

All Hail 71

Chapter 71: Against My Conscience

Yu Youyao stole a glance at her cousin. Seeing that he was looking at her, she panicked and turned her head away. Clenching her pink and white fists, she said loudly, "Cousin, I'll definitely practice my calligraphy well and strive to master it."

Zhou Linghuai wanted to know how ugly the young lady's handwriting was. His lips curled up slightly as he chuckled. "Mentor praised my cousin on the spot. I'm sure not only did she learn well, but she also wrote a good article. I just want to see how outstanding her article is."

Yu Youyao was stunned when she heard her cousin praise her. How could she care if her handwriting looked good or not? She quickly asked Xia Tao to get her writing and handed it to her cousin. "Cousin, look."

Zhou Linghuai took a look at the thick stack of notes, and the corners of his mouth seemed to curl up slightly. Instantly, he trembled slightly, and his mind was filled with confusion. He tilted his head to look at the messy words and was stunned for a moment.

She was a little lacking in words, but he really thought very highly of her.

He looked up at Yu Youyao and organized his thoughts. However, he was afraid that he would say too much and make the little girl feel uncomfortable. After careful consideration, he hesitated. Then, he thought about it and wanted to give a tactful comment.

However, the little girl's eyes widened as she looked at him hopefully. The words that were about to come out of his mouth seemed to be stuck in his throat, and he couldn't spit them out.

Yu Youyao had no idea what her cousin was thinking. She looked at him anxiously and asked, "Cousin, how did I write? Was it really bad?"

Zhou Linghuai took a deep breath and said with difficulty, "Not bad."

Then, he lowered her head and began to flip through the transcript page by page.

However, he did not notice the excited smile on Yu Youyao's face when she heard him say "not bad".

Her cousin did not mind that her handwriting was not good at all.

Chang An, who was standing behind Zhou Linghuai, naturally saw Yu Youyao's words and almost choked on his saliva.

Even his handwriting when he was five years old was better than Eldest Miss Yu's. It was really difficult for Young Master. In order to save Eldest Miss Yu's face, he had gone against his conscience and lied through his teeth.

Not long after, Zhou Linghuai finished reading her writing. When he looked up, he met Yu Youyao's eager gaze. Zhou Linghuai's expression paused for a moment. "The article was indeed written well, but..."

Zhou Linghuai pointed out the mistakes in the article one by one and explained the parts that he didn't understand enough. He was knowledgeable and cited the classics. He was proficient in the three theories of the Confucian, Buddhist, and Daoist religions and his words were easy to understand.

Every time, Yu Youyao would be enlightened, and she would feel unknowingly inspired.

About ten minutes later, Zhou Linghuai stopped and asked, "Do you understand?"

Yu Youyao nodded. "Understood."

Seeing that her expression was clear and her eyes were clear, it was obvious that she really understood. Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "If there's anything you don't understand in the future, feel free to ask me."

Initially, he was worried that the little girl was lazy and did not like to study. She had not gone to school for more than a month and could not keep up with her progress. She would definitely be reprimanded by her teacher, so he was a little worried. After school, he came back specially to take a look.

However, the young lady was quick-witted and understood everything immediately.

Yu Youyao nodded repeatedly and said in admiration, "Cousin, you're really impressive. You're as impressive as Ms. Ye."

In her heart, she felt that her cousin was more knowledgeable than Ms. Ye. However, this world had many restrictions on women, and there were also many restrictions on the books that women could read.

At this moment, Nanny Xu came over. "It's time for lunch."

Yu Youyao tugged at her cousin's sleeve. "Cousin, don't go back to The Green House. Stay for lunch with me. Nanny Xu's cooking is excellent. You have to try it."

Zhou Linghuai wanted to decline, but his gaze landed on the little girl's slender fingers. She gently pinched his sleeve and he nodded in agreement.

Yu Youyao was very happy. She quickly instructed the maidservant to place lunch in the side room of the hall, and she and Zhou Linghuai went to the side room to eat.

There were a few more dishes on the table than usual, and they were all light dishes that her cousin usually liked. Nanny Xu must have known that her cousin was here and instructed the kitchen to prepare more.

Yu Youyao picked up a piece of winter bamboo shoot and placed it on the plate in front of her cousin. "The winter bamboo shoot was dug out last winter. It's fresh and refreshing. Try it, Cousin."

A smile appeared in Zhou Linghuai's eyes. He picked up the Longjing prawn that he had eaten earlier and gave it to Yu Youyao. "Cousin, eat this too."

With that, he picked up the winter bamboo shoots from the plate and put them back into his mouth.

The winter bamboo shoot in his mouth seemed to be more delicious than usual.

Yu Youyao also picked up some prawns and ate happily. She liked seafood. Every time she returned to the Quanzhou Prefecture to give gifts, most of them were rare seafood.

The lunch ended with the siblings exchanging pleasantries and greetings.

After the meal, Xia Tao brought over some medicinal tea that could help with digestion and nourish the stomach. The two of them drank it and did not waste any time starting the lessons that Yu Youyao had missed in the past.

One taught while the other learned.

Yu Youyao was intelligent. It turned out that after her cousin's explanation, her obscure lessons had become easy to understand. She learnt them at a pace not slower than when Nanny Xu taught her pharmacology.

Seeing that it was about time, Zhou Linghuai decided to go to the West Mansion to study. "Studying isn't something that can be done in a day. Cousin, you're talented and smart, so you'll understand everything immediately. You're already learning much faster than most people. Remember to strike a balance between work and rest. Don't be too hasty."

Not only did the young lady have a lot of work to do, but she also had to learn a lot of things from Nanny Xu. A balance between work and rest was especially important. Otherwise, her body would be exhausted.

"Cousin, don't worry." Yu Youyao nodded. She felt a little guilty when she saw that her cousin's dark eyebrows were slightly furrowed, and there was a hint of fatigue on his face. His pale face seemed to look even worse than before.

Earlier, she had been so focused on studying with her cousin that she had forgotten that his health wasn't very good. It was already very tiring for him to study every day, yet he still had to spend time teaching her. Today, he hadn't even taken a break in the afternoon. It seemed like his body was a little exhausted.

Zhou Linghuai nodded and was about to leave.

"Cousin, wait a minute." Yu Youyao quickly called out to her cousin. Without waiting for Zhou Linghuai to ask, she picked up her dress and ran into the inner room.

Zhou Linghuai rubbed his slightly swollen temples and waited.

Chang An said worriedly, "Young Master, you haven't rested for the entire afternoon. Are you feeling a little unwell? Why don't you apply for leave from Master and let Uncle Sun take a look at you before you go to school tomorrow? Everyone in the residence knows that Young Master's health isn't good. Moreover, Young Master has learned all the lessons that Master has taught in the past. Even if you miss half a day of classes, it won't be a problem."

Zhou Linghuai shook his head and said nothing.

Chapter 72: Cousin, Take Care of Your Body

Chang An, on the other hand, was even more worried. He couldn't help but say, "Young Master, your health isn't good. Even if you're helping Eldest Miss with her homework, you have to take care of your health. Don't tire yourself out." Worried that his young master wouldn't listen to his advice, he thought for a moment and said, "It wasn't easy for Eldest Miss to come up with a prescription for you to nourish your vitality. I also hope that Young Master can take care of your health. You can't let her down."

During this period of time, Uncle Sun had been locked in his room every day to study the Essence Protection Pill. He had also ordered people to look around for all kinds of rare and precious herbs needed for the prescription. Clearly, this prescription was extremely important to Young Master.

Zhou Linghuai's expression darkened. "Got it," he said calmly.

Chang An was stunned for a moment, his mouth agape.

Young Master had big ideas. As servants, they could only follow his orders. He was usually worried about Young Master's health, so he was used to nagging and persuading him from time to time. He only hoped to warn Young Master often, but did not think he would really listen.

Therefore, when she heard her young master say "Got it", she was completely stunned.

At this moment, Yu Youyao carried a medium-sized porcelain jar and rushed back to the living room. She stuffed the jar into her cousin's hands. "Cousin, this is the medicinal tea that I learned from Nanny Xu. It's a secret recipe from the palace. Just treat it as ordinary tea. Remember to drink it every day. If you finish it, get Chang An to come and get it. It'll only take some medicinal herbs. It'll be easy for me to make it too."

She had soaked the herbs used in the medicinal tea with water and mixed them with spirit dew, so the effect was better. She had originally planned to give some to her grandmother and leave some for herself to drink. However, at this moment, she felt that this medicinal tea was probably very beneficial to her cousin's health, so she wanted to give him some.

Looking down at the lotus patterns on the blue and white porcelain, Zhou Linghuai chuckled. "Okay."

Chang An pushed Zhou Linghuai to school.

Mr. Hu Shan taught the scholars, but only nine-year-old boys were in the residence.

Therefore, there were only four students in the school. Other than Yu Shanyan, Yu Shanxin, and Zhou Linghuai, there was also Yu Shanli, the illegitimate son of the second house.

Mr. Hu Shan had limited energy, so it was fine if he taught one or two of them, but if he taught too many, he wouldn't be able to take it anymore. Therefore, he mainly focused on Yu Shanyan, who was the most talented in the Education Residence. The others just followed suit.

Although Zhou Linghuai was also talented and Mr. Hu Shan wanted to nurture him, his legs were weak and he couldn't take up a position, which made Mr. Hu Shan feel sorry for him. Although he wasn't as hardworking as Yu Shanyan, he was still more attentive than Yu Shanxin and Yu Shanli.

In the school, there was a room specially prepared for them to rest.

There was still a while before class started.

Zhou Linghuai sat in front of the tea table and took some water from the clay pot. He poured it into the sand pot and added some coal pieces the size of longans into the small charcoal stove.

When the charcoal was burnt, it emitted a faint wooden fragrance that smelled very good.

Every day, before the sun rose, the water in the clay pot was taken from the mountains outside the city. It was the highest point of the city and had the best water quality. However, it had a different taste when used to make tea.

Not long after, the water in the pot started to boil. Zhou Linghuai took the medicinal tea that Yu Youyao had given him, picked up some tea leaves with a teacup, and placed them into the purple clay pot.

The tea foam rose and fell with the boiling water. The faint medicinal fragrance mixed with the fresh smell of tea and an elegant lotus fragrance filled the room.

Even Chang An couldn't help but sniffle and praise, "Good tea. My Cousin is really amazing."

There was a trace of a smile on Zhou Linghuai's lips. While the fragrance of the tea was still lingering, he had used a funnel to filter out the tea leaves. Under the small charcoal stove, the longan-sized charcoal was almost burned out. The remaining charcoal could be used to warm the tea. It was obvious that the temperature of this pot of tea had been perfectly controlled.

Zhou Linghuai picked up the teapot and poured a cup of tea.

The tea was bright yellow and clear. The fragrance of the tea lingered.

He picked up his tea and lowered his head to take a small sip.

After swallowing the slightly bitter tea, not long after, there was some sweetness in his mouth. Then, he tasted it carefully. It was refreshing and comfortable.

After drinking a cup of tea, Zhou Linghuai felt all the fatigue in his body disappear, and he felt much more energetic.

Young Master's change naturally did not escape Chang An's eyes. He also understood that Eldest Miss Yu had probably noticed that Young Master was a little tired, so she had specially sent him some medicinal tea.

Zhou Linghuai held the teacup and smelled the familiar fragrance of the tea. A thoughtful expression appeared on his jade-like face.

The medicinal tea was a little similar to food, but the effect seemed to be better.

... .

After her cousin left, Yu Youyao hugged her book and started to feel sleepy after reading a few pages. She forced herself to stay awake, and her eyelids kept drooping.

Nanny Xu removed the book from her hand and placed it aside. "You woke up a little early this morning. Hurry up and go into the house to sleep and recuperate. It's springtime in February and March, and you are at the age where you have to sleep to grow. You can't lose sleep."

Yu Youyao nodded and yawned as she returned to her room for an afternoon nap.

After sleeping for an hour, Yu Youyao woke up.

Dong Mei added some refreshing incense slices into the incense burner and asked Qiu Xing to bring a cup of refreshing tea. Yu Youyao drank it before getting Chun Xiao to help her wash up.

At this moment, Xia Tao lifted the curtain and entered. She approached Yu Youyao with a smile. "I just heard that Fourth Miss had asked Ms. Ye to hit her 20 times in school. Both her hands are swollen, and it's much more serious than Miss's. She probably won't be able to use her hands for a few days."

Yu Youyao was not surprised. "Since Ms. Ye punished Yu Qingning, she won't hold it against her anymore. In the future, Yu Qingning can continue to study at home and learn from Ms. Ye."

Yu Qingning had made a mistake in the first place and refused to be taught a lesson. She had also contradicted her teacher. To put it bluntly, she did not know how to respect her teacher and was rebellious. She did not know the rules and had no upbringing. No matter what, it was a serious matter.

Which family in the capital did not specially keep an eye on other families? Who could hide anything from them?

If word got out that Ms. Ye was unwilling to teach Yu Qingning, Yu Qingning's reputation would be damaged and she would probably be finished for the rest of her life. Even the other young misses in the Yu Residence would be affected and have to be taught a lesson.

No matter how angry Ms. Ye was with Yu Qingning, she wouldn't easily ruin a girl's future. She had to take into account the Yu Residence's reputation. Moreover, Yu Qingning was still young, so it wasn't appropriate for Ms. Ye to make things difficult for a young lady. It was expected that she would forgive Yu Qingning.

Xia Tao smiled and said, "Isn't that so? Ms. Ye asked Fourth Miss to study at home after her hands recovered. She even punished her to copy the 'Three Principles and Five Rules' a hundred times."

Chapter 73: Too Hateful!

At this point, Xia Tao couldn't help but laugh gloatingly. "Fourth Miss is really pitiful. She had just been punished by Old Madam to copy 'Female Virtue' a hundred times, and then by Ms. Ye. I'm afraid she won't have time to cause trouble for a long time."

Yu Youyao nodded and looked thoughtful.

Even if Yu Qingning was forgiven by Ms. Ye, this matter was probably not over yet.

If nothing else, Grandmother would definitely be angry.

Yu Youyao shook her head slightly and turned to go to the embroidery pavilion at the side. She picked up the needle thread that was already used in the embroidery basket. She was familiar with each stitch and thread, and her movements were not as jerky as before.

Chun Xiao couldn't help but ask, "Aren't you going to learn pharmacology from Nanny in the afternoon?"

Before Yu Youyao could speak, Nanny Xu revealed a meaningful smile. "There aren't many stitches needed to finish the headband. Let's finish embroidering first before learning pharmacology."

The house fell silent, and the afternoon sun shone brightly. It shone through the window panes and into the house, illuminating the room.

Yu Youyao was quick to react. About an hour later, under Nanny Xu's guidance, the thread, needle, and headband were done.

Nanny Xu nodded in satisfaction. "Your embroidery skills have improved a lot."

Although she had received Nanny Xu's praise, Yu Youyao was not very satisfied. She felt that her embroidery skills were a little lacking and looked a little crude. In the end, she still had to show filial respect to her elders and be more meticulous.

Yu Youyao held the handkerchief and examined it carefully. Suddenly, she had an idea. She asked Chun Xiao to pick seven beads of different sizes: gold, silver, glass, coral, amber, mercury, and agate.

After struggling for another hour, Yu Youyao rubbed the back of her neck, which was a little sore. She looked at the completely finished headband on her forehead and finally smiled in satisfaction.

"Eldest Miss, you're so clever. Old Madam will definitely like it." Chun Xiao found a yellow rosewood box and carefully placed the headband in it. She looked at the headband in the box, which was glowing with a faint glow. It looked luxurious and grand.

She knew that the swastika on it was auspicious.

After resting for about ten minutes, Nanny Xu took a medical book and taught Yu Youyao pharmacology.

It wasn't until the sun was setting in the west and the light in the house had dimmed that Yu Youyao glanced at the funnel. It was already seven o'clock, so she closed the book. "It's getting late. Get ready to go to Grandmother's house."

Yu Youyao changed into a cherry-red dress with embroidered edges and narrow peach-colored sleeves that reached her waist, making her look delicate and beautiful. Only then did she bring the box with her to An Shou Hall.

The atmosphere in the north courtyard was a little off.

Chun Xiao looked around cautiously and saw that the maidservants in the courtyard were all silent and doing their own things. They did not even exchange glances with each other. She moved closer to Yu Youyao. "Young Miss!"

Yu Youyao nodded but said nothing.

When they arrived at An Shou Hall, Qing Xiu, who was guarding outside, welcomed them. She bowed and said, "Old Madam is in the hall. Eldest Miss, don't stand outside. Hurry in!"

Yu Youyao nodded. "Thank you, Sister Qing Xiu."

The hall was very quiet. Her grandmother was old and had many people around her. The people who usually served her in the house were not around.

Chun Xiao and Dong Mei lifted the curtains on each side, and Yu Youyao walked into the inner room.

Old Madam Yu was dressed in an ink-blue enamel robe with longevity patterns. She leaned against the couch with her eyes closed, one hand on her forehead and the other holding a prayer bead.

Meanwhile, Yu Qingning was kneeling in the hall. As her head was lowered, she couldn't see her expression clearly.

Nanny Liu and Bai Kui stood at the side, their eyes lowered and their breathing steady.

At this moment, Old Madam Yu heard the commotion and opened her eyes. Seeing that Yu Youyao was dressed in peach red, and looked delicate, and sweet, her eyes couldn't help but light up, and even her mood brightened.

Old Madam Yu's expression softened a little. She waved her hand. "Yao Yao, come to me quickly."

"Grandmother!" Yu Youyao quickly walked over and leaned against her grandmother's side. Her voice was clear and cheerful as she called out to her grandmother, causing Old Madam Yu to beam with joy. She hugged her granddaughter tightly in her arms and called her little darling. Even the heavy atmosphere in the house dissipated, revealing an indescribable sense of relief.

Nanny Xu couldn't help but smile.

At the side, Bai Kui also heaved a sigh of relief and went over to pour some tea.

Only Yu Qingning, who was kneeling in the hall, felt her eyes sting when she saw this filial and happy scene. She subconsciously clenched her fists and revealed a resentful expression.

If it weren't for Yu Youyao, that b*tch, how could she have offended Ms. Ye? Not only did she have to bear the reputation of not respecting her teacher, but she also almost caused Ms. Ye to be kicked out of school. Not only did she anger her grandmother, but she also knelt in An Shou Hall for four hours. However, Old Madam did not say anything and just let her kneel. She even asked Nanny Liu and Bai Kui to keep an eye on her.

No matter how indignant she was, she did not dare to act rashly in her grandmother's house.

This way, she was neither beaten nor scolded, and neither punished nor disciplined. It was difficult and torturous. Yu Qingning knelt on the ground with an uneasy heart. Not long after, her waist and legs ached, and her entire body was stiff, and numb.

But what infuriated her the most was...

She was angry, aggrieved, slapped, and punished to kneel, but Yu Youyao acted as if nothing had happened. She even had the cheek to run over and laugh at her, showing off her grandmother's love and affection in front of her.

It was simply too hateful!

Yu Youyao did not care what Yu Qingning thought. Seeing that her grandmother had finally smiled, she took the cup of tea from Bai Kui and handed it to her grandmother. “Grandmother, have some tea.”

Old Madam Yu happened to be a little thirsty, so she received it with a smile. After drinking a cup of tea, the anger in her heart had mostly dissipated. She looked indifferently at Yu Qingning, who was kneeling in the hall. “Why did Ms. Ye punish you?”

Yu Qingning’s breathing stopped for a moment, causing the Old Madam’s cold gaze to cause her to break out in a cold sweat. Her lips trembled as she said, “It’s, it’s because I secretly occupied Eldest Sister’s position.” Before she could finish speaking, her heart skipped a beat. The Old Madam was biased towards Yu Youyao. When she found out that she had occupied Yu Youyao’s position, she probably wouldn’t let her off easily. She hurriedly said, “Grandmother, I didn’t mean to occupy Eldest Sister’s position. I just wanted to see her...”

Old Madam Yu couldn’t bear to listen to her explanation and interrupted her. “Before you went to school, I called all of you into the house and told you that when you go to school, your teacher’s principles are more important than anything else. It’s only right and proper for her to discipline her disciples. It’s only right and proper for disciples to respect their teachers. You made a mistake, but you refused to be punished or taught, and you even contradicted your teacher. You don’t know how to respect your teacher. My Yu Residence doesn’t have any girls like you who don’t know the rules and are ill-mannered. Your teacher even chased you out of school.”

Disrespecting one’s teacher was a serious matter.

“Grandmother!” Yu Qingning was dumbfounded. She tried her best to recall what her mother had said to her previously.

Chapter 74: A Teachable Child

Yu Qingning’s mind cleared up a little, and she stammered, “I-I’ve never been punished by you before, so I was momentarily stunned and lost my composure. It’s not that I don’t know how to respect my teacher, but after calming down, I realized that you’ve been treating me well. I feel both regretful and panicked, and I know that I was wrong. Grandmother, I really want to learn from Ms. Ye.”

This time, she had learned her lesson. However, Old Madam Yu was impatient and said coldly, “Nanny Liu, tomorrow, go and get a nanny from the Education Department to teach Concubine He and Fourth Miss the rules. When she has finally learned the rules well, she can go out and return to school. Otherwise, she will ruin the Yu Residence’s reputation.”

Boom!

Yu Qingning’s eyes widened in shock, as if she had been struck by lightning.

Even Yu Youyao was shocked.

The Education Department was part of the Ministry of Rites, and was in charge of teaching etiquette, music, and the families of criminals. Grandmother wanted to find a nanny who specialized in teaching etiquette.

Although there were nannies in wealthy families who specialized in disciplining young mistresses, many families would go to the Education Department to look for and teach their restless concubines and daughters of the family. These nannies were all very fierce, and there was not a single person who did not suffer under them.

Yu Qingning's face was filled with horror. She crawled and knelt at Old Madam Yu's feet, crying and begging. "Grandmother, I know I was wrong. I won't dare to do it again. Please don't go to the Education Department to find me a nanny..."

Yu Qingning had often heard that there was a family in the capital who had gone to find a nanny to discipline the daughters of their concubines. There was also a family whose daughter had been tortured beyond recognition by the nanny in the Education Department...

She also knew that all the nannies in the Education Department knew how to torture people. Anyone who fell into their hands would be tortured inhumanely.

Old Madam Yu couldn't stand to hear Yu Qingning's cries. An eight or nine-year-old girl crying so badly wasn't likable and would only make people frustrated. Hence, she waved her hand. "Take her out!"

Yu Qingning felt as if she had fallen into an ice cellar. In her panic, she saw Yu Youyao beside her, and hope ignited in her heart. "Big Sister, it's my fault. I shouldn't have snatched your position. I apologize to you. I'm sorry. Can you quickly help me tell Grandmother? Grandmother dotes on you the most. Big Sister, help me..."

In the past, Yu Qingning had always acted arrogantly in front of her just because her father doted on her. Yu Youyao had never seen Yu Qingning in such a panic before. She couldn't help but be stunned for a moment. She pursed her lips and looked at her grandmother with some sympathy, then opened her mouth...

Old Madam Yu reached out to stop Yu Youyao. She stared at Yu Qingning with an unfriendly expression. "At this point, you still don't know how to repent. You think that I'm biased towards Yao Yao because you stole her position, so I'm punishing you. Do you think that as long as Yao Yao is willing to intercede for you, this matter will be over? Do you still think that all of this is Yao Yao's fault and that she was the one who harmed you?"

Yu Qingning's face turned pale. "Grandmother..."

Old Madam Yu's voice turned stern. "In the past, when have I ever held it against you for causing trouble with Yao Yao? As a disciple, you thought you were smart and fooled Mentor in our school. After being exposed by Mentor, you refused to repent, refused to be taught, and contradicted her. As a younger sister, you don't know how to behave like a real sister. You don't respect your eldest sister, and don't know how to respect your elders. You even played tricks on me, but you don't even take me, your grandmother, seriously. You don't know how to respect your teacher or be filial. You've lost the manners and upbringing of the Yu Residence. Have you learned all the rules, etiquette, and principles from a dog?"

In a big family, the way of interacting with each other was also a way of socializing and dealing with people. In the future, when the sisters grew up, they would have to step out of the house and socialize with outsiders. They had all been trained by the residence.

No matter how much she doted on Yao Yao, she wouldn't interfere with her growth.

In the past, Yu Qingning had relied on the fact that she doted on her and often competed with Yao Yao. No matter how uncomfortable she felt, she would always turn a blind eye to it.

Yu Qingning felt like her bones had been pulled out. She fell to the ground and struggled.

"Grandmother, I know I was wrong. I really know I was wrong. Grandmother, please spare me this time. I won't dare to do it again..."

Old Madam waved her hand. Out of sight, out of mind.

Previously, when she had said that she was going to the Education Department to hire a nanny for Yu Qingning and Concubine He, she had been a little hesitant. Although she didn't think much of Yu Qingning, she was still her granddaughter after all. How could she really bear to let an outsider teach her a lesson?

However, Yu Qingning's unrepentant behavior had completely hardened her heart.

Yu Qingning howled even louder. Bai Kui strode forward, grabbed Yu Qingning's arm, and half-dragged her out.

Yu Youyao sighed softly. She was very surprised by this outcome, but after thinking about it carefully, she was not that surprised.

Although Yu Qingning was arrogant, she wasn't really stupid.

Previously, when she was studying at home, she was not only unwilling to return the position to her, but also unwilling to be punished. She felt that it was because she had not attended school for a month and had not been chased out by the teacher, that she had made so many mistakes.

It was too obvious that she wanted to compete with her. She didn't know how to hide it at all.

It was a huge taboo for powerful families to compete with each other. If it were anyone else, they probably wouldn't have been dealt with so easily.

Yu Youyao glanced out the door, but she could no longer see Yu Qingning. She could only vaguely hear her cries and voices.

Old Madam Yu noticed her gaze and patted her hand gently. "Yao Yao, have you softened?"

Yu Youyao did not know what to say, so she did not say anything.

She did not think that Yu Qingning deserved any sympathy.

Yu Qingning was a classic example of someone who remembered how people treated her. Although she called her Big Sister and apologized, she probably really felt that everything was her fault and hated her as her grandmother had said.

She did not have the kind of heart that repaid evil with kindness.

Old Madam Yu didn't know what she was thinking, so she took the opportunity to guide her. "Yu Qingning usually makes a fuss with you, but you're still thinking about your relationship as sisters. It's obvious that Yao Yao is kind-hearted. However, when people interact with each other, it depends on fate, not relationships. Even sisters aren't that different, understand?"

Yu Youyao nodded thoughtfully. “Grandmother, I understand. Fourth Sister and I have our differences, so I won’t interfere. However, we’re sisters after all. Fourth Sister’s palm is swollen from being slapped by Mister today. Get Qiu Xing to send a box of Jade Beauty Cream over later to show some concern.”

Old Madam Yu smiled and tapped her forehead. “You’re a promising child!”

Chapter 75: Yao Yao Has Been Extraordinary Since She Was Young

That was the end of the topic about Yu Qingning. Yu Youyao quickly took the yellow rosewood box from Chun Xiao and stuffed it into her grandmother’s hands. “Grandmother, take a look. What is this?”

Old Madam Yu looked down at the box in her hand. She knew that Yao Yao had learned something from Nanny Xu again, so she had specially brought it over to please her.

She turned around and saw Yao Yao dressed in peach and cherry red, looking delicate and sweet. She wasn’t wearing this in the morning, but she had changed into it specially to meet her.

When one was old, they liked to look at red and green as they were likable and auspicious!

Of course, Old Madam Yu understood what Yao Yao was thinking. “Don’t worry about Grandmother anymore. I’ve already lived for so long. What haven’t I seen and experienced? How can I be so easily angered?”

With that, she lifted the lid of the box and saw a navy headband.

The surface of the silk was smooth, and there was a ginger-yellow Buddhist swastika embroidered on it. Although it was a little crude, it looked like it was emitting a Buddhist glow. There was a circle of Buddhist Seven Treasures sewn along the side. In the middle, there was a thumb-sized yellow amber that had a warm luster and exuded a noble aura. It looked very unique.

“Yao Yao embroidered this herself?!” Old Madam Yu fell in love with it at first sight. She held it in her hand and looked at it left and right. No matter how she looked at it, she was delighted. She smiled so widely that her eyes were almost invisible, and her face was covered in wrinkles.

Seeing that her grandmother liked it, Yu Youyao also laughed. “Grandmother, you can’t laugh at me if my embroidery isn’t good.”

Old Madam Yu couldn’t be happier, so how could she dislike it? Not only did she keep looking at it, but she even called Nanny Liu over to take a look.

Nanny Liu came over and took a closer look with Old Madam Yu. “Eldest Miss has only been learning embroidery for more than ten days. Others can’t even learn needlework well, but she can embroider so well. She’s really amazing!”

These words made Old Madam Yu’s heart skip a beat. She pointed at the swastika on her forehead. “Look at these stitches. They’re so smooth. The Buddhist Seven Treasures are also well matched. They’re rich, generous, auspicious, and beautiful.”

Nanny Liu smiled and nodded. She pointed at the back. "Old Madam, look, there are also embellishments on the back."

When Old Madam Yu heard this, she quickly turned around. Before she could understand, Nanny Liu's eyes widened in shock, and her tone became a little exaggerated. "Oh my, Old Madam, look. There's actually a longevity pattern on the back. I've lived for most of my life, but I've finally seen a two- embroidery that has been lost among the commoners. This is an eye-opener."

Old Madam Yu took a closer look and saw that it was indeed a longevity pattern. She immediately beamed with joy and revealed a proud expression. "On one hand, it's an auspicious sign of the Buddha, and on the other hand, it's a blessing of longevity. This thoughtfulness is really ingenious and meticulous."

Nanny Liu sighed. "I've heard that double-sided embroidery isn't as famous as Su Embroidery or Xiang Embroidery that anyone can learn. Those who are slightly less talented won't even be able to learn the needle technique. Although the double-sided embroidery technique has been lost to the public, many families still have some incomplete manuals and patterns that they've kept, but I've never heard of anyone learning it."

Old Madam Yu touched the longevity pattern on her forehead and couldn't bear to part with it. "Isn't that so? When Yao Yao was just born, her eyes were closed, and she didn't cry or make a fuss. As soon as I hugged her, she opened her eyes and looked at me. Her big eyes were dark and bright. I could tell from a young age that Yao Yao wasn't an ordinary child."

She had lived for most of her life, but she had rarely heard of a child who could open their eyes so wide and spiritedly the moment they were born.

Nanny Liu had seen this with her own eyes, and it was also for this reason that Old Madam and Eldest Miss hit it off very well. "The most rare thing is that Eldest Miss is so filial to Old Madam. Old Madam is very blessed."

Yu Youyao, who was sitting beside her grandmother, watched as her grandmother and Nanny Liu exchanged words and kept praising her. No matter how thick-skinned she was, she couldn't help but blush. She opened her mouth a few times, wanting to interrupt her grandmother, but she couldn't even find a chance.

Nanny Xu said that embroidery tested one's hands and eyes the most. Her body was delicate and soft, and she was quick-witted. She was in the best condition to learn double-sided embroidery.

The pattern of the word "wan" which meant ten thousand in Chinese was very simple, and the stitching technique was not complicated. With Nanny Xu's guidance, it was also very easy to embroider. If it were a more complicated word, even the stitching would probably not be smooth. It was really not as good as Grandmother and Nanny Liu had said.

Her grandmother's words, "I could tell from a young age that Yao Yao wasn't an ordinary child," made her feel embarrassed.

It was also because of that dream that she seemed to have lived for many more years. Her mind had been enlightened, and her thoughts had become much sharper. Furthermore, without Nanny Xu's guidance, how else could she have learned so much in such a short period of time?

“I didn’t expect to be able to wear something personally embroidered by Yao Yao in my lifetime.” Old Madam Yu turned to look at Yu Youyao. Seeing that her face was red and she seemed a little embarrassed, she held her hand. “Yao Yao, you must be tired.”

When she was young, she was also not used to needlework. Her embroidery skills were very poor, and she had been taught needlework by her mother countless times.

In the past, Yao Yao did not like needlework, and she had never forced her either. She thought that Yao Yao had taken after her personality.

However, although Yao Yao looked delicate, she was actually a capable and hardworking person.

Yu Youyao shook her head. “Nanny Xu has stipulated that I can only embroider for two hours a day. It’s just that I feel that it’s difficult when I’m learning, but it’ll be very simple once I learn it. If Grandmother likes it, I’ll embroider something else for you in the future.”

Old Madam Yu laughed when she heard that.

Suddenly, she remembered that a few days ago, Yu Qingning had given her a hand-embroidered handkerchief. When she received the gift from her granddaughter, how could she not be happy? She immediately asked Nanny Liu to help her put it on.

After that, Yu Qingning beat around the bush and said that she had spent a lot of time and effort on this embroidery. She even bragged about how filial she was and how impressive her embroidery skills were.

At first, Old Madam Yu was happy to listen to her granddaughter.

Not long after, she could tell that Yu Qingning was flaunting herself and stepping on the other sisters. She felt sick of it and immediately sent her away. She was unwilling to wear it again and asked Nanny Liu to keep it.

Yu Qingning had been learning embroidery from Concubine He since she was three or four years old. Her embroidery skills were the best in the residence. How much effort and time could she spend on just one stroke?

She was happy to play dumb and enjoy the filial piety shown by her granddaughter.

However, she was unwilling to be fooled.

Old Madam Yu glanced at Yu Youyao again, thinking about why there was such a big difference among grand daughters.

Everyone couldn’t stand the fact that she was biased towards Yao Yao, but deep down, they didn’t want to think about how they had treated her.

Seeing that her grandmother was about to praise her again, Yu Youyao quickly took the headband from her grandmother’s hand. “Grandmother, you won’t know if it’s good or not until you wear it. I’ll put it on for you to take a look.”

Chapter 76: Harming the Family

How could Old Madam Yu not agree? She quickly asked Yu Youyao to help her into the inner room. She sat in front of the polished bronze mirror and asked Yu Youyao to put the headband on her forehead.

Just as Yu Youyao had expected, the navy blue headband matched Old Madam Yu's outfit perfectly. It looked luxurious and grand.

"Grandmother, I've sewn a small medicinal bag to calm the mind and nourish the body. You'll feel that it's good to use it. In about ten days, I'll get someone to open it and replace it with a new one. I often prepare the medicinal bags too."

The medicinal herbs used in the medicinal bag had been soaked in spiritual dew, so the effects were naturally good.

Old Madam Yu sniffed carefully. Indeed, she could smell an extremely faint medicinal fragrance mixed with a hint of sandalwood. It seeped into her heart, and even the pent-up anger in her heart felt much better.

It was a smell she was used to.

She hadn't smelled it before, but it was probably because had been offering incense to Buddha in An Shou Hall all year round, and the sandalwood smell was too strong, so it was covered up. For a moment, she felt that her granddaughter was meticulous and dedicated, and she was even more delighted.

Her grandmother was old, so she ate her dinner earlier, in case she accumulated too much food at night and had difficulty digesting. Therefore, as soon as it was noon, Nanny Liu ordered someone to prepare dinner.

Madam Yang came out of the temple hall and served the grandfather and granddaughter.

Looking at the harmonious scene between the grandfather and granddaughter, she felt even more annoyed. Then, she thought of the Buddhist scriptures that she had copied for an entire day. Not only were her hands almost broken, but she had also been smelling sandalwood for an entire day. Her mind was in a daze, and her heart was burning with anger.

Yu Youyao called out, "Mother," but did not say anything else.

After setting the rules for a few days, Yang Shuwan did not seem to have grown much, but she had become much more haggard and thin.

There was a thick layer of powder on her face. As she had been staying in An Shou Hall, she did not have time to return to the main courtyard to touch up her makeup. The white powder on her face had fallen off, and her face looked uneven, like a cracked wall. There were dark shadows under her eyes, and it was obvious that she had not slept well recently.

Her grandmother did not treat her harshly, but it was still difficult for her to stay in the north courtyard all day and copy Buddhist scriptures. It was not much better than being tortured.

After finally finishing her meal, Madam Yang was sent to the temple hall by Old Madam Yu. It was already evening, but she still had no intention of letting her return to the main courtyard?

“Old Madam...” Madam Yang was shocked. She stood there in a daze for a long time. Only when Nanny Liu reminded her did she react. She could only lower her head and return to the temple hall with a resentful expression.

Yu Youyao then returned to the Jade Courtyard.

Old Madam Yu twirled the prayer beads in her hand, and most of the joy on her face dissipated. “Tomorrow, I’ll go to the Education Department to find a nanny. Bring her to my house first, then send her to the Clear Autumn Courtyard.”

It was true that the nannies in the Education Bureau taught etiquette, but their methods were much harsher than those in the residence. It was also true that they tortured others.

After all, she was still her granddaughter. She had to give her a few words of warning first, so that others would know their limits and not torture her too much.

How could Nanny Liu not know what she was thinking? She naturally agreed.

Recalling how miserable Yu Qingning had looked when she was crying, Old Madam Yu’s hand that was twirling the prayer beads paused slightly. “Tell me, am I being too heartless?”

Nanny Liu hurriedly said, “Don’t say that. I’ve been with you for most of my life, so how could I not know? You’re the most stubborn but soft-hearted person. You’re doing this for Fourth Miss’s own good.”

Old Madam Yu was silent for a while. “Concubine He has always taught Yu Qingning to be magnanimous, and Eldest Son has also doted on her. She doesn’t want to be filial to her elders, nor does she want to be filial to her sisters. Instead, she wants to pave the way for herself and seek a future. She wants to suppress a legitimate daughter and compete with Yao Yao in every way. If we continue to indulge her, she will only harm others and the family.”

At this point, she paused and rubbed her forehead gently. Her fingers touched the headband on her forehead, and she felt a little more comforted. “In the past, I used to turn a blind eye to it, but as I grew older, all of them became more scheming, and more unrestrained in their actions. I’ve just warned her yesterday, so it’s obvious that Yu Qingning doesn’t take it to heart. Today, she went to school and has already spread her thoughts to outsiders.”

Nanny Liu agreed deeply. She felt that Yu Qingning was indeed too incompetent and had lost the upbringing of the Yu Residence.

Old Madam Yu continued, “It’s unbecoming of sisters to be at odds with each other. Fortunately, it’s Ms. Ye. If it were anyone else, I’m afraid that everyone would know about it and laugh at the Yu Residence for no reason.”

Nanny Liu picked up a cup of tea and placed it in front of Old Madam Yu. She listened attentively but did not speak.

Old Madam Yu wrapped the prayer beads around her wrist and said in a helpless tone, “Other families only teach people to gossip, but Eldest Brother is an imperial censor. His family is not well-mannered, and he has not taught his daughter well. If word of this gets out, how can he stand

in the imperial court and carry out the duties of an imperial censor to investigate the morals of a hundred officials? If outsiders find out, the entire Yu Residence will lose face.”

The old man had lived for most of his life and had seen many conflicts between the legitimate wife and concubines. Naturally, he could not tolerate such nonsense.

Nanny Liu loosened the headband on Old Madam Yu’s forehead and carefully placed it into a box. “Old Madam feels that since Fourth Miss is about to turn nine years old, she should settle down and find a capable nanny as soon as possible. Perhaps she can even change her personality.”

Old Madam Yu nodded. “Even if we can’t completely change her, we can let the Nanny discipline her so she will learn from her mistakes. She’ll learn more about logic and rules. The sisters are all grown up now, so it’s time for them to interact on good terms. We shouldn’t cause trouble outside and make a fool of ourselves for no reason. We’ll lose face in the Yu Residence and if they don’t know how to restrain themselves. In the future, when they’ve married into another family, they won’t be harmed by others.”

Nanny Liu immediately guessed the Old Madam’s good intentions.

However, looking at Fourth Miss today, it did not seem like she would understand Old Madam’s kindness. She sighed inwardly.

Old Madam Yu sighed softly and said, “No wonder people say that you have to marry a good wife. Look at Madam Yao. She’s good at socializing and is Second Brother’s good wife. She also managed Second Brother’s concubines well. The children of the concubines are also well-mannered. The sisters are harmonious and can help each other live well in the future.”

Nanny Liu just listened without speaking.

At the mention of Madam Yao, Old Madam Yu couldn’t help but mention Madam Yang. “Take a look at Madam Yang again. She’s really not presentable at all. She’s even brought these young mistresses of the residence into such a mess.”

Nanny Liu came to a realization. No wonder Old Madam Yang was acting so uncharacteristically today, not even calling Madam Yang back to the main courtyard for dinner.

Seeing that the Old Madam’s expression did not look too good, Nanny Liu quickly changed the topic. “Old Madam, don’t think too much about this. Eldest Miss learnt how to recite an essay in class today. She even received praise from Ms. Ye.”

Chapter 77: Kill with Flattery

Old Madam Yu slapped her forehead. “Oh my, if you hadn’t mentioned it, I would have really forgotten about it after getting angry with Yu Qingning. You old thing, why didn’t you remind me earlier about such an important matter?”

Nanny Liu smiled but said nothing.

Old Madam Yu looked delighted as she glanced at Nanny Liu. “You’re right. Yao Yao has been learning from Nanny Xu for a while, but she’s not the same as before. Quick, help me to the side room. I have to carefully choose some useful study materials and send them to Yao Yao so that she can study hard.”

In the temple hall, Yang Shuwan felt like she was sitting on needles. She kept looking at the funnel, feeling uneasy. She couldn't even copy the Buddhist scriptures anymore.

Old Madam's attitude had changed. Something must have happened in the residence that implicated her. However, she was in the temple hall, and news of Nanny Li couldn't be sent in often. She was really in the dark.

After staying in the temple hall for another hour, Madam Yang was so anxious that she had blisters on her mouth. Only then did she receive Old Madam Yu's permission to go back to the main courtyard.

As soon as she saw Nanny Li, Yang Shuwan asked anxiously, "Has Master left the office? Did he go to study again?"

Seeing that the Imperial Court had yet to release the rankings at the end of the month, the candidates participating in the imperial examination could no longer hold it in. There were many messy rumors in the capital.

Yu Zongzheng had also become busier over the past few days. It had been a few days since he had visited the main courtyard.

She had to set rules and copy Buddhist scriptures in An Shou Hall every day until late at night. It had been a long time since she had seen Yu Zongzheng.

This was the first time in a long time since she had married into the Yu Residence.

If this continued, their relationship as husband and wife would fade.

Nanny Li quickly replied, "Master is still at the government office and hasn't returned yet. He had previously sent Zhao Da to Old Madam's house to pass on a message, saying that he would be back later today."

Yang Shuwan was a little disappointed. Yu Zongzheng was so busy. Even if he returned to the residence, she couldn't bother him with such trivial matters.

She probably wouldn't be able to see Yu Zongzheng again today.

Seeing that she did not look well, Nanny Li leaned over and told her everything that had happened in the school today.

When Yang Shuwan heard this, she was furious. "No wonder Old Madam is acting so abnormally today. Usually, she would let me return to the main courtyard at the latest, but today, she asked me to stay for two more hours. It's all because that little b*tch Yu Qingning made a mistake in the school, and I've been implicated for no reason."

Nanny Li lowered her head and did not dare to speak. Ever since Madam had gone to Old Madam's house to set the rules, her temper had become worse and worse. She would flare up every day when she returned.

Yang Shuwan thought of Yu Qingning's fate again and immediately perked up. A gloating smile appeared on her face. "Heh, she's just a concubine's daughter. She should take a look at herself and see which rotten thing she crawled out of. Old Madam dotes on Yu Youyao as if she were her own.

She snatched Yu Youyao's position, so how can Old Madam let her off easily? When the nanny from the Education Department comes to visit, these two b*tches will suffer."

Nanny Li handed a cup of tea to Yang Shuwan. "That's because Madam is amazing. The maidservants around her usually treat her like the daughter of the first wife, and they also treat her better than the others. As time passes, she'll grow up and really think of herself as the first wife's daughter."

Not only did she gain the title of a loving mother, but she had also raised Yu Qingning to be a narrow-minded and arrogant person. She even killed someone with flattery. This method was really impressive.

Among the wealthy families, how many daughters of concubines had a good ending?

Hearing this, a smug expression appeared on Yang Shuwan's face. "I had no choice. Master dotes on the little b*tch of the Clear Autumn Courtyard, and treats Yu Qingning differently. If I treat Yu Qingning harshly, I would inevitably have a reputation of being jealous and unkind in front of Master. I wouldn't make Master fall out of love with me because of a concubine's daughter. Since Master dotes on her, I'll support her too, so that Master will know that I'm kind and magnanimous."

At this point, she raised her eyebrows slightly and thought of Yu Youyao.

Old Madam was so protective of Yu Youyao that even she, her mother, couldn't interfere. She had raised Yu Qingning's status too high, and it was a plan that killed three birds with one stone.

She had asked Yu Qingning's maidservants to sow discord between Yu Qingning and Yu Youyao. Yu Qingning did not disappoint and often caused trouble with Yu Youyao.

Old Master was biased towards Yu Qingning, so he felt that Yu Youyao was at fault.

As time passed, Old Master felt that Yu Youyao was spoiled and domineering. He also treated her more harshly. Compared to Yu Youyao, the obedient and sensible Jia Jia naturally received more favor from Old Master.

Old Madam was always protective of Yu Youyao, so it was inevitable that she would have conflicts with Old Master. If their mother-son relationship became distant, Old Master would also side with her more.

Yu Qingning and Yu Youyao were locked in a fierce battle, while she and Jia Jia benefited from it.

Yang Shuwan was pleased with herself. "Yu Qingning made a huge mistake in the school, so Concubine He naturally has to be involved. Therefore, she'll be fined half a year's worth of money, and her food intake will be halved."

Nanny Li nodded in agreement.

Madam had fined Concubine He and reduced her allowance. Even though she did not lack money, it was not convenient for her to use the money she had on hand.

Moreover, Concubine He was currently grounded. Even if she had money, she had nowhere to spend it.

Most of the servants in the residence saw that the situation had changed. Concubine He was not well-liked by Old Madam He, and she was also punished by the first wife. How could she have an easy time?

Nanny Li nodded and left the room.

At this moment, Yu Jianjia entered the house.

Yang Shuwan hurriedly pulled her daughter to sit down beside her. "It's already so late. Why aren't you resting in the courtyard?"

Yu Jianjia's face turned pale. "Mother came back late today. I was a little worried, so I came over to take a look. But what happened to Grandmother?"

Yang Shuwan sneered. "How could anything have happened? I just suffered an undeserved calamity. Someone found an opportunity to torture me."

Yu Jianjia looked at her worriedly. "Did Mother get blamed by Grandmother because Fourth Sister was studying at home today and was sent out of class?"

Yang Shuwan was furious. "Isn't it obvious?!"

Yu Jianjia held her handkerchief and covered her mouth as she coughed.

Yang Shuwan couldn't care less about being angry. She quickly handed her a cup of tea. "Don't worry about me. Other than using her status as an elder to make things difficult for me, what else can Old Madam do to me? On the other hand, have you felt better after taking Imperial Physician Hu's medicine these few days?"

After taking a sip of hot tea, Yu Jianjia felt a little better. There was also a hint of blood on her face. "Imperial Physician Hu's prescription is excellent. After taking it for a few days, I feel much better. Mother, don't always worry about me."

Yang Shuwan smiled. After being upset for the entire day, she felt a little better. "That's good. You have to listen to Imperial Physician Hu and rest well."

Chapter 78: Reality Teaches You a Lesson

Yu Jianjia bit her lip lightly, and her gentle voice was filled with worry. "Mother, you're the mistress of the household and the mother of Fourth Sister. You have the responsibility to educate and discipline the sisters. Grandmother is already angry with you because of this. I'm worried that Father..."

Yang Shuwan's breathing tightened as she tightened her grip on the handkerchief in her hand. She had only been angry earlier and had not thought of this.

Now that Jia Jia had mentioned it, she understood that Old Master was already very dissatisfied with her because of what had happened previously. If he were to vent his anger on her again because of Yu Qingning, he would probably really leave her.

Where was her place as the mistress of the household? Where was her dignity? How could she stand tall in the residence, let alone manage the household?

Yu Jianjia felt a little uneasy. "Father has received a lot of guidance and promotion from his mentor in the past. He has always valued rules and upbringing the most. He often taught us that as disciples, the kindness of a wise mentor is more important than the world, and more important than our parents. On the other hand, he respects his mentor regardless of whether he's rich or poor." At this point, she changed the topic with an inexplicable meaning. "Furthermore, Fourth Sister made a mistake yesterday and was punished by Grandmother. That's adding to her mistake and making it worse. Father will definitely be very angry."

Yang Shuwan looked thoughtful and sneered. "Yu Qingning doesn't know how to respect her teacher, but she has violated your father's taboo. It's obvious that she doesn't take your father's usual teachings to heart. If your father finds out, do you think he can blame me?"

Yu Jianjia frowned and said hesitantly, "Mother, Concubine He is giving trouble to Grandmother. Fourth Sister was almost kicked out of the house today. It's obvious that Concubine He can't teach Fourth Sister well. You should find a courtyard and let Fourth Sister move in. It'll be good for her."

When Yang Shuwan heard this, her eyes flickered and she held her daughter's hand. "I know you're worried about your fourth sister, but Imperial Physician Hu said that with your illness, your illness is the most worrying. Don't think too much about it. Don't worry, I'll take care of everything at home."

Yu Jianjia's pink lips curved slightly, but she did not say anything.

Yang Shuwan lowered her head and saw the gloves on her fingers. She frowned. "What happened to your hand? Did you hurt yourself?"

Biting her lip lightly, Yu Jianjia only said, "I accidentally dropped a jade paperweight in school today and cut myself. Mother, don't worry. The wound isn't deep. It'll heal in two to three days."

Yang Shuwan's heart ached as she stared at her daughter's fingers. "Why are you so careless? You have to be careful these few days. Don't get wet. Nanny Qin knows some medical skills, so get her to take good care of you."

Yu Jianjia nodded obediently.

Suddenly, she remembered that Yu Youyao had been studying at home today, and had actually memorized an entire section of the 'The Book of Rites' on the spot. Not only had she not missed anything, but she had even received praise from Ms. Ye. She felt suffocated.

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Not long after Yu Youyao returned to the Jade Courtyard, her grandmother had sent something over. There were a total of five items. There was a wooden pen holder with golden silk, twelve different-sized and thick floral pens, a carved rosewood pen holder, a few pieces of old ink slabs, and a few pieces of high-quality paper.

Nanny Liu smiled and said, "Old Madam was very happy when she found out that you've learned so much from Master. She sent me over to give you something useful so that you can study hard."

She had only received a little praise from Ms. Ye. How could she be worthy of being praised by her grandmother?

No matter how thick-skinned Yu Youyao was, she couldn't help but blush. Embarrassed, she accepted the items and asked Chun Xiao to bring over a cup of medicinal tea. "Nanny, this is the medicinal tea that I made yesterday. Please give it to Grandmother. Just treat it as ordinary tea."

Nanny Liu received the teacup with a smile and was sent out of the Jade Courtyard by Dong Mei.

Yu Youyao suddenly remembered that she had yet to write the 500 words that Ms. Ye asked her to write every day.

At the thought of her handwriting, which looked like a dog's, and the promise she had made to her cousin at noon that she would practice her handwriting well, Yu Youyao leaned on the long table reluctantly, forcing herself to practice her handwriting stroke by stroke.

When she finally finished practicing the 500 words, Yu Youyao heaved a sigh of relief. She shook her sore arms and looked down at the big words on the paper. She couldn't bear to look at them anymore. She crumpled the paper into a ball angrily and threw it into the wastebasket.

Chun Xiao watched from the side, not daring to make a sound.

Yu Youyao dipped her brush in ink and started practicing her calligraphy again. After writing a few words, she stopped to take a look. When she was dissatisfied, she crumpled the paper into a ball and threw it into the wastebasket.

After all this, the more she wrote, the uglier her words became, and the more frustrated she became. Soon, the small paper basket was filled with paper balls.

"I'm not practicing anymore. My hands are sore..." Yu Youyao slammed the brush onto the table, ignoring the ink on the tip of the brush. A large ball of ink appeared on the paper, soaking it.

Chun Xiao wanted to persuade her, but Young Miss was still angry, so she couldn't add fuel to the fire.

Looking at the messy desk, Yu Youyao was so angry that her eyes turned red.

However, she did not expect that practicing calligraphy would be so difficult. Even her memory, which had always been her greatest reliance, was no longer useful.

These days, she learned everything quickly. Cooking, tea, incense, and medicine were not difficult for her. She even learned the almost lost double-sided embroidery. She could learn what others needed months or even decades to learn in a few days. It was inevitable that she felt a little smug.

Who knew that she had kicked a metal board today and was taught a lesson by reality?

Seeing that Young Miss was pouting and looking like she was about to cry, Chun Xiao was a little worried. "Young Miss, you've been practicing calligraphy for a long time. You might be a little tired. Why don't you rest for a while before continuing?"

Yu Youyao was furious. "No, I won't practice anymore!"

"Uh..." Now, even Chun Xiao didn't know what to say.

Yu Youyao sulked for a long time. She glanced at the pile of waste paper and then at the long table. On the wooden brush holder in the shape of a triangle, there were twelve fancy brushes of different sizes and thickness.

Each brush was made of a different material. There was wood, jade, stone, bamboo, ivory, animal bones, and so on. On each brush, there were carvings of twelve flower gods, including an orchid, plum, and peony. They were exquisite and elegant, and were extremely valuable literary tools.

She had only asked Chun Xiao to change them after her grandmother had sent them over.

She also recalled that at noon, she had personally told her cousin that she had to practice her handwriting well in the future.

Yu Youyao immediately looked ashamed. She said to Chun Xiao, "Clean up the study. I won't practice calligraphy today. Tomorrow, I'll ask Cousin if he has any calligraphy pieces that are suitable for practicing calligraphy. I'll practice according to them. It's better than practicing blindly."

Chun Xiao heaved a sigh of relief.

At this moment, Xia Tao rushed in. "Young Miss, it's bad. Master had a fright on the way back and fell off the carriage."

Chapter 79: Injured A Leg

In the Green House, Zhou Linghuai was holding a pen in one hand and gently rolling up his sleeves with the other. He was writing a piece of calligraphy, which was from the Disciples' Rules that he had learned. There were rows of words written in a graceful manner. They were strong and sharp edges that were not revealing.

Yin San was reporting to Yu Zongzheng about the carriage fall. "Yu Zongzheng's horse was frightened and went crazy on the streets. Luckily it was already late and there weren't many people on the streets, so no one was injured. It was only when the people from the five cities' military divisions arrived that the crazy horse was restrained. Yu Zongzheng's face was swollen from the collision with the carriage, and he accidentally fell from the carriage and injured his leg."

Zhou Linghuai put down the pen in his hand. He recalled that back in You Zhou, when his sister was out shopping, she had been teased by a playboy on the streets. This caused a lot of gossip and damaged her sister's reputation.

When he found out, he had sent Yin San to keep an eye on that young master. When the young master left the house, he broke the axle of the carriage and deliberately shocked the young master's horse. The horse went crazy on the streets, and the young master fell out of the carriage, breaking his leg and ending up paralyzed.

When his father found out, he was so angry that he chased after him and whipped him all over the residence. He only let him off after his mother begged for mercy.

He wasn't convinced, and argued with his father.

His father said, "It's not wrong for you to teach someone a lesson, but you shouldn't have frightened a horse and committed murder on the streets in broad daylight. Although no one else was

hurt, you frightened the innocent citizens and disrupted the order of the city. You're simply lawless."

No regard for the law? Zhou Linghuai's lips twitched, and his lips turned pale!

Thinking of the little girl's swollen face, although he couldn't do anything to Yu Zongzheng, he had to make him suffer a little.

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After Yu Zongzheng fell off the carriage, Zhao Da returned early to report the matter.

Old Madam Yu was shocked. She hurriedly took out a token and sent someone to invite Imperial Physician Li, who was closest to the Yu Residence. Then, she asked Nanny Liu to support her as she rushed to the front courtyard.

Not long after, Yu Zongzheng was carried back.

The horse was shocked and ran wildly on the streets. Yu Zongzheng was sitting in the car, bumping around. His face was bruised and swollen, and it was a tragic sight. How could anyone look at him? He would lose face and dignity in front of the juniors!

Old Madam Yu quickly sent the servants away, not even letting Yu Youyao and the others in.

Yang Shuwan cried miserably. "The carriages in the residence have been checked every morning and night, and the horses they pick are also very docile. There have never been any problems in the past. Why did the horses suddenly go crazy out of the blue? Not only did they scare Master, but they were also injured... When has Master ever suffered like this?"

Yu Zongzheng's body was in great pain and he was feeling terrible. When he heard Madam Yang's sobbing, he suddenly felt a surge of anger. "I'm not dead yet. Why are you crying? If you want to cry, go outside and cry."

Yang Shuwan stopped crying and looked at him in shock.

She said this because she was worried that Old Madam would use this as an excuse to vent her anger on her again. She did not expect that Old Master would be injured and could not stand listening to it!

Old Madam Yu raised her eyelids. It was as if others were trying to pin the crime of Eldest Son falling out of the carriage on her!

At this moment, Nanny Li led Imperial Physician Li, who was in his fifties, into the house.

Seeing Imperial Physician Li come over, Yu Zongzheng looked as if he had seen his savior. He said anxiously, "Imperial Physician Li, quickly help me take a look and see if my leg is broken."

His wound on his face affected the way he talked. He let out a cry of pain and held the corner of his mouth as he gasped.

Imperial Physician Li did as he was told and went forward to check on Yu Zongzheng's injuries. "Lord Yu's injuries aren't serious. They're just superficial injuries. After applying some medicine to reduce the swelling, he'll be fine in three to five days. However, his left knee bone is dislocated, so I need to correct it."

When Yu Zongzheng heard this, he heaved a sigh of relief.

As long as his legs weren't broken!

Old Madam Yu and Yu Zongshen's expressions also relaxed. Yang Shuwan said anxiously, "Then what are we waiting for? Imperial Physician Li, please help Master fix his bones! Master is in great pain."

Old Madam Yu frowned and asked Imperial Physician Li, "Is there anything he needs to pay attention to?"

Hearing this, Yang Shuwan looked embarrassed.

Imperial Physician Li said, "We have to find a few strong people to hold down Lord Yu's limbs and stop him from moving around in pain!"

Old Madam Yu hurriedly asked Nanny Liu to find two servants. One of them pressed down on Yu Zongzheng's shoulders while the other pressed down on his legs.

Imperial Physician Li rolled up Yu Zongzheng's pants and pressed on his swollen kneecap. Yu Zongzheng, who was already in some pain, immediately cried out in pain.

Before he could react, he felt an even more intense pain. Accompanied by a bone-jarring crack, his vision darkened and he almost fainted!

His bones had been relocated, and the pain was not as severe as before. However, there was still a dull pain in his bones. Yu Zongzheng leaned against the pillow dejectedly and kept breathing in the cold air. It was obvious that he could not take it anymore.

Imperial Physician Li pinched Yu Zongzheng's kneecap again to confirm that it was in the right position.

Yu Zongzheng asked Imperial Physician Li, "When will my leg recover?"

Imperial Physician Li pondered for a moment. "It takes a hundred days to recover from a serious injury. Lord Yu's bones are only dislocated, but you have to be more careful. You have to recuperate for at least seven to eight days before you can walk around outside. After that, you can't be too tired. You have to rest more to completely recover!"

Yu Zongzheng frowned, his expression a little ugly.

Yang Shuwan told Imperial Physician Li to write a prescription. Old Madam Yu asked Yu Zongzheng about the incident on the street.

She could not be blamed for not being cautious. Master was an official in the court and had many political enemies. It was hard to guarantee that the other party would not play any tricks. Furthermore, the Imperial Censor was in charge of offending others. She had to clarify the matter before she could feel at ease.

Yu Zongzheng was also aware of this. When he thought of the dangerous scene from before, he still felt a lingering fear. With a dejected expression, he recounted everything that had happened.

Yu Zongshen was still worried. After asking for a few details, his expression relaxed. "It seems that the horses were indeed alarmed by the children setting off the firecrackers, so they went crazy. It must have been an accident. Today is a good day. Perhaps a new shop in the capital has opened and set off firecrackers, so the nearby children picked up the firecrackers and played with them. I'll send someone to ask around."

Old Madam Yu also had the same thought. To be safe, she said, “Zhao Da has pulled the carriage back. Find a doctor to check the horses carefully. Also, check the carriage!”

Since Yu Zongzheng was fine, Yu Zongshen did not stay any longer and returned to the second house.

Old Madam Yu instructed Yu Zongzheng to rest well before leaving as well.

After sending Imperial Physician Li back into the house, Yang Shuwan called Nanny Li over to apply medicine for Yu Zongzheng. She said to him, “Master, Fourth Miss isn’t young anymore. It’s not good for her to stay with the Concubine all the time. I’m wondering if I should arrange a courtyard so she can move out of the Clear Autumn Courtyard? It’s not too far away. It’s the Hanlu Courtyard near the Clear Autumn Courtyard.”

Yu Zongzheng’s leg was still hurting, so he said impatiently, “Why are you suddenly bringing this up?”

Chapter 80: Attracting Trouble

Why did she have to mention this when he was shocked and injured?

In the past, he used to think that Madam Yang was a good person, but now, she was becoming more and more unrestrained.

Hearing Yu Zongzheng’s words, Yang Shuwan panicked and hurriedly said, “Uh, that’s right. Fourth Sister is only two months younger than Jia Jia. When Jia Jia was her age last year, she had already moved into a courtyard, so...”

Her words were true, but her flustered and evasive attitude made Yu Zongzheng suspicious. His expression darkened. “What exactly is going on? Why are you beating around the bush? Did the butler make another mistake?”

When Yang Shuwan heard this, she panicked and quickly explained, “No, no. I’ve been establishing rules in Old Madam’s house these past few days and only returned to the main courtyard at nine every day. Nanny Liu has been helping to handle the matters at home. It’s Fourth Miss. Today, she almost got Ms. Ye to kick her out of school...”

“What? What mistake did Fourth Miss make that she was almost kicked out of the family school?” Hearing Yang Shuwan’s words, Yu Zongzheng was stunned.

He could not be blamed for being too surprised. Although Fourth Miss was not as obedient and sensible as Jia Jia, she was still smart and pleasant. In the past, she had never made any mistakes in school.

Yang Shuwan hesitated for a moment before telling her everything that had happened in the school today without embellishing anything.

Yu Zongzheng was furious, and his face flushed red with anger. “This evil creature actually doesn’t have any respect for her elders or her teachers! As her mother, how do you usually discipline the sisters?”

Yang Shuwan was stunned by Yu Zongzheng's shout. Then, her eyes turned red with grievance. "Master blamed me for not teaching Fourth Sister well, and I have nothing to say. However, Master has always doted on Fourth Sister, and has taught her many times in the past. The kindness of a wise master is indeed more important than the heaven and earth, and more important than parents. She should have respect for a master regardless if she's rich or poor. This is the principle of respecting a master."

Yu Zongzheng let out a breath, which affected the injuries on his face, causing him to grimace in pain. Indeed, he often said these words to the children.

Instantly, the anger in his heart surged.

He had originally thought that Yu Qingning was a smart and quick-witted person. In the past, he had doted on her a little more. But now, Yu Qingning did not even care about his teachings, which made him both disappointed and angry.

Yang Shuwan was so aggrieved that she started crying. For a moment, tears streamed down her face. "Fourth Sister doesn't even listen to you as a father, so why would she listen to me, her stepmother? Fourth Sister wasn't raised by me since she was young. She was raised by Concubine He herself. However, Fourth Sister has always been smart since she was young. I think she knows it too. Her food, clothes, and allowance are all better than Jia Jia's. I confess that I've never mistreated Fourth Sister, no less disciplined her."

Yu Zongzheng thought about it carefully. Madam Yang had a soft personality and treated Fourth Miss very well. She had never treated her harshly. "It's not that I want to blame you. It's not easy for you to manage such a big family, and recently, you've been setting rules in Old Madam's house. It's inevitable that you haven't taken it into consideration. I was anxious just now and said something wrong. Don't take it to heart."

At the side, Nanny Li couldn't help but interrupt, "Master, you don't know the grievance in Madam's heart. Fourth Miss made a mistake today, and even Madam was implicated. Today, she was copying Buddhist scriptures in the temple hall and only returned to the main courtyard at nine o'clock. Madam..."

"Stop talking." Yang Shuwan did not expect Nanny Li to suddenly interrupt. She was shocked and quickly stopped her. "Master has been busy with court matters all day and is already too busy to do anything else. How can you bother him with such a small matter? I'm Fourth Sister's mother. Although I wasn't the one who raised Fourth Sister, it was still my oversight. Old Madam only punished me to copy Buddhist scriptures for two more hours. That's already exceptionally kind of her."

Nanny Li lowered her head, not daring to say anything else.

One of them had a dark expression, while the other had a pale face. This made Yu Zongzheng feel even more guilty. "You've suffered."

Yang Shuwan shook her head and said, “Master’s heart aches for me. I’m happy, so why would I feel aggrieved? It’s just that Old Madam is already so old, and you still have to worry about the matters of the residence. It’s my fault as a daughter-in-law. I’m also very ashamed.”

Yu Zongzheng felt that Madam Yang was becoming more and more generous and proper after setting the rules with his mother for the past few days. His slight dissatisfaction with her also dissipated.

Yang Shuwan said with a face full of shame, “Old Madam was so angry today that she taught Fourth Sister a lesson. She even asked a nanny from the Education Department to teach Fourth Sister and Concubine He some manners tomorrow.”

Yu Zongzheng was also shocked. He had also heard of the prowess of the nanny in the Education Department. Thinking of Concubine He’s tender skin and Fourth Miss’s pampered upbringing, how could they bear such hardship?

Of course, Yang Shuwan could tell what he was thinking. She suppressed the jealousy in her heart and said, “Master suffered today, and I feel terrible too. I didn’t plan to say anything about this at first, so that Master wouldn’t blame me for not knowing my limits. However, Fourth Sister’s upbringing has become problematic, and I’m also burning with anxiety. I thought that Fourth Sister shouldn’t continue to live with Concubine He, so I want to discuss with Master to move her to another courtyard.”

These words were generous and appropriate, showing her virtuous and magnanimous nature and motherly kindness.

Even though Yu Zongzheng’s heart ached for Concubine He, he couldn’t help but think about many things.

Fourth Sister had always been taught by Concubine He herself. Now that Fourth Sister was so unruly, it was obvious that Concubine He had spoiled her.

As a concubine, he liked Concubine He very much.

However, it was still necessary for the matriarch and elders of the family to raise the children. Otherwise, if the child learned to act like a concubine, he would become a laughing stock.

In the capital, which young mistress from a concubine’s family did not have rules? Everyone would say, “In the end, she was raised by a concubine. She’s not presentable.”

Now that Concubine He had led Fourth Sister astray, it was also acceptable for the nanny from the Education Department to teach her some manners.

Just as Madam Yang had said, Fourth Miss did not even take her father’s words to heart. She would probably have to suffer a little.

After understanding all of this, Yu Zongzheng held Yang Shuwan’s hand. “It’s been hard on you to make plans for Fourth Sister. We’ll do as you say and find a day for Fourth Sister to move to Hanlu Residence.”

Yang Shuwan’s gaze flickered. “There was a problem with Fourth Miss’s upbringing. As for Concubine He, I...” She hesitated for a moment before saying carefully, “I deducted half a year’s worth of salary and reduced her allowance. Master, what do you think...”

Yu Zongzheng frowned. "I originally thought that although she was the daughter of a criminal, she was also well-mannered and sensible. That's why I kept Fourth Sister by her side to be educated. I didn't expect her to be so unruly and ill-mannered. This is her fault, so it's only right that you punish her."

Yang Shuwan heaved a sigh of relief and finally smiled.