. “Grandmother, what’s wrong...”

As she spoke, she cried.

In order to avoid arousing suspicion, after hearing from Bai Ye that her father had gone to her grandmother’s house, she did not ask for more information. Her recuperating obediently in the courtyard because of her “illness”.

She did not expect that in the middle of the night, Qing Xiu would specially come to the courtyard and say that Matriarch had invited her over.

Sensing that something was amiss, she coughed so hard that her heart ached. Bai Ye said that she was very sick and was afraid that she would pass her illness on Matriarch, but Qing Xiu was still indifferent. Yu Jianjia did not want to come, but she had no choice.

There was nothing else she could do.

It was said that after taking Divine Physician Xie’s medicine, Old Madam’s spirits improved day by day. She was worried that if Old Madam’s health really recovered, she wouldn’t be able to scheme anything anymore.

In the past few years, Zhou Linghuai has been coming and going frequently in

Youzhou. The residents knew very well that Zhou Linghuai was valued by King Yue Fei. With Zhou Linghuai protecting Yu Youyao, she did not dare to scheme anything.

Taking advantage of the fact that Zhou Linghuai had gone to Youzhou, she first tried to taint Yu Youyao’s background and seek her father’s favor. When Zhou Linghuai returned to the residence, he wouldn’t be able to surpass her father.

She also knew that she was too anxious. Matriarch was sick, not dead.

Although she could wait, her mother couldn't.

She couldn't get involved in ruining Yu Youyao's mother's reputation and tainting background. She could only let her mother do it. Nioreover, only her mother understood her father best and knew what to do to make him believe

her.

Her mother was so sick that she was about to die. If she didn't get this done as soon as possible, no one would help once her mother was gone.

Yu Jianjia bit her lip, her heart turning cold. If her mother hadn't entered the Tranquil Heart Courtyard and was still the mistress of the Yu Residence, this matter would have been easier to handle.

Now that she was alone and helpless, no matter how thorough her plan was, there were still many oversights.

Old Madam Yu stared at her in a daze. "You black-hearted dog. Do you think I don't know that you were the one who caused trouble behind your mother's back? As expected of a b*tch who climbed into men's beds. Even though you're wearing the skin of a legitimate daughter, you can't hide the lowliness in your bones.'

Originally, the Matriarch couldn't even speak properly. Now, she was holding her breath and scolding until she didn't even pant.

"Grand-grandmother, I..." Yu Jianjia's eyes turned red from the scolding, and tears kept falling, as if she had suffered a huge grievance..

Chapter 705 - 705: Witchcraft

Yu Youyao said calmly, "Third Sister probably doesn't know that Father has already made the decision to divorce Madam Yang and sent the divorce letter to the government office."

Yu Jianjia's eyes suddenly widened. "No, that's impossible..."

Her mother had been abandoned?

Her father had doted on her since she was young. How could he bear to let her become the daughter of a divorced wife?

Fourth Brother was also their father's only legitimate son. Even if Concubine Jiang was around, she had been in the Yu Residence for two years without signs of pregnancy. It was still unknown if she could give birth.

Her father would no longer have a legitimate son. He would be criticized by others.

Yu Youyao looked at Yu Jianjia. "Even though my biological mother, Madam

Xie, knew Second Uncle in Quanzhou, so what? Just based on Old Madam Lai's words, you were going to tarnish the reputation of the first wife who has passed away for many years and taint my background. But what good will this do you? Why are you doing this?"

Yu Jianjia's eyelashes were stained with tears as she cried hoarsely, "Big Sister, what are you talking about? I don't understand anything!"

Yu Youyao chuckled. "Chang An!"

Soon, Chang An's voice sounded from outside the screen.

Yu Youyao instructed, "Tell me about Divine Physician Xie's background."

Chang An immediately said, "We didn't know anything about Divine Physician

Xie. Young Miss was worried, so she asked me to help investigate. When Young Master left the capital, he had secretly instructed that if anything tricky happened at home, I could go to the Yue Fei Kings Residence to ask for help. As such, I asked King Yue Fei to help investigate and realized that those from the King of Medicine Valley in Jianghu had once been convicted for engaging in witchcraft in the previous dynasty."

Although King Yue Fei was guarding the North, he also had a residence in the capital and guards in it. If she used King Yue Fei's connections, she could really find out about such things.

Yu Jianjia's pupils suddenly constricted. Chang An had used King Yue Fei as an excuse, so no one dared to doubt the authenticity of his words.

Old Madam Yu's lips trembled. Witchcraft had always been strictly prohibited by the Imperial Court. Divine Physician Xie was related to witchcraft. If others found out, even the residence would be implicated.

This was a monstrous disaster!

Even though Eldest Son was the one who hired the doctor, they could not be careless. They still had to be as cautious as Yao Yao.

Yu Youyao lowered her head and did not say anything. What King of Medicine Valley was involved in witchcraft in the previous dynasty? This was just an excuse she had fabricated. However, with King Yue Fei's name, what was fake could become real.

The Imperial Court had explicitly prohibited witchcraft. Divine Physician Xie had brazenly walked in the martial world and even made a name for himself as a "divine physician." He must be a cautious person. It was not easy to find out if he was involved in witchcraft.

Previously, her grandmother had used Divine Physician Xie's medicine and her health had improved a little. Yu Youyao could still tolerate him, and she could slowly investigate some things.

The moment she thought about how Divine Physician Xie had raised her into a medicinal catalyst in her nightmare, and how he was still in cahoots with Yu Jianjia in reality, it was like a fishbone stuck in her throat.

Divine Physician Xie was indeed related to witchcraft, so they were not wronging him.

Compared to a wild doctor like Divine Physician Xie, her grandmother and even Yu Zongzheng would only believe her words. They would rather believe it than not.

Next, she just had to prove that Divine Physician Xie was indeed related to a witch.

At the thought of this, Yu Youyao continued, “As far as I know, Third Sister wasn’t interested in medical books in the past. However, after Divine

Physician Xie entered the residence, Third Sister visited him a few times and went to the library one after another to borrow the Classic of Mountains and

Seas, Shennongs Herbal Sutra, Theory of the 52 Diseases, the Yellow Emperor’s Internal Sutra, and the Herbal Records. These books all have a common characteristic, and that is, residual records of witchcraft medicine.’ For a long time, witchcraft and medicine were mixed together.

Later, witchcraft medicine went against traditional Chinese medicine. Bian Que had once said, “Those who believe in witchcraft and don’t believe in medicine won’t be saved.’

Even so, the witchcraft medicine was still pervasive among the commoners. Until now, there were still many medical books about witchcraft.

The Yu Residence was a scholarly family with many books. The library was set up to facilitate reading. It was normal for Yu Jianjia to borrow a few books to read.

However, after Old Madam Lai entered the residence, Yu Youyao was very wary of Yu Jianjia. She did not keep an eye on her in the courtyard because she did not like to be gossiped about.

However, the rest of the residence was still under Yu Youyao’s control.

The first time Yu Jianjia went to the library, the maidservants in the library had their eyes on her. No matter what books Yu Jianjia read or borrowed, everybody knew.

Now, these books were evidence that Yu Jianjia “believed in witchcraft.”

Yu Jianjia was stunned for a moment, and her eyes turned red again. “I-I didn’t. Just a few books can’t prove anything. If Big Sister thinks that I’m related to witchcraft, does that mean that everyone who has read these books is related to witchcraft?”

Of course, if it was in court, these few books naturally couldn’t prove anything.

However, the reality was that this was not a public court, but at home. Witchcraft was a huge matter that would harm the entire family. Even the slightest implication was intolerable.

These books were enough to nail Yu Jianjia to death.

Old Madam Yu’s face turned red. Divine Physician Xie was related to witchcraft, and Yu Jianjia had never been interested in medical books in the past. After Divine Physician Xie entered the residence, she borrowed books related to witchcraft medicine. In a short period of time, all the books she borrowed were related to witchcraft, so there was already a huge problem.

Yu Youyao did not argue with her. She only said, “I heard that there’s a blood medicinal catalyst in witchcraft medicine. By using blood as medicine, it can treat all illnesses and extend one’s life. First, Divine Physician Xie entered the residence, then you borrowed books related to witchcraft medicine. When Old Madam Lai left the residence, Nanny Li helped a scapegoat. Yu Jianjia, what exactly do you want to do?”

Yu Jianjia’s body went limp and she almost fell to the ground. She looked at her grandmother with tears in her eyes. “Grandmother, I didn’t. I really didn’t. How could I harm Eldest Sister...

“Don’t give me that. Your underhanded methods are nothing new, so I don’t care to play them.” Old Madam Yu sneered. “Hold her down.”

“Grandmother...” Yu Jianjia felt that something was amiss and subconsciously turned to escape.

Bai Kui reacted quickly. She immediately stepped forward, grabbed Yu Jianjia, and pressed her to the ground.

Old Madam Yu took a deep breath. “Cut her hair.”

Qing Xiu quickly took the scissors and rushed over. She lifted Yu Jianjia’s hair and snipped it off.

Yu Jianjia struggled and cried with all her might. “Grandmother, why did you cut my hair? Grandmother, don’t be like this. My body, hair, and skin belong to my parents. As long as my parents are around, I shouldn’t cut my hair.

Otherwise, I’ll be treated as unfilial. Grandmother, I’m your granddaughter. Please let me off. Grandmother...

Old Madam Yu turned a deaf ear to her. She turned to look at Yu Youyao. “I’ll say it out loud. You write for me.”

Yu Youyao was stunned for a moment. She immediately knelt beside the small table, picked up her brush, and dipped it in ink—

“Today, the Yu Clan has a daughter, Jianjia.. As her mother is not exclusive, she was born of an adulterous family—”

Chapter 706 - 706: Young Master Is Back

“When she was young, she was pitied by me, so she was treated as the daughter of the first wife. I hoped that she would be diligent and virtuous, set a standard, learn etiquette, be knowledgeable, and know how to behave well. Only then would she not disgrace the prestige of the family. I didn’t expect her to be ignorant. She was jealous and unreasonable. There were many mistakes made, However, my body was weak and I couldn’t manage her. I cut her hair and sent her back to the clan. I hope the clansmen can discipline her well.”

“No...” Yu Jianjia screamed and fell to the ground. “Grandmother, no, I beg you not to treat me like this. No, I’m your granddaughter. Grandmother, Grandmother...” For some reason, Yu Jianjia shook off Bai Kui’s grip and stood up from the ground. She rushed to the bed and knelt on the ground with a thud, crying. “Grandmother, please spare me. Grandmother, please...”

Even now, Yu Jianjia refused to admit her mistake.

She only begged for mercy.

Old Madam Yu had a stroke and could only move above her neck. After all, she was her biological granddaughter. Although she hated her for being vicious and bad, she still couldn't bear to see her like this.

The divorce letter Yao Yao gave to Madam Yang would only ruin Yu Jianjia's future. If Yu Jianjia returned to the clan, she would be able to live a peaceful life.

On the other hand, her letter made Yu Jianjia, who had never had an awkward background, become an adulterous daughter. When she went back to the clan, she wouldn't be taken care of too much.

Old Madam Yu sneered and said, "After all, you're my granddaughter. Your mother has been abandoned and you've become the daughter of a divorced wife. I can't bear to see your future ruined. I originally planned to leave a letter saying that you're filial and virtuous. As a result, you're willing to return to the clan and enter a nunnery to pray for me for three years. With your filial piety for Grandmother for three years, you can still have a good reputation. You won't be able to enter a noble family but you can still be married. In the future, you'll still have the chance to become a wife that matches your husband's status."

Yu Jianjia fell to the ground and cried.

Every word and sentence sounded like she was taking into account their relationship as grandmother and granddaughter and was thinking for her in every way. However, she only felt that it was hypocritical. If it was really for her own good, why did her father have to divorce her mother?

Without the Matriarch's approval, her father wouldn't have made such an easy decision.

Matriarch Yu was biased towards Yu Youyao. It was obvious that she hated her to the core.

However, she had to pretend to be loving.

It was really nauseating.

Old Madam Yu took a deep breath. "But, you heartless and ungrateful thing. How has your big sister let you down? You actually want to harm her. Cough cough..."

As she coughed, she vomited black blood. It was a shocking sight.

"Grandmother!" Yu Youyao panicked. She quickly took a handkerchief and helped her grandmother wipe the black blood from the corner of her mouth. She took out the old ginseng slices she had prepared and fed them to her grandmother.

Yu Jianjia cried, "Grandmother is certain with just a few words from Eldest Sister that I want to harm her. This is unfair to me. If Eldest Sister has evidence, why don't you take it out and confront me on the spot? Why accuse me..."

At this point, she was still talking nonsense. Old Madam Yu spat out the piece of ginseng in her mouth and raised her hand to point at Yu Jianjia. 'You, don't treat others as fools. I-I've also been a mother-in-law for forty to fifty years.

I've seen all your tricks..."

Yao Yao had said that Yu Jianjia and Divine Physician Xie wanted to use her blood as a medicinal catalyst. Although she felt that it was ridiculous, she had lived for 40 to 50 years and had seen many things before.

In the past, there had been Daoist nuns in the capital who entered and left wealthy families to help them find children. They used newborn babies and even placenta as medicine. Later, they were exposed. As there were too many people involved, it did not cause a commotion, but the wealthy families had all heard about it.

Therefore, as soon as Yu Youyao said this, she believed her.

She had also been sick for many years. In the early years, she had also risked her life to treat her body so that she could take care of her granddaughters for a few more years. She had also asked about many unorthodox methods and used a lot of exotic medicine. Although she was not crazy enough to use human blood as medicine, she had used cat feces and rat feces.

She knew best when a patient was crazy about recovering her health. If she was not careful, she would be possessed. It was not surprising that Yu Jianjia wanted to treat her illness with a shaman.

Madam Yang was a person who was about to die. If she had such methods, how could she have waited until today?!

Madam Xie had already been dead for more than ten years. Who would make things difficult for a dead person for no reason? The ultimate goal of framing Madam Xie was to question Yao Yao's bloodline and make Eldest Son disown his biological daughter and hate her.

Didn't Yu Jianjia know that if she was not careful, she would also be implicated?

Of course she did.

However, the "temptation" behind these schemes was too great, causing her to be obsessed.

Yu Jianjia's family background and status were not lacking. What else in this world was worth her taking the risk?

The purpose was self-evident.

"Grandmother, I didn't..." Yu Jianjia cried and refused to admit it.

Old Madam Yu was already so angry that her chest rose and fell. "Drag, drag her out. Tomorrow morning, send her to the clan and hand the letter to the chief..."

Bai Kui and Qing Xiu's expressions darkened. They picked up Yu Jianjia and dragged her out.

Yu Jianjia's cries entered the room intermittently.

Old Madam Yu coughed and vomited a large mouthful of blood. Her turbid eyes were filled with ruthlessness. "Divine Physician Xie... We can't let him off!"

Yu Youyao's eyes turned red. "Grandmother, Chang An has already tied up Divine Physician Xie. Don't say anything..."

After the divorce of Madam Yang, there was no need to deal with Yu Jianjia anymore. She had revealed her true goal which was to deal with Divine Physician Xie.

She did not find any clues about Divine Physician Xie. If she wanted to deal with him, she had to start with Yu Jianjia. As long as she confirmed that Yu Jianjia was related to witchcraft, Divine Physician Xie could be implicated.

Old Madam Yu held her granddaughter's hand. "No, I don't know why, but when you said that Yu Jianjia wanted to nurture you into a medicinal catalyst, I felt that it was true. Perhaps, it's because I'm about to die. Recently, I've been dreaming about you. You were covered in blood. I keep feeling that this dream is a blessing from Bodhisattva..."

Previously, she had dreamed that Eldest Son did not recognize his biological daughter. It had come true.

Therefore, she kept feeling that this dream was not fake.

Yu Youyao broke down. "Grandmother, Grandmother, don't worry. Cousin will protect me. I-I received news that Third Cousin will enter the capital soon..."

"Good, that's good." Old Madam Yu nodded, looking a little gratified. "Your cousin and Third Cousin are both capable people. I-I can't take it anymore. You, your cousin, your cousin..."

What she was most worried about was that if she died, Yao Yao would have no one to rely on. If Eldest Son made a mistake and she had to wait for Linghuai's return, it would be too late.

"Grandmother..." Yu Youyao kept crying.

At this moment, Xia Tao rushed into the house and said excitedly, "Young Miss, Young Master is back.. Young Master is back..."

Chapter 707 - 707: Dealing with the Funeral

Yu Youyao suddenly held her grandmother's hand. "Grandmother, did you hear that? Cousin is back. Cousin is back. He'll be here soon. Hold on a little longer..."

"He's back. It's good that he's back..." Old Madam Yu raised her heavy eyelids and lifted them forcefully, forcing herself to take her last breath.

She couldn't feel at ease without seeing Linghuai!

Fortunately, Linghuai had returned.

As the Mid-Autumn Festival was approaching, the moon was like a round plate, illuminating the sky. A tall black horse rushed into the city gate that was about to close like an arrow.

Just as the soldier guarding the city was about to shout at him to stop him, a copper token made an arc in the air. He caught it and took a look. The words "Yue Fei" were engraved on the token. By the time he reacted, the tall black horse had already run far away. From afar, there was a series of pattering noises, like rain hitting banana leaves.

On the day he left the capital, Zhou Linghuai received three letters personally written by Old Madam Yu from Yin San. He had a feeling that something might happen to the Yu Residence.

Otherwise, Old Madam Yu wouldn't have sent the letters to him.

These three letters were very likely to involve some secrets of the Yu Residence, so Zhou Linghuai did not open them. He kept them close to him, planning to open them after returning to the capital and seeing Matriarch.

Therefore, when Zhou Linghuai received Yu Youyao's "family letter" earlier and saw that Old Madam Yu was sick, he sensed that something was amiss. After completing his second deal with Harmon, he simply stopped pretending and returned to the capital at full speed.

He even thought of an excuse.

King Yue Fei had found a Daoist doctor with superb medical skills. He had returned to Youzhou this time to treat his leg. As he was not sure if he could be cured, it was not appropriate to tell others in advance.

He had been gone for three to four months. After treating his leg for so long, he could still make an excuse.

As it was near Mid-Autumn Festival, there were lamps hanging under the eaves along the street. The lights snaked all the way like a long dragon. On the cold street, only the lights were bright and clear. There were no pedestrians.

The horse galloped all the way. The sound of its whip whistled in the night wind.

With a whoosh, the sound of hooves gradually stopped. The horse stopped in front of a vermilion door. A row of lanterns hung under the eaves on both sides, illuminating the words "Yu Residence" on the top of the door clearly.

Zhou Linghuai dismounted and strode up the stone steps, knocking hard on the knocker of the side door.

After a while, the lacquer door was pulled open, and a smart head poked out from the crack. As the doorman yawned, he asked, "Who is it?"

It was already nine o'clock.

"It's me." The night wind was a little cold, and Zhou Linghuai's voice was also a little cold.

The doorman was shocked. When he took a closer look, he was overjoyed. "Young-Young Master is back. Just now, Eldest Miss sent a message that after Young Master returns, he should immediately go to An Shou Hall..."

As he spoke, he pulled open the side door.

Zhou Linghuai's heart skipped a beat. He threw away the reins of his horse and strode into the house.

The doorman subconsciously darted out and picked up the reins from the ground. He was a little stunned. Young Master's legs were inconvenient. Usually, he had to take a carriage and went out in a wheelchair.

But where was the carriage? Something was wrong!

The doorman suddenly turned around and saw Young Master's legs.

Young Master's legs had recovered?

The doorman was stunned.

Something bad had happened to Matriarch. Eldest Master had invited Imperial Physician Hu into the residence overnight. Imperial Physician Hu had only said that Old Madam's day had arrived and that the family should prepare for her funeral tonight.

When Xie Zongshen and Madam Yao received the news, they quickly rushed to the main house with Yu Shanyan and his children.

The servants in the residence did not dare to sleep anymore. They were all waiting in their respective courtyards.

Zhou Linghuai went all the way from the front courtyard to An Shou Hall.

He was wearing a black outfit, and his sheepskin boots stepped on the green bricks. He was like a strong cheetah as he strode forward, shocking the servants along the way.

Young Master was back.

Young Master's legs had recovered.

Young Master had returned to Youzhou for so long. It turned out that he had gone to treat his legs.

Without any delay, this news spread throughout the entire Yu Residence.

As soon as Matriarch Yu arrived, bad news spread. After that, she kept using the ginseng to hang on until her last breath. The people from the Second

Mansion of the Yu Residence were all waiting in the outer hall, but Matriarch Yu was unwilling to see anyone. She only asked Yu Youyao to guard her and kept calling out her grandnephew's name. It seemed that she would die with grievances if she did not see Zhou Linghuai.

Not long ago, Nanny Liu had returned from the government office. She had taken the divorce letter and asked someone to send Madam Yang back to the main family overnight. Madam Yang did not make it home and died halfway.

As Divine Physician Xie was related to witchcraft, he was tied up by Chang An and locked up in the Qingqu Courtyard.

Her clueless daughter who believed in witchcraft had her hair cut by Matriarch and was locked up in the woodshed. She had to be sent back to the clan tomorrow morning.

Now, even Matriarch...

Too many things had happened in a day. Until now, Yu Zongzheng's mind was in a mess, and his heart was filled with regret and self-blame.

Thinking back to what happened before, he rushed to Matriarch's house.

Old Madam lay on the bed with a sallow face, "I'm the one who forced you to marry Roujia. Whether you hate me or resent me, just target me. Roujia didn't let you down. It was our family

who harmed her life. If you still have any conscience, even if you don't believe that Yao Yao is your biological daughter, don't harm her. Otherwise..." Lying on the bed, the weak Old Madam's eyes suddenly widened and revealed a fierce expression. "Even if I die, I won't let you off."

Yu Zongzheng thought of Xie Roujia, who had fallen to the ground and was covered with blood after being pushed by him back then. Then, he thought of the Niatrarch who had vomited blood from anger at noon. The familiar scene almost made him break down on the spot.

Yu Zongzheng looked at his second brother in confusion.

All of this was Second Brother's fault.

It was Second Brother who coveted Eldest Sister-in-law and ignored his other relationships.

It was his mother who insisted that he marry Madam Xie.

In the house, Old Madam Yu woke up and held Yu Youyao's hand. "Call the younger ones over. I'll take a look at them." She sighed. "I'm afraid I won't be able to wait for your cousin."

Yu Youyao stood up and quickly called them over.

In the main room, there were Yu Youyao, Yu Shansi, and Yu Qingning. In the

Second Mansion, there were Yu Shanyan, Yu Shanxin, Yu Shanli, Yu Shuangbai, Yu Lianyu, and Yu Fangfei.

Old Madam Yu's turbid eyes immediately saw Yu Shansi. "Brother Si, come here! "

Yu Shansi walked to the bed with red eyes and took the ginseng soup from Nanny Liu's hand. "Grandmother, I'll feed you some medicine. After eating the medicine, you'll recover..."

"Good grandchild." Old Madam Yu opened her mouth in relief. After taking a mouthful of medicine, she stopped eating. "I've been drinking medicine for most of my life. I can finally rest."

Yu Shansi cried on the spot.

Old Madam Yu held his hand. "It's the fault of the father if he doesn't teach his son well. Your mother isn't a loyal wife, so it's not your fault. Your Cousin Zhou and Mr. Xian Yun are old friends. Mr. Xian Yun is going to Youzhou to open an academy. Your big sister said that she wants to send you to Youzhou to study and cultivate virtue with Mr. Xian Yun. There's no better life path." At this point, she sincerely encouraged him, "You have to work hard.."

Chapter 708 - 708: A Request

Before his grandmother died, she did not forget to arrange his future for him. Yu Shansi felt ashamed and sad, so he quickly nodded.

He also knew that his mother had done many evil things in the past, which was why she was plagued with heart disease that could not be cured.

Her father had divorced her mother.

Third Sister was going to be sent back to the clan.

When he first heard this news, he was only in a daze for a while, but he was not surprised at all.

Old Madam Yu's eyes slid across Yu Shanyan and Yu Shuangbai's faces one by one, and a gratified smile appeared on her face. "All of you have to be well."

Yu Shuangbai and the others couldn't help but approach the bed. As they called out for their grandmother, they cried.

Zhou Linghuai lifted the curtain and entered the house.

Yu Youyao seemed to sense something and was stunned when she turned around. "Grandmother, Cousin is here..."

Old Madam Yu forced herself to perk up and tilted her head to look. In her dazed eyes, her grandnephew, Zhou Linghuai, walked over dressed in tight clothes. Her eyes suddenly widened, but in the end, they turned to relief. "Your legs are fine. Good, good, good." She took a deep breath. "All of you, get out." She wanted to talk to Zhou Linghuai alone.

Zhou Linghuai watched her walk past him. It had been three to four months since he had last seen her. The little girl's eyes were dark, and her palm-sized face had become a little thinner. She looked pale and haggard, and her figure was soft. She had grown a little taller. Her peacock patterned dress has become longer. Her waist had become thinner and weaker.

His hands were like lightning as he pulled back the person who had walked past him but did not turn around. "Don't be afraid. I'm here!"

Her cousin's voice was no longer as clear and elegant as before. It was hoarse from travel. Yu Youyao paused for a moment, but she did not turn around. However, her eyes instantly turned red and she nodded slightly. She let out a weak "Mm" and whimpered like a weak and helpless little animal, making her feel adorable.

After a while, the room was empty.

Zhou Linghuai strode to the bed. "Matriarch, I'm back."

Old Madam Yu's gaze was benevolent. "Returning to Youzhou to treat your leg is such a big matter. Why didn't you tell the family? Is it really cured? Don't delay your treatment because of me and leave any lingering illness..."

"I didn't know if it could be treated, so I didn't mention it." Zhou Linghuai couldn't explain. His leg had long recovered, so he could only say, "There's no lingering illness."

Old Madam Yu leaned against the pillow and nodded in relief.

Seeing the sincere smile on her face, Zhou Linghuai suddenly said, "I'm sorry. There's something I've been hiding from you."

When he first entered the residence, not only did Old Madam Yu allow Yu Youyao to work hard to renovate his courtyard, but she also arranged for him to study with Mr. Hu Shan.

He knew very well that there was no such thing as expressing goodwill for no

reason.

Thinking about it, it was easy to guess Old Madam Yu's good intentions towards Yu Youyao.

He did not care much about this.

At first, he could still treat Yu Youyao politely. Later, after interacting with her for a while, he felt that this girl's heart was like glass, pure and flawless. He was a little greedy and wanted to get closer.

He knew that Old Niadam Yu doted on Yu Youyao. As long as he treated Yu Youyao well, she would turn a blind eye.

Therefore, he taught Yu Youyao her studies and taught her how to write.

Yu Youyao had improved. Old Madam Yu was satisfied, so she tacitly agreed to his actions and allowed him to get close to Yu Youyao.

Later on, Yu Youyao's handwriting became organized, and she caught up with her studies at home.

He also taught Yu Youyao how to play the zither.

Old Madam Yu couldn't ask for more if Yu Youyao could learn the arts, so she didn't restrict him from interacting with her.

Later on, he taught Yu Youyao how to be a household manager.

Just like that, he tested Old Madam Yu's limits bit by bit. He made use of Old Madam Yu and began to push his luck with Yu Youyao.

No matter how many schemes Old Madam Yu had, she doted on Yu Youyao.

There were some things that shouldn't be kept from her.

Old Madam Yu was stunned for a moment. "What is it?"

Zhou Linghuai reached into his pocket and took out a yellow jade ring. He gently placed it in Old Madam Yu's hand.

Old Madam Yu's eyes widened as she held the jade ring in front of her eyes and looked at it carefully. Suddenly, she smiled. "So, so it's the famous King Yue Fei. You've hidden it well." She sighed slowly and handed the jade ring back to him. "Should I call you King Yue Fei, or..."

Only then did she vaguely remember that Zhou Linghuai had been calling her

Matriarch and not Grandaunt.

No, from now on, he was already King Yue Fei, Yin Huaixi.

Yin Huaixi had rushed back after a long journey. Seeing her for the last time, he guessed that they had some relationship. In that case, he could more or less take care of Yao Yao in the future.

That was enough.

As an old woman who was about to die, she couldn't ask for more.

Yin Huaixi said sincerely, "If Matriarch doesn't mind, just call me Jingzhi. Back then, I had discussed it with Jingzhi, so I borrowed his identity and moved into the Yu Residence. As my status is unique, it's not appropriate to tell you." He bowed and apologized to Matriarch. "Please forgive me!"

Such a polite attitude more or less comforted Old Madam Yu. She nodded and asked, "I wonder if my failed grandnephew..."

Yin Huaixi quickly replied, "He's weak and has received treatment and enlightenment from Grandmaster Hui Neng of the Precious Peace Temple. He's already one of the Six Wise Monks of the Precious Peace Temple. His

Dharma name is Hui Ji."

Old Madam Yu recalled that she had seen Master Hui Ji back then. He was as noble and elegant as a jade. "It's good that he's alive." Her breathing became weaker. "Yao Yao—"

As soon as she opened her mouth, Yin Huaixi suddenly knelt on the ground.

"I'm sorry, but I have a request."

Old Madam Yu's turbid eyes landed on the cooling beads on his wrist.

She also had a string of the same incense beads. Hers was a longevity pattern, and Yin Huaixi's was a blessing pattern. Hers was often played with in her hands, but it was not as glossy as Yin Huaixi's.

They looked like they had been carefully taken care of.

What Yin Huaixi was about to say was probably related to her granddaughter, whom she couldn't let go of.

Perhaps it was because she was about to die, but the past became clear.

Zhou Linghuai and the Yu Residence were related by blood for three generations. Usually, even if Yao Yao was closer to him, she wouldn't think too much about it. In her heart, it wasn't an exaggeration to say that Zhou Linghuai was Yao Yao's biological brother.

After all, when it came to marriage between relatives, there were five rules.

She was always more scheming than others.

She couldn't rely on her father, Eldest Son, so she wanted to elevate Zhou Linghuai, hoping that he would protect Yao Yao more in the future. However, as the saying went, no matter how close their blood ties were, he was still an outsider.

She always thought that the human heart was made of flesh, and emotions had to be cultivated. Yao Yao was pure and honest. If the two of them got closer and developed feelings for each other, it would be different..

Chapter 709 - 709: Death

She had enabled them to get so close.

However, if this "cousin" was not her real cousin, it would be a little intriguing.

Old Madam Yu suddenly tightened her grip on the edge of the bed. The veins on the back of her wrinkled hand bulged. “What do you want?!”

Yin Huaixi thought of Ye Hanyuan and said, “I want to make Youyao of the Yu Clan my princess consort. I don’t want another else in this life. I only want to be with one person. Matriarch, please fulfill my wish.”

Old Madam Yu’s grip on the edge of the bed loosened. She was not surprised. “Does Yao Yao know your identity?”

In this world, there was nothing good for no reason. Yin Huaixi wasn’t her real cousin, but he was willing to spend so much effort on Yao Yao. How was he taking care of his “cousin”? He was clearly chasing his wife.

Yin Huaixi looked up. “She knows.”

Just now, if he had replied with a “no”, he would probably have ended like Song Mingzhao back then. He would clearly be kicked out of the door.

Old Madam Yu had taken a fancy to Song Mingzhao because of his family background, character, talent, and sincerity. This was the greatest kindness an elder could show to a junior.

Later on, she had given up on Song Niingzhao not because he was not outstanding enough, but because he was not honest with Yu Youyao.

He was extremely glad that he had always been very calm and honest with Yu Youyao.

After looking into her eyes and saying she knew, Old Madam Yu’s breathing lightened a little. ‘Does Yao Yao know how you feel?’

Yin Huaixi lowered his head again. “No.”

Knowing how to restrain herself, it seemed that he had put in a lot of effort. Old Madam Yu did not relent. “Although marriage is a matter of parents’ orders and matchmaking, compared to this, Yao Yao’s intentions are the most important.”

Therefore, she wouldn’t make a decision for Yao Yao on her own.

No matter how good a person was, she would not make a decision for her granddaughter if she had a choice.

Yin Huaixi suddenly remembered the nightmare that Yu Youyao had mentioned previously. In the nightmare, she must have been forced to have no choice but to marry into the Zhenguo Marquis Residence.

But!

Yin Huaixi took a deep breath. “Matriarch, don’t worry. I’m the one who’s been chosen.” He bowed sincerely. “Matriarch, please give me a token. In the future, when Yao Yao and I are in love, it’ll be Old Madam’s last wish. The orders of my parents and the words of the matchmaker will be an upright marriage. If I’m not fated with Yao Yao in the future, I’ll just treat it as a plaything that you’ve given to the younger generation. I’ll naturally consider myself her elder brother and protect her for a lifetime.”

He did not have the heart to ask to marry her. If she was entrusted to him, she would be his.

Otherwise, why would he kneel and kowtow? He was just short of asking for a keepsake with all his heart.

Wasn't he just worried that his status would be sensitive and that the Xie family would interfere in Yao Yao's marriage in the future?

With the token as a guarantee, how could the Xie family surpass Matriarch?

Ye Hanyuan's move could even settle his father.

He couldn't settle Old Madam Yu?

He did not believe it!

"Okay." Old Madam Yu agreed. Then, she said, "I have a condition."

Yin Huaixi quickly said, "Matriarch, please speak."

"Don't tell Yao Yao about the keepsake for the time being." Old Madam Yu reached out and fumbled on the shelf at the head of the bed. She opened a secret compartment and took out a yellow rosewood box. "After I go, escort Yao Yao to the Xie Residence. In the future, you and Yao Yao will depend on fate."

She did not mention the three letters.

There was no need.

Yin Huaixi really felt that Old Madam Yu doted on Yu Youyao to the core. She had a far-reaching plan. agree."

Old Madam Yu gathered her strength and took out a double fish round pendant from the box. There were two fish, one yellow and one red. They were connected at the head and tail. It looked very much like Yu Youyao's broken longevity lock.

However, the two fishes on the longevity jade were natural, and this piece was exquisitely carved.

She gently bent it, and Yin Huaixi heard a ding. The double fish round pendant was separated. Old Madam Yu handed one of the yellow fishes to Yin

Huaixi and said solemnly, "I hope you'll keep your promise."

Yin Huaixi held it with both hands as if he had obtained a precious treasure.

"Matriarch, don't worry. No matter what, I'll protect her for a lifetime."

Old Madam Yu's turbid eyes shone brightly. "Go and call Yao Yao in..."

There was nothing to worry about. After all, she had no choice.

Yin Huaixi's alias was Zhou Linghuai. With his crippled body, he had moved into the Yu Residence and stirred up a storm in Great Zhou. With his own strength, he had avenged his father and was in charge of an army of 500,000.

As long as such a person opened his mouth, no one had any room to refuse. He had calmly asked her to marry Yao Yao and made a promise. This was already the best sincerity.

Old Madam Yu suddenly asked, "Since you're so thoughtful, why don't you ask the emperor to issue a decree to betroth you? I think the emperor will be happy to see it happen."

She could tell that the two branches of the Yu Residence had already split up. Firstly, the eldest son was not a general, and secondly, Yao Yao was not a court official. Yao Yao was the County Head of Shaoyi. Although the eldest son had great power, it was also bestowed by the emperor. The first branch had received the emperor's grace. Not only was the eldest daughter of the first wife no threat to the emperor, but she would also further the relationship with King Yue Fei.

Yin Huaixi's expression darkened. "Just as Matriarch said, marriage is a matter of parents' orders. I naturally hope to obtain your approval." Old Madam Yu nodded, no longer having the strength to speak.

It did not matter if it was King Yue Fei.

At the very least, his intentions were 100% true.

Unlike Song Mingzhao.

He was also full of sincerity, but he was humble in front of her.

When Yu Youyao returned to her room, Old Madam Yu's breathing was already very weak.

"Take good care of it. Don't lose it." Old Madam Yu placed the red embroidered fish in Yu Youyao's palm, not mentioning that this was a token between her and Yin Huaixi.

This was a relic that she would give her before she died. She thought that her granddaughter would take good care of it without any explanation.

Yu Youyao nodded with a whimper.

Old Madam Yu looked at the door of the screen, her eyes a little disoriented. "I just saw your grandfather. He was standing at the door and waving at me, waiting for me to go over. However, I don't want to go over. I want to see your mother. I've been waiting left and right, but I haven't seen her. I think she must resent me, so she's unwilling to see me. That's good too. When I reach the underworld, I'll have time to repent..."

"Grandmother..." Yu Youyao was sobbing uncontrollably. She tightened her grip on the jade pendant in her hand so hard that her palm hurt. "Grandmother, Grandmother..."

Old Madam Yu's turbid eyes stared at her granddaughter until her vision was blurry and she couldn't see her clearly. Only then did she close her eyes deeply, and two drops of tears flowed from the corners of her eyes. "Grandmother..." Yu Youyao broke down and cried. She hugged her grandmother's arm and shook it hard.

Not long after, all the descendants of the family came over.

The atmosphere in the room was gloomy and sad.

When Seventh Aunt saw Madam Yao standing in the room without moving, she frowned.. She used to look like a smart person, but why was she so wooden now?

Chapter 710 - 710: Mourning

Now that her mother-in-law had passed away, what was Madam Yao waiting

Although Seventh Aunt was dissatisfied, as a clan aunt, she couldn't treat her cousin-in-law badly. She hurriedly went forward to help Yu Youyao up. Yu Youyao, who had collapsed to the ground from crying, turned around and called out to Madam Yao, "Second daughter-in-law, come over quickly to your mother-in-law's bed..."

Only then did Madam Yao realize that Old Madam Yu had passed away.

If it were in the past, she would definitely be sad and carefully manage the funeral to send her mother-in-law away. However, ever since she found out that her marriage with Yu Zongshen had been planned by Old Madam Yu from the beginning to the end, there was only sarcasm in her heart.

Yu Youyao cried until she had no strength left in her body. It took her a while to recover. With a hoarse voice, she began to instruct the servants to spread the funeral and report it.

The red lanterns under the eaves had been changed to white lanterns with the words "Funeral Ritual" written on them. The entire Yu Residence wore plain clothes. The servants carried the white lanterns and walked through the streets to report the funeral.

Dong dong dong—

Knock, knock— Dong—

When the doorman guarding the door of the Zhenguo Marquis Residence heard the heavy knock on the door, he yawned and looked at the drip beside him. He shouted, "Who is it? It's already midnight..."

"I'm from the Yu Residence in Yu e er Alley!"

When the doorman heard that it was the Yu Residence, he quickly pulled the bolt and opened the door. He saw the servant at the door wearing white linen clothes and carrying a white lantern. He was 70% awake from his sleep.

The servant was wearing white linen clothes and looked like he was here to share bad news. He held the white lamp as he went into the house. "Our

Matriarch is having her funeral tonight. Our family is here to report it..."

It wasn't until the Yu Residence's carriage had moved far away that the doorman shuddered. He picked up the lantern and ran in...

Old people were usually light sleepers. As soon as footsteps sounded in the room, Old Madam Song woke up.

Yao Huang rushed into the house. As soon as he opened his mouth, he said in a hoarse voice, "Matriarch, Old Madam Yu just left. The Yu Residence just sent someone over to report the funeral."

Old Madam Song was stunned. “Why did she leave ahead of me?”

In the past two years, Old Madam Yu had been recuperating better than her.

Yao Huang's eyes also turned red. “It's said that she suffered a huge loss in her early years. She's old and can't recuperate no matter what. Earlier, she had an illness and after recuperating for a few years, her condition deteriorated.”

Although their Matriarch was seriously ill, she had enjoyed good fortune in her early years. After taking good care of her body, she had become strong.

Poor Old Madam Yu. She had been ruined by the Duke Rong's Residence.

Only then did Old Madam Song react. She cried at the top of her lungs, “What a sin. My poor old sister hasn't had a good day ever since she married someone. Her mother-in-law was a powerful person. She kept forcing her daughter-in-law to take in concubines for her son. Their good relationship as husband and wife was ruined by the concubines and the daughters of the concubines. She was angry, but at least she had a short life. Who knew that she wouldn't live a blessed life? Her mother-in-law passed away, and her husband also followed suit. She was a widow who was bullied by the clan and asked outsiders to guide her through life. She only raised her son well because of her anger. Now that her son is a high-ranking official, it's her turn to enjoy a blessed life. The anger she held in is vented just like that. How can my poor old sister bear to let go of such a good eldest granddaughter? She has served Bodhisattva for half her life. Why doesn't Bodhisattva open his eyes...”

When Old Madam Song thought of all the things that had happened in the past, she cried uncontrollably. She had been with Old Madam Yu for decades, so she understood her pain the best.

Yao Huang also wiped his tears. “Old Madam Yu has worked hard for most of her life. She can finally rest...”

The news quickly reached Song Mingzhao's ears.

Song Mingzhao suddenly recalled his conversation with Old Madam Yu at the Precious Peace Temple on the day of the Buddhist Festival.

If he could do it again, he would definitely have brushed his clothes and knelt down, begging Matriarch Yu to marry Yu Youyao to him instead of beating around the bush.

Those who were afraid of losing were destined to lose.

Those who couldn't afford to lose wouldn't win in the end.

In front of Old Madam Yu, he had schemed so much, but in the end, he had let down his intelligence.

Life was filled of chance encounters and permanence was hard to come by. One had many fears in life. From love comes sorrow, from love comes fear. Yu Yaoyao's attitude of avoiding others because of fear, made him even more fearful.

His parents' orders and matchmaking became his only chance.

He did not dare to lose in front of Old Madam Yu, nor could he afford to lose.

During this period of time, he had been working hard to amaze the world with a single brilliant feat in the imperial examination. He wanted to gather enough accomplishments again and go to the Yu Residence to make a proposal to Old Madam Yu. However, with the water disaster in Zhejiang and the pirates in the southeast coast, the imperial examination had been delayed repeatedly. He felt a sense of panic that was out of reach.

Yu Youyao did not stop crying. It wasn't until Old Madam Yu was in the coffin that she truly realized that her grandmother had passed away.

She stood in a daze in her grandmother's house.

Behind a screen, Yu Zongzheng and Yu Zongshen sat facing each other. The atmosphere was very heavy.

After an unknown period of time, Yu Zongzheng said bitterly, "Second

Brother, back then, you and Madam Xie..."

The smile on Yu Zongshen's lips disappeared. "Why implicate her in the evildoings of the three of us? She's already lost her life. Why don't you let her off?"

Yu Zongzheng was furious. "What evildoings? Mother has just left. What nonsense are you talking about?"

The peony-patterned teacup in Yu Zongshen's hand gently loosened and fell to the ground, shattering into pieces. "Back then, I overestimated myself and tried to climb up the social ladder. It was Mother who was greedy and benefited from the marriage with the Xie family. It was you who was heartless

and harmed Xie Roujia's life. We were all in the wrong. Only Xie Roujia was innocent. In the end, our family gained benefits and she even lost her life. If you still have any shame, you shouldn't have mentioned her name."

A surge of blood rushed to Yu Zongzheng's face. It was unknown if he was exasperated or angry.

After pretending to be a filial son, a good father, and a good husband for more than ten years, Yu Zongshen finally tore off his calm mask. "The Yu Clan has been in dire straits for hundreds of years. Our family's assets have also fallen with Father's passing."

"How much money did I spend to become the Cabinet Grand Secretary?

"You're the third-grade Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs and the Imperial Censor of the 13 Courts. You even emptied most of Madam Xie's dowry assets to obtain it."

"There are many talents in the Yu Clan, and there's hope for them to rise. They were nurtured by 30% of Xie Roujia's dowry."

"Our entire Yu Clan is like blood-sucking maggots. We're ugly and dirty. We sucked her money dry and took her life. We still have to continue sucking her daughter dry."

“What right do you have to underestimate Xie Roujia? Is she not filial, virtuous, or sensible enough? Do you know what this is called?”

“To drink the ocean and then call it salty!”

“You’re a sinister person who repays kindness with revenge..”